



Trinity Tidings

August 2026



Summer 2026

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer break! In a few weeks we will return to the routine of life during an autumn season. So, may we take these remaining days of

summer to re-energize and prepare ourselves for the time and events that lie ahead.

Thank you to those of you who were able to be present during the coffee hour with representatives from the Bishop Search Committee on July 26. Our congregation expressed informative and honest views to the committee about what we believe is important in the search process for the next bishop diocesan.

Vestry Meeting: A reminder that vestry will take a meeting break during the month of August. The 2025 parish audit was recently conducted and its findings were received by vestry and sent to the diocese, as required. No issues were noted.

Sundays in August: Starting Sunday, August 2, our worship together of Holy Communion, with hymns, will be held in the climate-controlled parish hall at 9:30 a.m.

--- Peace, James+

The Transfiguration of Our Lord: August 6

The Transfiguration is not to be understood only as a spiritual experience of Jesus while at prayer, which three chosen disciples, Peter, James, and John, were permitted to witness. It is one of a series of spiritual manifestations by which God authenticated Jesus as his Son. It is at one with the appearance of the angels at the birth and at his resurrection, and with the descent of the Spirit at Jesus' baptism.

Matthew records the voice from heaven saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5). Briefly the veil is drawn aside, and a chosen few are permitted to see Jesus, not only as the human son of Mary, but also as the eternal Son of God. Moses and Elijah witness to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. In Luke's account of the event, they speak of the "exodus" which Jesus is to accomplish at Jerusalem. A cloud, a sign of divine presence, envelops the disciples, and a heavenly voice proclaims Jesus to be the Son of God.

Immediately thereafter, Jesus announces to Peter, James, and John the imminence of his death. As Paul was later to say of Jesus, "Though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And, being found in human form, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8).

The Feast of the Transfiguration is held in the highest esteem by the Eastern Churches. The figure of the transfigured Christ is regarded as a foreshadowing of

the Risen and Ascended Lord. The festival, however, was only accepted into the Roman calendar on the eve of the Reformation, and for that reason was not originally included in the reformed calendar of the Church of England. Since its inclusion in the American liturgical revision of 1892, it has been taken into most modern Anglican calendars.

--- *Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2024*; pg. 320.

Important dates in August:

Sunday Worship Schedule:

9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. II; in Garland Hall.

Sunday, August 23:

11:30 a.m. – The College Kitchen: Hot Dog Lunch.

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Diocesan News

Why can't we find more supply clergy?

WNY Diocesan Newsletter

Posted: July 22, 2026

Why Can't We Find More Supply Clergy?

Many of our congregations have felt the frustration firsthand: a priest is needed for a Sunday, and the diocese simply doesn't have anyone available to send. This isn't an oversight or a lack of effort — it's the result of a structural shortage that has been building for some time. Here's a closer look at why supply clergy are so hard to come by, and what we might do about it together.

The Numbers Behind the Shortage

Our diocese is home to 52 congregations. Of these, 40 are part-time — meaning they do not have the resources to support a full-time priest. That's already a significant share of our congregations relying on clergy who split their time and energy across other commitments. Within that group of 40 part-time congregations, the picture becomes even more challenging:

Twenty-three congregations are regularly served by priests who are over the age of 72, the mandatory retirement age in the Episcopal Church. In years past, these retired priests made up a large part of our

supply clergy pool — able to step in for a Sunday here or there when needed. Today, however, most of them are committed to long-term supply work at their own congregations, which means they're no longer available to fill in elsewhere.

The remaining 17 congregations are served by clergy in extremely part-time roles. These priests typically hold secular jobs alongside their ministry, which limits how much additional time they can give. In theory, they could serve more congregations. In practice, they're boxed in by scheduling: all but two of our congregations hold their principal service on Sunday morning between 9 and 11 a.m. When every congregation needs a priest during that same two-hour window, there simply aren't enough people to go around.

Why This Matters

Put simply, the diocese doesn't have a shortage of willing clergy so much as a shortage of available time. Our retired priests, who once formed the backbone of our supply system, are now needed full-time in their own parishes. Our bi-vocational priests are constrained by their secular work commitments and by the fact that nearly every congregation wants them at the exact same hour.

What Are Some Potential Solutions?

One of the most promising options is also one of the simplest: worship at a different day or time.

If congregations were willing to hold their principal service outside the traditional 9–11 a.m. Sunday window — whether that's a later Sunday service, a Saturday evening service, or another arrangement altogether — the pool of clergy available to serve would grow considerably. A priest who is already committed to a 9 a.m. service elsewhere might well be free at 1 p.m., or on a different day entirely.

This kind of flexibility asks something of our congregations, and we recognize that changing a worship time is not a small request. But it may be one of the most effective ways to ease the strain on our supply clergy system without waiting for new priests to be ordained or new retirees to become available.

We welcome your thoughts and would encourage congregations to have honest conversations about whether a schedule change might work for them. Every congregation that shifts its time frees up a

priest to serve elsewhere — and helps the whole diocese function more sustainably.

-- Canon Cathy Dempsey-Sims

Next Week: How may a regional ministry model help this clergy shortage?

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Trinity Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

June 23, 2026

As approved at the July Meeting

Present: Melisa Eichmann, Warden; Jake Wilkins, Junior Warden; Ann Sullivan; Cathy Berner; Janeil Rey; Virginia Becker, Treasurer; Jenn Wilkins, Clerk; The Reverend James Clement, Rector.

Excused:

Call to Order: Father Clement called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m., with an opening prayer.

Meeting Agenda: Agenda approved with a motion made by Ginny Becker, seconded by Ann Sullivan. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Jake Wilkins, seconded by Melisa Eichmann to approve the May 19, 2026 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds:

Finance: Written report prepared by Virginia Becker and presented. Jake Wilkins made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Janeil Rey. Motion carried. See attached report.

- General Fund: All expected monthly obligations were met, as well as payment to Church Insurance, Forward Movement Publications, and Gugino Plumbing. A reimbursement was made for College Kitchen supplies. The approved donation was made to the Fredonia VFD.
- Building Fund: Current balance is \$241.34.
- Memorial Fund: Current balance is \$4,212.28.
- Music Fund: Current balance is \$137.36.

- Investment Accounts: For the needs of the budget, money was transferred to the general fund in May with an expected subsequent transfer in July.

Buildings & Ground: Reported by Father Clement.

- Amherst Exterminators sprayed the exterior of the building, which was their second of three visits for the year.
- The CO detector located in the parish kitchen was replaced.
- Thank you to Jake Wilkins for donating time and funds to take care of the weeding, hedge trimming, and mulch.
- A usage report prepared for vestry from National Grid information shows a significant cost savings following the installation of the new HVAC system for the parish hall.

Congregational Ministries:

Flower Guild: Melisa Eichmann reported.

- Current account balance is \$373. An invoice from the florist is expected soon.
- From the members of Vestry, altar floral arrangements are given with Thanksgiving for God and our Country on Sundays, July 5th and July 12th.

TECW:

- The Tuesday Tea will be hosted by Trinity at the Episcopal Cottage, Chautauqua Institution, on July 21st. Information will be placed in the parish newsletter; a sign-up form is on the parish hall bulletin board for event assistance. Donations of baked-goods is appreciated.

Rector's Report:

- Holy Baptism on Saturday, June 27th – Sam Family.
- Burial service in Forestville on Wednesday, June 17th.
- The organist will be away on Sunday, July 19th; We will have a said service of Holy Communion on this date.
- On Sunday, July 26th, our congregation will host representatives from the Bishop Search Committee. We will have a service of Morning Prayer with hymns on this date. A special coffee hour will follow for persons to

discuss the search process. For this event, the Kitchen Krew will make coffee; vestry members will provide baked-goods.

- A reminder that Sunday services during the month of August will take place in the air-conditioned Garland Hall.

Old Business

- N/A.

New Business

- A motion was made by Cathy Berner, seconded by Janeil Rey to approve the members of the Parish Audit Committee: Peggy Tofil, Barb Wright, Jim Wright, and Joanne Green. Motion carried.
- The Parish Audit of 2025 Finances will be conducted on Friday, June 26th. The findings of the Audit Committee will be presented to Vestry at its July meeting prior to being submitted to the Diocese.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m. with a motion made by Ann Sullivan, seconded by Jake Wilkins. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Wilkins.

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Parish Notes

Chancel Choir



With September just around the corner, we will again continue our program of inviting SUNY students to join us in forming the Chancel Choir, under the direction of our organist, Don Fellows.

We enjoy our time with students as we get to know one another during the year. They ultimately become a part of our parish family. We anticipate welcoming four students for the autumn term.

If you wish to make a donation to the Music Fund, please contact the parish treasurer, Ginny Becker.



**Join us on the front lawn at the church
for a free Hot Dog Lunch during
Fredonia Farm Fest!**

Sunday, August 23,
11:30 a.m. until 2-3:00 p.m.

TECW



Despite the awful rain storm there was another successful Episcopal Cottage Tuesday social hour tea hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church Women. It was enjoyed by 62 folks and declared the most delicious best variety and elegantly presented of all teas. Often folks stop on many of the denominational houses as they leave the 2:15 lecture.

There were lots of 'Oh my goodness that was delicious' comments heard and seconds were taken. Thank you, ladies, for sharing your baking talent. We left some goodies for their Thursday bible study session. We look forward to another successful session next year.

Next Meeting: Sept. 12 at 9:30 a.m., in Garland Hall.

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Lectionary Readings in August:

www.lectionarypage.net

Sunday, August 3

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 13

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalms 145:8-9, 15-22

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9

The Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 33:99

2 Peter 1:13-21

Luke 9:28-36

Sunday, August 16

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 15

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-29

Sunday, August 23

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 16

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 17

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalms 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

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Birthdays in August

- 7 Alberto Rey
- 15 Mary Beth Liener Chin
- 16 Jeanette Adamczak
- 21 James Clement
- 21 Doreen Gould
- 25 Russell Kyte
- 29 Ron Sercu
- 30 Sharon Wallace

Wedding Anniversaries in August

- 3 Cathy and John Berner
- 22 Ron and Diane Sercu

In Memoriam

- 8 Anita Day
- 17 Victor Jonus
- 22 Jonathan Sprague
- 30 Raymond Wallace

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Parish Clergy and Staff

The Revd. James Clement, Rector

Email: [rector\(at\)trinitychurchwny.org](mailto:rector(at)trinitychurchwny.org)

Donald Fellows, Organist

Sara Jagoda, Custodian

The Vestry of the Parish

Melisa Eichmann, Sr. Warden

Jake Wilkins, Jr. Warden

Ann Sullivan

Cathy Berner

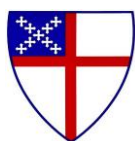
Janeil Rey

Virginia Becker

Jenn Wilkins, Clerk

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The newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
Ephesians 1:2*