



February Trinity Topics 2021



From Pastor Ann Marie

Dear Trinity family,

"With every falling snowflake, a unique spark of interest falls from heaven" (P Miller)

I am reminded of God's interest in us, when I watch the snow showers this winter. Indeed, it is more than interest, it is love. God's love for us is so great, he sent the Son, Jesus from heaven, to redeem us. By his wounds on the cross, we are healed of all that could harm us.

God's wondrous love is the focus of our spiritual journey in mid-winter as well. On February 17th, we begin a season of the church year (called Lent) when we are invited by the church to reflect on our humanness, (our failings) and to show sorrow to God for our sins. God is so eager to embrace us with forgiveness, that we need not ever avoid our Father and carry guilt on our shoulders.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, is a time to worship God. We will have in-person worship (unless you hear otherwise) in the evening. It will include a touchless "sprinkling of ashes on each person's head," (as was done in ancient times), instead of making an ash cross on the forehead. We will live stream the service on Facebook and post to our website following the service.

For those who would like ashes, but do not feel comfortable in-person due to risks of COVID, I will also provide a "drive-up distribution of ashes" (Ash Dash), from noon to 1:00pm in the church's north parking lot — by our church sign. A prayer card will also be given to you.

As you will see in our Topics newsletter, Trinity has purchased books for you to use in your daily prayer of renewal this Lent. I plan to follow the readings in both books as faithfully as I can, knowing that God's grace is given in every effort I make. Please join me in making this a good Lent for all of us at Trinity.

On the Lenten journey with you,

Ann Marie

Lenten Evening Prayer—Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

This year, we will be celebrating Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm during Lent. This will in place of the Wednesday Evening Celtic Prayer Service.

Evening Prayer is a beautiful and moving experience of images of light and darkness. It quiets the soul for a peaceful night. With two hymns, scripture readings, and a brief homily, we lift our thoughts to God.

Slow down your week mid-way with Wednesday Evening Prayer (in person or online). The service will be streamed live on Facebook and posted to our Website following the service.

Lenten Evening Prayer will begin February 24 and continue through Lent including March 24.



Warden's World

What is your Why? I have heard that concept before in various Human Relations contexts. It is alluded to in various aspects of David Brooks' book The Second Mountain. It reappeared in Unbinding the Gospel by Martha Grace Reese, the current focus of Trinity's Prayer Partner initiative suggested by Pastor Ann Marie. I then googled it and discovered a wealth of inspirational U-Tube entries by Michael Junior a comedian. I would suggest that you check them out.

In the current context, Martha Grace Reese inquires as to why it matters to be Christian. "When we know the **why** it matters to be a Christian, we will figure out **how** to help others begin lives of faith."

The why can refer to our profession, occupation, choice of partners, and faith. The why is difficult. It really gets to the bottom of why **we are here**. This is deep and rather than take the time to become fully introspective, we usually continue with the conclusion of that is the way it is. We kick the can down the road.

In respect to Faith, it would certainly be easier if we were totally convinced of the concepts of Heaven and Hell. What true believer of such an afterlife would ever choose an eternity of weeping and gnashing of teeth? No choices in this life would be considered against such a fate.

Unfortunately, or fortunately depending on your perspective, I find the described Heaven and Hell not to my belief system. So, if our life is not to obtain a better place in the afterlife, why does it matter to be a Christian? Some suggestions from the book are these:

- A relationship with Christ makes life make sense-it's true.
- I love God so much I want people to know this joy.
- Being in a church community gives you a way to serve others and keep growing.
- I used to be so afraid-with my church and with God, I'm learning to trust.
- As a Christian, you're part of something important that lasts forever.
- I used to feel so guilty about things I had done. Christ has forgiven me, and my church friends love me. I want to help others now.

A few of my own thoughts are these:

- God loves you, no exceptions.
- Peace of mind.
- Compassion for others.
- Faith during trials or difficulties.

It is not easy. Take some time to try to figure out your Why. Our goal in this exercise is to take another step and determine What is Trinity's Why. Through God and through Prayer, all things are possible.

Be Safe, Be Well, We Love You,

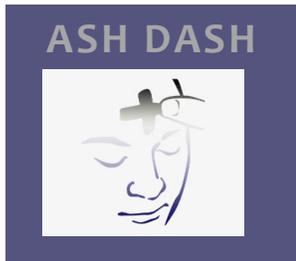


Lent Begins With Ash Wednesday, February 17



Ash Wednesday Service, February 17 at 7:00 pm

Our Ash Wednesday Service begins at 7:00 pm and includes the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist. We will follow Daily Evening Prayer, Rite II.



For those who would like ashes, but do not feel comfortable in-person due to risks of COVID, Pastor Ann Marie will provide a touchless sprinkling "drive-up distribution of ashes" from noon to 1:00PM in the church's north parking lot — by our church sign. A prayer card will also be given to you.

LENTEN READING AND REFLECTION

This Lent, Trinity has purchased 2 different books for your use. They are designed to be used on an individual basis. *Ashes and the Phoenix* is a meditation (in word and art-form), and the Howard Thurman book is meant for journaling through Lent. Please stop by the church office during office hours to get one or both books, or pick them up in the ambulatory area on Sunday morning. While the pandemic keeps us from an in-person book discussion, we hope these books will be inspiring.

[Ashes and the Phoenix: Meditations for the Season of Lent by Len Freeman](#)

This work is a brief yet profound daily read.

"Threaded throughout with the stunningly visual and visceral poems of Len Freeman and guided by the collects for Lent and Holy Week, *Ashes and the Phoenix* seeks to lead us through the emotions, symbols, sights, sounds, and scents of Lent. Featuring original woodcuts by artist Jason Sierra, this book is a feast for hungry hearts and weary eyes. If you are seeking a way to answer the Church's invitation to observe a holy Lent, *Ashes and the Phoenix* is an excellent companion for your journey to Easter."

[Forty-day Journey with Howard Thurman](#), editor Donna Schaper

This book invites reflection and journaling on a daily basis throughout Lent.

"Howard Thurman was an influential American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. Strongly influenced by his grandmother, a former slave, who raised him and a Quaker mystic under whom he studied, Thurman adopted a philosophy of activism rooted in faith, guided by spirit, and maintained in peace. Editor Donna Schaper selects forty inspiring passages from the works of this spiritual advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to accompany readers on their own spiritual journeys. Ideal for traveling through the seasons of Advent and Lent."

News From Our Music Department

Dear Friends,

It's been my pleasure and honor to serve Trinity as organist since October of 2002. This has been a great experience for me. It fulfilled my life-long hope of serving a liturgical congregation with a tracker-action organ. I couldn't have asked for a more appropriate opportunity to realize that hope. Over the last few years, I morphed into a kind of choir director as well, and it has been my pleasure to work with a small but dedicated group of singers with a remarkable talent for producing a well-blended musical sound. Ben Stewart, Brent Brazelton, Nancy Blair, Priscilla Stull, Joanie Gutermuth, and David Berger have each brought unique gifts to this effort.

I've worked with, or benefited from, the talent of musical people from the congregation--Andrew Cade with his string bass, Paul Lauzau and his 'cello, and more recently, David Berger, pianist, singer, and organist; John Weikle, singer, and Kenton Ford, pianist. We were blessed that Pat Marchal was willing to be pressed into service to play piano when I became ill suddenly on a Sunday morning.

It was a great joy to have the opportunity to show younger members of our congregation how to use hand chimes, and to incorporate their talent into the worship experience.

Along the way, I've been glad to be associated with supporting musicians in the community, especially trumpet player John Slonaker and members of One More Time Swing Band with their (late) leader and trumpet player Jean Ann Smith who brought so much energy and a gracious spirit to her work.

I remember fondly our worship experiences at Harmony Farm and in the park downtown, but mostly, I'm grateful for the unfailing friendly support of friends in the congregation, the support from our clergy throughout the years, and the support of our Parish Secretary, Charmaine, a fast and patient friend. Spending time with you Sunday after Sunday at coffee hour has been truly rich and rewarding.

I'm delighted that Brandon Evans will be taking his place as organist on February 7. From the moment I met him, I was sure he was "the one!" Fortunately, I'll be able to continue my friendship with you as a kind of music coordinator and am grateful to Pastor Ann Marie and Jim Beerbower for envisioning this role for me.

~ Wiley Smith

Welcome: Brandon Evans Trinity Church Organist, beginning February 7

Brandon Evans is a 28-year-old native of Troy, OH who has over 15 years of professional experience. His passion for music and the pipe organ began as a child. Each week he would sit in the balcony at the Troy First United Methodist Church, peeking over the railing to watch their organists playing. An early fascination blossomed into a passion which burns within him to this day. He began piano lessons at the age of eight; organ lessons at the age of 11; and by 13 had begun his professional career as the organist for *Frieden's Lutheran Church*. He continued playing for *Frieden's* until he graduated from high school in 2011. After graduation he attended the *Indiana University Jacobs School of Music*. In addition to *Frieden's Lutheran Church*, Brandon has served as a substitute organist for numerous churches throughout the area; and from August 2019 through November 2020 Brandon served as organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Troy.

Brandon's talent and love of music is only one of the many blessings for which he gives thanks. His biggest blessing is unquestionably his family. Brandon is happily married to the beautiful Bethany and has two children. Elizabeth is his stepdaughter. She is an 8-year-old, third grader at Concord Elementary in Troy. His son, Oliver, who was born on the same day (March 16) as his mother, will be a year old in March.

Brandon intends to make an immediate impact to the worship culture at Trinity Episcopal Church. With his distinct and unquestionable flair, he hopes to try and bring everyone a little closer to experiencing the Holy Spirit each week.

Please, do not hesitate to introduce yourself! He loves hearing from all for whom he works.

Soli Deo Gloria.

News to Know



Kyle Duchak (2/3), Pat Marchal (2/3), Rita Naegele (2/5), David Duchak (2/10), Sheri Duchak (2/12), Marina Shaw (2/16), Kathleen Kirsch (2/19), Priscilla Stull (2/22)



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Jim and Brenda Sleeper:

Jim has been in the hospital following a stroke and pneumonia. Brenda's is home, but deals with chronic medical issues, plus the worry and concern for Jim.

Susan Fogt:

Susan has been in ICU with Covid19 and has been on a ventilator. We recently received an update that Susan is off the ventilator and out of ICU. She will be going to a rehab facility when she is released from the hospital.

Her daughter Tana and her husband have both battled through the Covid Virus, but are slowly feeling better.

Kimberly Schmidt:

Please continue to keep Kim in your prayers as she goes through chemo. Prayers, love, and support for Kim can and do make a difference.

Luke Anticoli:

A prayer of thanksgiving for Luke, his college roommates, and his family as he has recovered from Covid19.



DONATION STATEMENTS:

If you would like a copy of your 2020 Donation Statement, please call or email the church office. Statements can be mailed or emailed.

Office: 937-335-7747 Email: trinitychurch@trinitytroyohio.org

ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the current Covid19 guidelines, the Annual Meeting was not held in January. The Vestry voted to postpone the Annual Meeting to a later date in the spring.

Annual Reports will be presented at the Annual Meeting at this later date but reports can be sent to the office at anytime.



God is with us in all the moments of our live.
 God is present in the good times and in the bad times.

**Original Prayer written by Barb Saylor,
 Pastor of Beaver Creek Church
 of the Brethen:**

*God of love and hope, we are thankful for healing
 and wholeness.*

*After months of anxiety and sorrow and
 isolation because of COVID-19,*

*We are truly grateful for a vaccine that offers
 us respite and peace.*

*As vessels of your love and grace, open our
 bodies to immunity and your healing light.*

*And help us to continue to make wise
 choices, not only for ourselves, but for those
 whom we encounter.*

*Be with the healers who are working medically
 to care for those suffering from this virus, and
 are doing all they can to make this vaccine*

**Original Prayer written by
 The Rev. Dr. P.E. Henderson Jr.,
 of Corinthian Baptist Church:**

*Almighty God we raise our hearts to you in
 praise and thanksgiving.*

*We thank you for the gift of medical
 knowledge, medical personnel, biotech com-
 panies and all governmental agencies who are
 working together to combat the coronavirus.*

*We thank you for the vaccines. We pray the
 vaccines will be made available to all.*

*We pray for those who are sick, for those who
 grieve the loss of loved ones and for those
 whose physical, mental and economic well-
 being have been severely impacted to the
 pandemic.*

*Hear our prayer, O God, in the name of Jesus,
 ground of our hope and strength. Amen.*

**Here is a prayer for receiving the vaccine,
 written by Naomi Levy, leader of
 Nashuva, the Jewish Spiritual Outreach
 Center in Los Angeles**

*I have been praying for this day and now it is
 here!*

*With great excitement, a touch of trepidation,
 and with deep gratitude, I give thanks.*

*To all scientists who toiled day and night so
 that I might receive this tiny vaccination that will
 protect me and all souls around the world.*

*With the pandemic still raging I am blessed to do
 my part to defeat it.*

*Let this be the beginning of a new day, a new
 time of hope, of joy, of freedom and most of all, of
 health.*

*I thank You, God, for blessing me with life and
 for enabling me to reach this awe-filled moment.
 Amen.*



Piglet: What will 2021 bring us?

Pooh: 365 opportunities to touch a heart, to wipe a tear, to say "I love you", to pray for someone, to make a difference.

Piglet: May 2021 be our year of opportunity.

