

TRINITY TIDINGS



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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this letter, we are right in the middle of the season of Epiphany. Epiphany means "to reveal." We are spending the Sundays before Lent exploring who this Jesus is that was revealed to the nations by the astrologers and in turn who we are as Jesus' followers.

Lent arrives February 18 with Ash Wednesday. Ashes are an important physical sign on Ash Wednesday. Ancient Jews used ashes as both a sign of grief and repentance. We grieve our sin - moving away from God. We repent – desiring to change direction, change our minds, and live more aligned with the flow of God's love. We mark our foreheads in the shape of the cross as we look forward to the cross as a sign of God's reconciliation with all creation.

Ashes also connect us with our own mortality. We're reminded that we are creatures and rely on God. The words we use to form the cross come from the first book of the Hebrew Bible, Genesis. *By the sweat of your face, you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* Genesis 3: 19

Lent is the season we set aside for reflection. We've spent Epiphany in light, learning about Jesus and our call to follow Him. Now, the light dims as we reflect on what distracts us from God, what gets in the way of who we are meant to be as beloved children of God.

Daily intentional spiritual practice puts space in our lives for the Holy Spirit to come and dwell and transform. Some of the traditional are Bible reading, fasting, generous giving of money, time or talents, prayer and meditation, spiritual friendship, and accountability. There are countless other ways God calls us to a deeper, richer relationship. The important thing is to be intentional and take the time seriously.

How is God inviting you to relationship this Lent? May your hearts ignite in love of Jesus and in turn allow that love to flow out to each other and our neighborhood. Let us pray for one another as we embark on our Lenten journey together.

Blessings on your journey,
Pastor Barb

February 2026



TRINITY
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON MAIN
"Sharing God's Love"™



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Music Notes

Have you ever been focused on a task when - abruptly - song lyrics pop into your head? Maybe lines from a Broadway show or a refrain from current music or even a verse from a hymn?

That's exactly what happened as I read a short, inspiring book titled "*A Year of Less*."

Blogger and freelance author Caitlin Flanders documented her self-imposed year-long shopping ban, a challenge she tackled in 2018 while *simultaneously* reducing and donating more than 50% of the items she owned. Her dramatic transformation - gradually, over months of unwavering determination - is a success story marked by honest self-assessment and consistent, committed action. About stuff. And diminishing its potential to wreak emotional, financial, and organizational havoc on life.

Though this book was not intended as "religious," I viewed some of the key takeaways in the context of faith. For example, Ms. Flanders described how her sense of gratitude for what she (still) has increased exponentially with each new level she reached in giving (more) things away. And by scrutinizing the contents of her home and her shopping habits, she identified things she had "... *purchased with every intention of using, but only because I told myself it would somehow help. I wasn't good enough, but this stuff would make me better. I wanted to read, wear, and do everything so I could become the person I thought I should be.*"

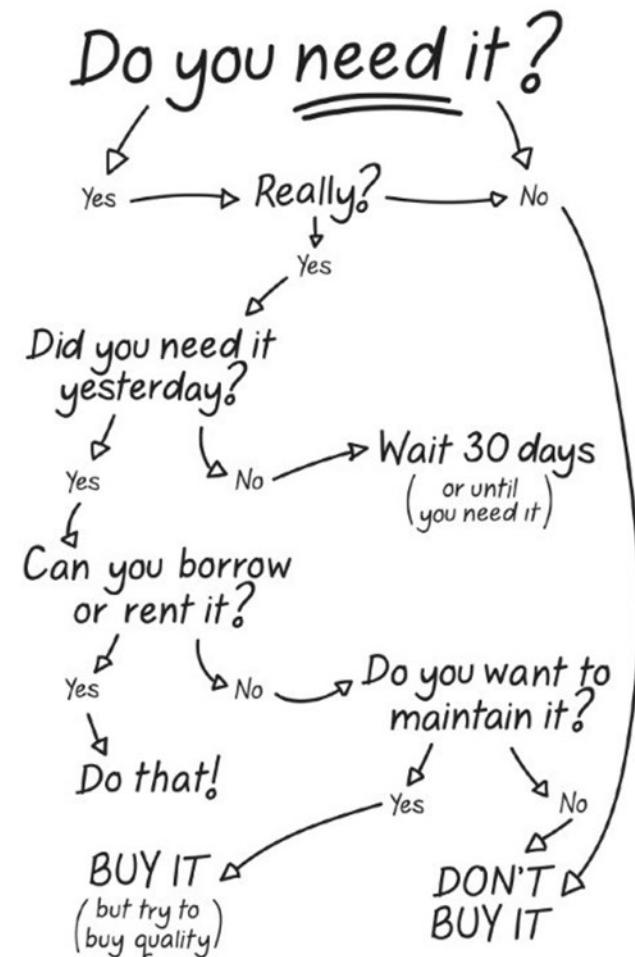
And that's when the music kicked in:

*"Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love me more."*

~ v. 3 Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult
(ELW 696)

God loves us and no amount of stuff is ever required to "make ourselves 'better.'" Grateful for this grace and hopeful to turn a year of less into *much* more.

- Melissa Jacoby, Minister of Music



SYNOD NEWS

The Lower Susquehanna Synod has an on-line newsletter that provides information about what is going on around the SYNOD! Just go to the LSS website: <http://www.lss-elca.org/>

Christian Education Opportunities

Snax n Study 2026

by Stacey Zeller



Beginning on Sunday, January 18, our Snax n Study group will return to one of its favorite topics... we'll be watching episodes of *The Chosen*. We will spend the first four weeks revisiting the final two episodes of season four, and then we will begin season five, which will ultimately include the Last Supper.

"*The Chosen* is a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the seven-season show shares an authentic and intimate look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings." You are welcome to come at any time... you don't have to have seen previous episodes to appreciate the current ones.



Each of our weekly sessions will include time watching the episode and a discussion led by a rotation of volunteer facilitators. "Snax" and fellowship are available beginning at around 8:45 am, and the program will begin at 9:00 am or shortly thereafter (we always wait for the 8:00 am worship service to conclude before beginning our program).

A sign-up sheet for facilitators and "snax" providers is available on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. We hope you'll consider joining us for these deeply moving and insightful interpretations of biblical history!

Bible Study

has resumed and is being held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, until midweek Lenten services begin.

Each week Pastor Barb leads a time of study and discussion on the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sundays.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

continues the fourth Thursday of each month,
8 am at C.C.s Family Restaurant
on Main Street, Mechanicsburg.
Upcoming dates are February 26 & March 26.



"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."
– Romans 12:10

Worship



FIRST SUNDAY KIDS

As we continue with our year of Miracles, we invite families to continue to bring your children monthly to the first Sunday second service for children. In January the children learned about the Three Wise Men; in February we will learn about the Miracle of Curing Leprosy; March will be the Miracle of a Cripple Man Who Walks; April the children will learn the Miracle of Jesus Has Risen; and in May we will end our Miracle series with A Blind Man Sees. Please take a look at our bulletin board for the monthly pictures of our learning process.

Thank you for entrusting us with teaching your children some of Jesus's miracles, his mission, and sharing Jesus's love for each one of them.

Amy and Ja'net

Women at the Well

This month we are celebrating Trinity's Women At The Well's 1st Year Birthday. Yes, it is hard to believe it's been a year! We have had a year full of activities for the Women of Trinity! Tuesday nights have become Women at the Well night. From book study to needle night, to sewing at home, and baking Christmas cookies for our shut-ins and so much more! If you would like to participate in any of our activities, please be sure to sign up on the bulletin board sign up sheet, or call into Debbie and let her know, or simply email Amy or Ja'net.

We thank you for all for supporting our activities for all women here at Trinity. Please take a moment this month and take a look at our First Year Summary on our Women at the Well bulletin board. - Amy and Ja'net



Worship - Ash Wednesday & Lent

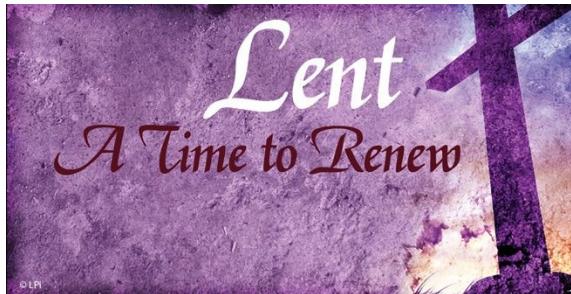


Ash Wednesday service is on February 18: Join us at 7PM in the sanctuary. The service will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Ashes to Go will be from 7-8 am and 12-1 pm. Ash Wednesday begins Lent. The ashes are made from the palms we wave on Palm Sunday from the previous year. Wearing the ashes reminds us of our mortality and focuses our hearts on our need for repentance.

Worship - Ash Wednesday & Lent

Burning of Palm Branches

Join us on February 15, between services, during Snax 'n Study to burn last year's dried up Palm Branches to make fresh ashes for Ash Wednesday Worship. Pastor will help us explore the meaning of Lent, as well. Bring in your old palm branches before February 15. If you didn't save them, come anyway! There is always plenty to share and it's loads of fun. Feel free to bring doughnuts/fasnachts to share for an early "Shrove Tuesday/Fasnacht Day". Don't know what that is? Google it to find out!



Midweek Lent Services

Join us each Wednesday, beginning February 25 until Holy Week, at both noon and 7PM.

Soup supper will be served in the fellowship hall at 5:45 pm, before the 7PM service.

The theme will be Conversations with Jesus. The Sunday readings find Jesus confronting both friends and adversaries. On Wednesday, we'll explore more deeply how each character's struggles and questions might help us in our own walk of discipleship. How might Jesus respond now to our own questions, confusions and need for healing?

Save these Lenten Dates

- February 18 – Ash Wednesday (Ashes to Go at 7 am & noon. Traditional Worship at 7 pm.)
- February 25 – March 25 - Weekly midweek Lenten Soup Supper at 5:45 pm, and Worship at noon and 7 pm.
- March 29 – Palm Passion Sunday
- April 2 – Maundy Thursday Meal and Worship, noon and 6:30 pm
- April 3 – Good Friday – Community Prayer Walk, 11 am Good Friday Worship, 7:30 pm
- April 5 – Resurrection Sunday (Sunrise at 6:30 am, Festival Worship at 10:15 am)

Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers & Worship

Each Wednesday join with others at 5:45 pm, before the midweek Lent service, for a simple meal of soup, bread, and dessert. Our different ministries will sponsor each week, but you are welcome to add to the table any Wednesday. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the west entrance bulletin boards.



Worship - Ash Wednesday & Lent

Some Suggestions for Fasting

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from resentment and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

What Are You Giving Up?



News & Updates

Altar Space Upgrade!

We are getting handrails for the altar space! Council approved a capital campaign to construct 3 wooden handrails for the altar space. They will match the décor. This is a safety issue for the worship leaders and the choir. Please either use your regular giving envelope, clearly marking the additional donation on the envelope or place your donation in a white envelope marking "rails" on the front. The cost for the rails will be around \$7,000.

Thank you for your generosity!

Synod Assembly 2026

Plans for the annual 2026 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly are underway. The assembly will be held Friday, June 5 – Saturday, June 6 at St. Matthew's in York. Our congregation is invited to send two delegates (male and female) to the assembly. It's a wonderful opportunity to be a part of ministry in the wider church. Is God calling you to this important work?



If you haven't picked up your 2025 giving statements or 2026 offering envelopes yet, please be sure to check your mailboxes in the hallway outside the elevator when you are at church!

Trinity Evangelical Church
132 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone Number: 717-766-2662

2026 Leadership

Staff

Interim Pastor	Barbara Barry	717-766-2662
Parish Administrator	Debbie Schue	717-766-2662
Minister of Music	Melissa Jacoby	717-766-2662
Custodial Service	The Rag Lady	717-571-0839

Officers

President	Dennis Burkhard
Vice President	Jim Smith
Treasurer	Debra Hartman
Secretary	John Wise
Financial Secretary	Vacant

Church Council

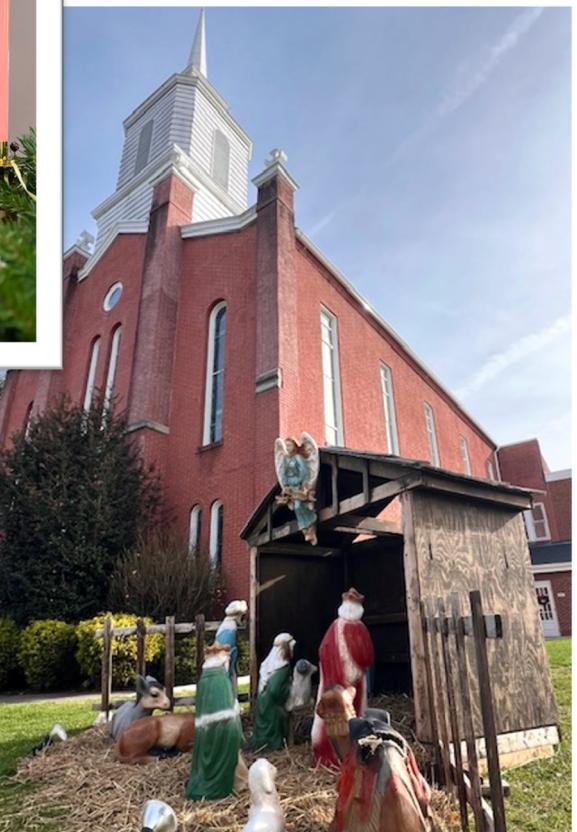
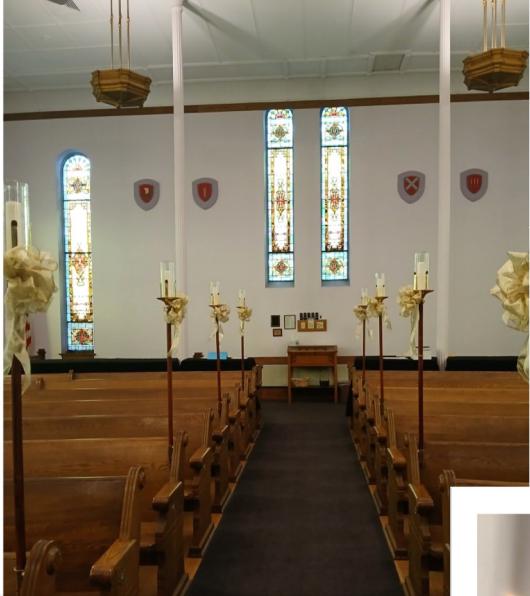
Term expires 12/31/26 John Hocker, Jim Smith, John Wise
 Term expires 12/31/27 Deb Hartman, Dennis Burkhard, Koen Thomas
 Term expires 12/31/28 Stacey Zeller, Kevin Kramer, Carol Anderson

Committee Chairpersons

Outreach	Heather Zielonis
Worship & Music	Stacey Zeller
Altar Guild	Deb George
Hand bells	Deb Hartman
Ushers	Debbie Schue
Lectors, Assisting Ministers	Debbie Schue
Christian Education	Deb Hartman
Fellowship	Jill Kramer
Property	Mike Hartman
Stewardship & Finance	Vacant

Event Highlights...

In case you didn't get to participate in or see pictures of some of our December events online, here are a few from the fun activities that took place during Advent...



Hanging of the Greens, November 29 -

The church looked festive and beautiful.
Thank you to everyone who helped with the
decorating!

Event Highlights, cont'd...

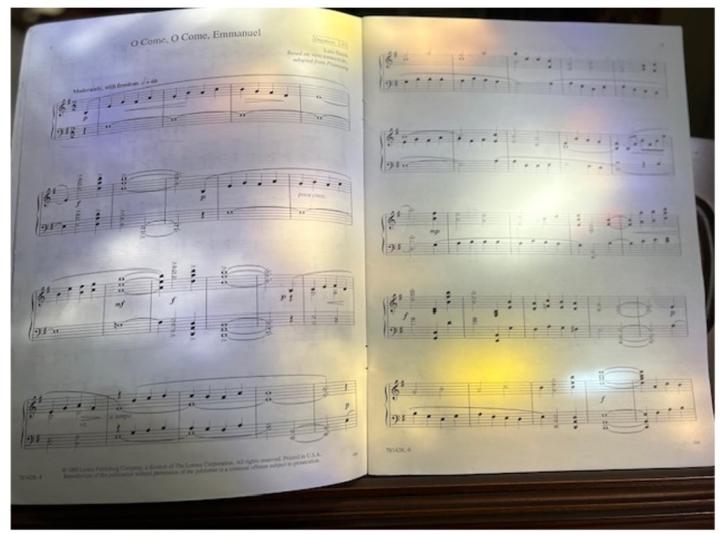
New Hope Ministries Christmas party, December 3



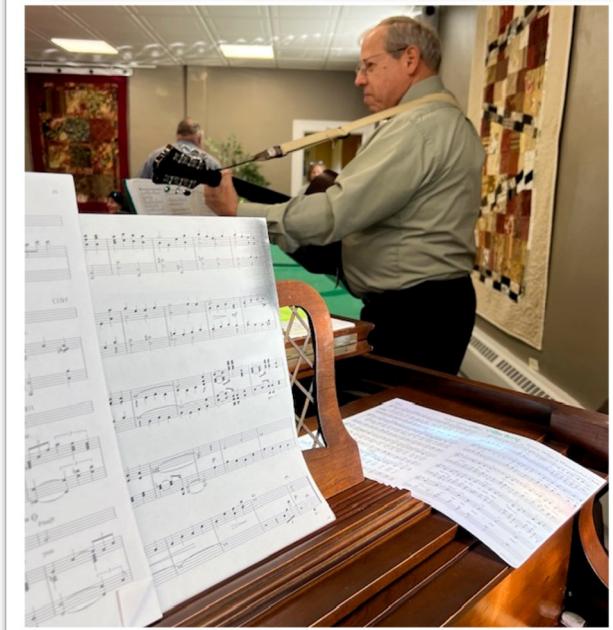
Pastor Barb offered a brief Christmas meditation and prayer before the meal.



Nativity set made by Jim Smith.



Thank you to our organist, Melissa Jacoby, and New Hope Ministries volunteer Ulli Klem, for the wonderful musical accompaniment to the Christmas carols sung during the party!



more on next page....

Event Highlights, cont'd...

Women at the Well Cookie Exchange, December 14



"Cookie walking" for cookies was a LOT of fun, not to mention delicious!

Youth News

Youth Group

All Trinity Youth are invited to participate in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, Youth Ministries. Director of Youth Ministry, Kellen Michalowski, has graciously invited our youth to be part of all the great stuff that is available. Koen Thomas has been an active participant since last year. Ask him if you want to know what the vibe is.

There are two age tracks:

SPYG is open to all current middle and high school age youth (6th through 12th grade).

SPYG Jr. is our "junior" youth group, open to all current elementary school aged youth (kindergarten through 5th grade).

Confirmation Classes
continue Sunday mornings
at 9 am.

Community Outreach

Mechanicsburg Area Churches invite you to...



COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, February 15th at 5:00pm

Dinner and live music - free of charge!

Join us at

BUHRIG'S GATHERING PLACE
25 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg



Souper Bowl Sunday!

We will again be participating in New Hope Ministries' food collection for Souper Bowl Sunday. This year's challenge is

Sugar vs. Salt!

Items may be placed on the table inside the front door, and may the best seasoning WIN!! Deadline to bring items in is Sunday, February 8.



Community Outreach, cont'd...

Blessing Box Update

To all who contribute to Trinity's Blessing Box Ministry, THANK YOU! Each small donation of food helps to make a difference for our neighbors. Our 2026 collection goal is 3,100 donated items.

Blessing Box Needs:

- Canned Beans
- Canned Tomatoes
- Tomato Sauce
- Hormel Single Serving Meals
- Hamburg/Tuna Helper
- Beef Stew
- Oatmeal
- Single Serving Fruit Cups
- Applesauce
- Canned Vegetables
- Cereal



Donations should be placed on the table outside of Fellowship Hall. No glass Containers, as they may break from the cold.

- Carol Anderson

FREE
Adult Clothing
Saturday, Feb. 14
9-11am

Trinity's Closet on Main
132 E. Main St.
Mechanicsburg, PA

Trinity's Clothing Closet Update: Celebrating Five Years of Service

Our Clothing Closet Ministry has now entered its 5th year, continuing to thrive and make a significant impact in our community. In 2025, the closet welcomed 333 visitors and distributed a total of 2,786 items. December was especially memorable, as attendees received holiday food bags – a thoughtful surprise that brought joy to all. Sincere thanks go out to everyone whose efforts made this special day possible.

Building Community Connections

Over time, we have developed close relationships with many neighbors who attend the closet and face challenges that we may not. Among our friends are Joseph and Keith, who live across the street from the church, Bob, who now travels from Perry County by bus when he can, Loula, Maxine, Micheline, Sally, Rose, Charlene, to name a few. These individuals know us, and we know them. Our church has become a haven – a place where people can consistently receive and share the love of God. On those Saturday mornings, once a month for two hours, there is a unique, heartwarming atmosphere. We invite everyone to join us for the closet day, even if you are not volunteering, simply to experience this remarkable feeling.

Seasonal Pause and Upcoming Events

We always take a break from hosting the closet in January to enjoy a well-deserved rest during the Christmas and New Year season. Our next closet event is scheduled for February 14 – Valentine's Day. We look forward to celebrating with extra love in the air.

Current Donation Needs

We are currently collecting gently used, clean cold weather clothing for men & women in all sizes and we are especially low on small & medium clothing. The greatest demand is for jeans, sweaters, sweatshirts, coats & sneakers. All donations are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments, please see me at church, or email hzielonis@gmail.com, or call my cell 717-648-0767.

Thank you, everyone, for all that you do. I truly believe we are making a difference in the lives of those around us. God Bless, ~Heather

Birthdays, Etc.



2/3	Emily Hartman
2/5	Olivia Moats
2/6	Gerry Miller
2/7	Ashley Strine
2/12	Karen Schmick
2/14	Cory Reisinger
2/16	Bonnie Williamson
2/17	Patsy Shaw
2/26	Ed Metka, Jr.
2/27	Cynthia Alleman

Is your birthday missing?
Please let us know so we can update our database!



Thank you

I want to thank all the people who sent "thinking of you" and Christmas cards to me this past year. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.

Miriam Wise



TIDINGS DEADLINE:

JUST A REMINDER that the deadline for newsletter items is the 10th of each month for the following issue.

Church Council Highlights

- We will start collecting information for a new church directory in January.
- Pastor Barb would like to review and update Trinity's Wedding and Funeral policies.
- The worship team developed a "Procedure for the Unexpected Absence of the Pastor".
- Changes to the by-laws will begin to be reviewed with the January council meeting.
- Pastor Barb would like to, in January during a sermon, have a conversation to develop a "site profile".
- The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 25 immediately after the 10:15 service.
- The Greater Harrisburg Concert Band has been scheduled for Friday, July 17, 2026.

February Prayer Pause:

God of great love, take hold of our hearts and guide us to sit in the stillness of your presence as we turn our souls to you. Help us to be still ... and discover the mystery of the living Christ within us. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Office Contact Info

Church & Staff Office Hours

Mon. – Thurs. 9 AM – 2 PM
(other hours as needed)

Phone: 717-766-2662

trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/TLCMech

<https://trinity-on-main.org/>

Pastor Contact Info

Pastor Barbara Barry

Email: pastorbarbbarry@gmail.com

Minister of Music Contact Info

Melissa Jacoby

Email: trinitymburgmusic@gmail.com

Parish Administrator Contact Info

Debbie Schue

Email: trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com

More Info, Etc.

SNOW CANCELLATIONS

It's that time of year!

If worship or other events are cancelled due to snow, a Council member will call. There will be a message on the church phone and Facebook.

PLEASE check if you are not sure, before coming to church. Your safety is very important to us!

ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18

ASHES TO GO:
7-8 AM & 12-1 PM

WORSHIP: 7 PM



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship 10:15 am First Sunday Kids 11:30 am Worship & Music Ministry	2	3 6:30 pm Women at the Well Book Study	4 6:05 pm Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30 pm Bible Study	5 7 pm Church Council	6	7
8 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study Class 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship	9	10 6:30 pm Women at the Well Needle Night	11 6:05 pm Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30 pm Bible Study	12	13 4 pm, Set up for Trinity's Clothing Closet	14 9 am, Trinity's Closet-on-Main
15 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am, Burning of the Palms/ Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship 5 pm, Community Dinner	16	17 6:30 pm Women at the Well Book Study	18 Ash Wednesday 7-8 am, Ashes to Go 12-1pm, Ashes to Go 6:05 pm Bells 6:30 Choir 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	19	20	21
22 First Sunday in Lent 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music	23	24 6:30 pm Women at the Well Needle Night	25 12 pm Lent Worship 5:45 pm Lenten Soup Super 6:05 pm Bells 6:30 Choir 7 pm Lent Worship	26 8 am Men's Breakfast	27	28