



TRINITY TOPICS

WEEKLY NEWS

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RECTOR'S BLOG

Pride is a high holy day



Dear Friends,

Every Episcopal parish I've known has its "high holy days." I'm not talking about Christmas and Easter. Those are *the church's* high holy days. I'm talking about the days that, for a variety of local reasons, *a parish* observes in some special way.

Let me give you an example: the Sunday closest to the Fourth of July at St. Luke's Granville.

It's hard to capture in words the Village of Granville during the week of Independence Day. The central Ohio village of just under 6,000 residents delivers a quintessential Midwestern celebration of patriotism. Fireworks, a parade, a carnival midway that takes up two blocks of downtown (okay, so downtown is only two blocks long), pet costume judging, egg tosses, and a bandstand offering everything from rock and roll to kids' dance troupes – it's all there. Food vendors offer elephant's ears, fresh squeezed lemonade, and every imaginable fried food. Oh, one more thing. . . the Pharaoh's Fury ride is set up right outside the front door of St. Luke's. You get the picture.

The church – adopting the attitude of "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" made the Sunday closest to the Fourth of July its local high holy day. Since *The Book of Common Prayer* offers readings and prayers for Independence Day and Hymnal 1982 has a section called "National Songs," the parish went all in. Because the Fourth of July in Granville is a time when many return to the village to visit family and friends, St. Luke's billed the day as a parish

homecoming. Terry and I were in charge of coffee hour and gave it an appropriately corny name – “Apple Pie with the Applegates.” The liturgical colors for the week were red, white, and blue.

Pride is one of Trinity’s high holy days.

This weekend’s colors are the colors of the rainbow, plus the five colors that have been added for the Progress Pride Flag – black, brown, light blue, pink, and white. Trinity’s celebration begins tonight with a picnic on the Plaza from 5:30–7:30 pm. Tomorrow – Saturday – parishioners will offer hospitality from 10:00 am–3:00 pm. Folks will march in the Parade that begins at noon, and staff Trinity’s booth in Promenade Park throughout the day.

Most importantly, we’ll offer thanks and praise to God on Sunday morning at 10:00 am. Because Pride is a high holy day, Bishop Anne has approved liturgical changes for this week’s service that gives the Trinity faith community the opportunity to pray with intention for the LGBTQIA+ community – for every person who is created in God’s image – and that means for everyone.

Happy Pride, Toledo! Happy Pride, Trinity! Remember that you are loved!

Blessings,

Stephen Applegate

COVID-19 UPDATE

Yogi Berra, who had many notable, quotable sayings, like “Baseball is 90 percent mental. The other half is physical,” once said, “It ain’t over ‘til it’s over.” He wasn’t talking about COVID-19 when he said it, but he might as well have been.

KP.3.1.1, of the Omicron family, is now the predominant SARS-CoV-2 variant circulating in the United States. The number of cases has been rising since June. The sprinter Noah Lyles, gold medalist in the 100 meter dash and the 4x100 meter relay, finished with a bronze in the 200 meter – an amazing result given that he had been diagnosed with COVID before the race began. This week, Governor Mike DeWine tested positive with the illness and has started taking the anti-retroviral therapy, Paxlovid, as advised by his doctor. And an increasing number of less famous people have gotten sick.

Since church is a place where people gather indoors with others, here are some thoughts and suggestions for reducing the spread of COVID and other respiratory illnesses:

- If you are experiencing symptoms, please don’t attend church in person. Trinity offers a live-stream of our 10:00 am service every Sunday, and the recording of the service is

available on YouTube after Sunday. There's a button on the parish's home page where you can access the service – www.trinitytoledo.org

- It's okay to wear a mask! KN-95 masks will be available at the entrances to the sanctuary along with hand sanitizer. Masks aren't required, but they are recommended for people in higher risk groups.
- Wash your hands frequently. Handwashing isn't just good for attending church – it helps reduce the spread of contagious diseases all the time.
- Get a COVID shot (and a flu shot) when the new vaccines become available in early September. Check with your care provider to see if, for some reason, you should get a dose of the current vaccine before the new ones arrive.

Although immunity levels are higher because of vaccines and other reasons, some people are at higher risk for serious illness or long COVID. "Loving your neighbor as yourself," means taking precautions that help our most vulnerable parishioners and neighbors, too! Together we can make a healthier environment possible at Trinity!

CCD - An Overview



The College for Congregational Development (CCD) program was launched in the Diocese of Ohio with its first training class (Year A) from August 11–16 at Bellwether Farm.

CCD is a comprehensive two-year Episcopal Church training program designed to promote healthy, faithful and effective congregations of all sizes. Approximately 40 lay and clergy

participants from across our diocese, including Trinity's first congregational team of George Benson, Hugh Grefe, and Becky Roth, spent an intense week exploring tools that will help Trinity fulfill our calling to be the body of Christ in downtown Toledo.

Along with volunteers from the congregation, the team will teach us how to apply those tools and models to look at our current situation (Who are we? Who is our neighbor?), discern our future with the Holy Spirit's guidance (What does it mean to be a good neighbor downtown? What is God already doing in our congregation and in our neighborhood?), and develop the strategies and processes to move us into that future (How might we get there from here?). The Trinity team is already planning its first simple project applying the CCD methods; watch for more details this fall about how you can get involved.

The next diocesan CCD training (Year B) is scheduled for August 10-15, 2025. The two classes don't need to be taken in order, so if you're interested in making a commitment to support the health and faith of the Trinity community, please speak to Stephen or one of the three team members.



You're invited to Trinity's WELCOME BACK FIESTA! September 8th 2024 right after service. With walking tacos, rock painting and a LIVE MARIACHI BAND, this is an afternoon you don't want to miss!!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

[Volunteer for 8/27](#)



SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Saturday September 7th, from 9:00 - 12:30p in My Brother's Place we will be offering Safe Church Training. This is a time where we learn about the prevention of children and youth from abuse, policies to protect children and youth from abuse adapted at each parish, and diocesan-wide polices to protect children and youth from abuse.

Childcare, coffee, and refreshments will be provided!

Questions or interested in attending, please contact george@trinityledo.org

Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50690556-diocesan>

CHOIR IS COMING BACK!



Get ready to grab your folder and a fresh pencil because the choir is BACK! Our first rehearsal of the 2024–2025 Choir Season is Thursday, September 5th 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. And, we are always looking for new members! Do you have a song to sing? Have you wanted to try choir but don't quite have the courage? Email Chelsie at chelsie@trinitytoledo.org to see if the choir could be your next best experience! *Because we are a proud multigenerational group, membership to the choir requires a pitch-matching test and a successful background check.*

TRINITY PRIDE



Pride Kick-Off Family Picnic – Friday, August 23 5:30–7:30pm Join us for food, crafts, music, face-painting, story time for the kids, and much more. This year's picnic will be a

potluck, so if you are able; bring a side dish to share. Hot dogs and condiments will be provided along with lemonade and water.

Sign up here for a beautiful evening on our plaza!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439173-friday#/>



Pride Saturday – Parade Marchers sign up here

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439274-saturday#/>

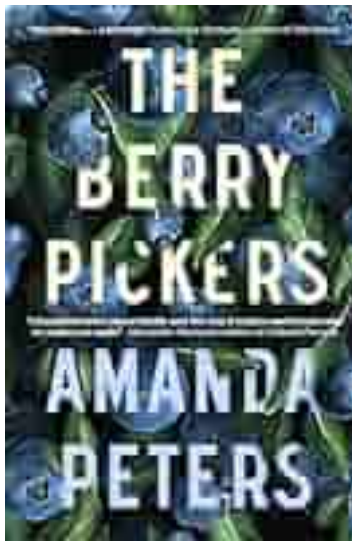
Promenade Booth – Come represent Trinity and pass out swag and love on people at

Promenade Park <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439231-saturday#/>

Hospitality at 316 Adams – Come help swing open our doors to all who need a place to cool off, use bathrooms or need cold water from 10a – 3pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439315-hospitality#/>

BOOK CLUB



Book clubbers! We're taking a bit of a hiatus for July and August but add this to the late summer reading list so it's fresh in your mind for discussion on September 8. (*Our library has print, ebook and audio copies.)

[Sign Up Here](#)

WHO IS JESUS ANYWAY?

Grab a snack at coffee hour and join us in the Walbridge Room as we begin to explore who Jesus is, using Diana Butler Bass' book *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence* as a springboard. (Here is a [video of the author introducing the book](#) if you'd like to learn more.)

These discussions are open to everyone, whether you have read the book or not, whether you can attend all the sessions or not, whether you know who Jesus is to you or you have no clue. Here are some questions to ponder for this week (Jesus as teacher; Jesus as friend):

- What has been your understanding of Jesus throughout your life? How have you seen that change over the years?
- "Jesus calls us friends. God reaches toward us, not as a fearsome master or judge, but a friend, beckoning us to reach back" (p. 16 of the book). Do you view Jesus as a friend of yours? Why or why not?
- Which of the teachings of Jesus is most compelling or attractive to you? Which teaching is most challenging or frustrating? Why?

The rough schedule for the rest of the sessions:

August 25: Jesus as Presence

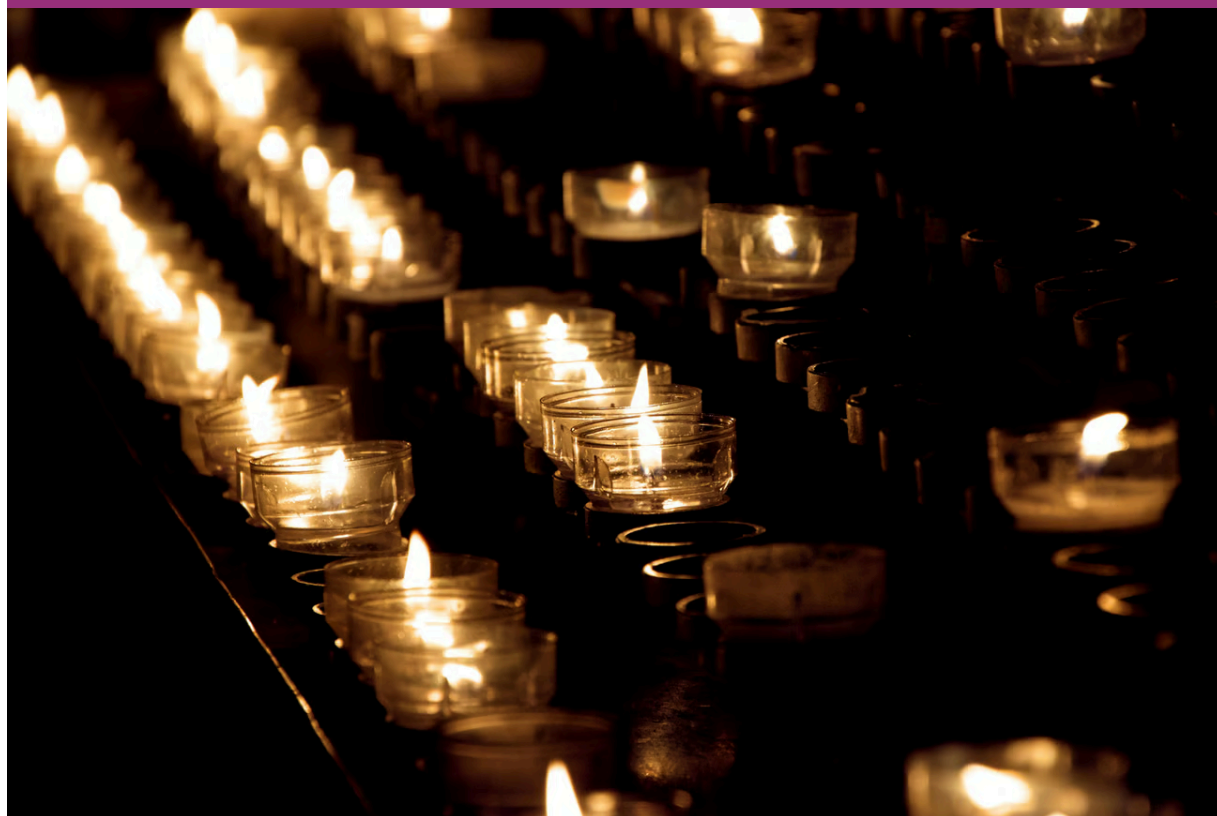
September 1: Bonus session: The Universal Jesus

If you have any questions, contact facilitators Jolene Miller and Amy Saylor. Bring your questions, we'll bring ours!

Diocesan Office for Mission Peace and Justice

[Click here for the resources page.](#)

TRINITY PRAYER LIST



Did you know that Trinity has an active prayer list? If you'd like prayers for yourself or for someone you know, you can request them by contacting the Trinity office (trinity@trinitytoledo.org or 419-243-1231) or our interim rector, Stephen Applegate (in person or via email at stephen@trinitytoledo.org).

At the moment, all prayer requests are shared only with a small intercessory prayer group who, along with parish clergy, offer recurring prayers for each request. This is not a closed group. If you want to join Trinity parishioners who've committed to the practice of regularly praying for others, ask Stephen about joining the prayer team.

When a request is received, it remains on the prayer list for four weeks before it's taken off. Requests can always be renewed or submitted again. However, having an "expiration date" will prevent the list from overflowing with prayer requests that are out of date.

TRINITY@HOME LIVE-STREAM

Trinity@Home is now a live-stream of Trinity's 10:00 am in-person service with an interactive chat.

www.trinitytoledo.org/live

EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Arizona Episcopalians gather in Phoenix for Indigenous boarding schools listening and healing pilgrimage

[Episcopal News Service — Phoenix, Arizona] Upon learning from a 2022 federal report that the state of Arizona had the second highest number of known Indigenous boarding schools in the [...]

Diocese of Georgia to sell diocesan offices, move into building of shuttered church

[Episcopal News Service] The Diocese of Georgia plans to move from its current diocesan offices into another Savannah building vacated last year when one of the diocese's churches closed, a [...]

African churches, church health organizations on alert as mpox spreads

[World Council of Churches] Churches in Africa remain on alert as mpox continues to spread in parts of the continent, prompting international health organizations to declare it a health emergency. [...]

New York gives \$1.5 million to help Cathedral of St. John the Divine expand social service ministries

[Episcopal News Service] The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine announced Aug. 20 that it had received a \$1.5 million grant from the city of New York to renovate [...]