



Welcome

to Trinity Church

The Eleventh Sunday
after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them....Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:18, 28-29)

In Sunday's lesson from the Epistle to the Hebrews, the author's poetic words (which use Mount Sinai and Mount Zion to contrast different theologies of God's covenant with the people--but that is another message for another day) evoke the mystery and majesty of the Holy One. This is a God who is both transcendent and immanent, beyond and within, and yet one is not a material object that we can touch. This is not a deity who can be contained in a box or within a statue, no matter how precious, nor one who can be approached by magical acts or words that guarantee a desired outcome. I am reminded of C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, when the child Lucy asks the Beaver family if Aslan the Lion is safe: "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

And yet it is a human tendency--and a quite understandable one--to try to fit God into our containers and categories, to make the creator of a wild and mysterious universe safe and comfortable. But the Divine is beyond our attempts to domesticate it/her/him/them. We can say that the ark of the moral universe, while long, bends toward justice, but we must have some humility about what exactly justice looks like in most earthly scenarios. Some things we know clearly are right and wrong. Many, dare I say most, things are a little gray and fuzzy.

Last month, in the wake of the IRS ruling that seems to indicate the agency will no longer enforce the (still existing) law that prevents churches from endorsing political candidates while maintaining their tax-exempt status, I wrote that Trinity will not change our practice of not endorsing candidates. Most in the Episcopal Church, along with many other mainline Protestant denominations and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the same. Earlier this week, the New York Times published a story about a Lutheran pastor who resigned from his church in order to preach a sermon encouraging Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Democrat of New York, to run for president in 2028 as the "love-your-neighbor presidential candidate." A person listening might agree with the values of the preacher and the endorsed candidate and yet still prefer another candidate, perhaps even one ideologically similar. While a rather extreme example, this does highlight the perils of political endorsements from the pulpit. Such a sermon risks both abusing the power of the pulpit and also diminishing the divine.

Many faith communities are grappling with how to address political and social issues in a divided culture. At Trinity, we are no strangers to faith-based advocacy. We write letters, make phone calls, and organize to increase awareness about various issues, from affordable housing to calling for a cease-fire in Gaza. Sometimes we may disagree on what constitutes faithful Christian concern and advocacy vs political action. If you ever disagree with something said from the pulpit or with an action that parishioners are organizing, please let me know. Let's have a conversation.

Peace,
Chase

Providing **healing**, proclaiming **hope** & practicing **God's unconditional love.**

Worship at Trinity

Powerful, joyful and Spirit-filled worship that is reverent, warm and inviting, with uplifting music and preaching!

Sundays:

8 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church
A gentle, said service (no music)

10 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church
Joyous, sung music

Monday-Friday:

7:30 AM Morning Prayer said in the home M - F
Resources available at www.TrinityNJ.com/Worship

7:30 AM Friday - Morning Prayer in the Chapel

Wednesdays:

6:30 PM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel
Healing Service first Wednesday of the month

Connect with Us

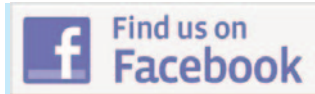
CONTACT US

Trinity Church, 503 Asbury Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

Tel: 732-775-5084 • Fax: 732-775-3865

Email: office@trinitynj.com • Web: trinitynj.com

In the case of an emergency, death or serious illness, contact the church office. There is a pastoral emergency option on the phone if no one is available to answer.



[Facebook.com/TrinityAP](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityAP)



[Instagram.com/TrinityChurchAP](https://www.instagram.com/TrinityChurchAP)
(#TrinityChurchAP)



Venmo
(@TrinityChurch)

Trinity Basics

PASTORAL SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS: Contact Jill Osis in the parish office for all non-emergency pastoral needs: Baptisms, the rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent (personal confession & counsel), Blessing of Marriage & Unions, communion for the sick and homebound, or visits to the hospital.

PANTRY & COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN: The Trinity Food Pantry is open Tuesdays from 10:30AM-1PM and on Saturday, a hot, sit-down meal is served from 11:30AM-12:30PM. Questions? Contact Derek at Derek@TrinityNJ.com.

CHOIRS: Find out about our dynamic and growing choirs, contact Dr. Deborah Simpkin King at Deborah@TrinityNJ.com for information!

PARISH LEADERSHIP (*Vestry*):

Bill Presutti (warden) Carol Scollay (warden)
Brice Byham, Gregory Curatolo, Donna Griffin, Wendy Jaghab, Mary Perez, James Pillar, Andy Place, Maria Tassiello, and Adrienne Wert You may contact the vestry at: vestrywardens@trinitynj.com

Parish Staff

The Rev. Chase Danford, Rector
FrChase@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Tom Conway, Assisting Priest
Tom@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Geoffrey Curtiss, Assisting Priest
geoffcurtiss@gmail.com

The Rev. Lucille Donahue, Assisting Ecumenical Pastor
Revolu@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Tom Pivinski, Assisting Ecumenical Pastor
TomP@trinitynj.com

Jennifer Berger Brown, Development Manager for Donor Relations
Jennifer@Trinitynj.com

Kris Hlatky, Casework Manager
Kris@Trinitynj.com

Deborah Simpkin King, Director of Music and Arts
Deborah@trinitynj.com

Derek Bloom, Director of Community Engagement & Organizing
Derek@trinitynj.com

Kenny Miller, Property Assistant

Siobhan Noland, Development Manager for Grants
Siobhan@Trinitynj.com

Jill Osis, Director of Operations
Jill@trinitynj.com

Courtney Pearson, Operations Manager
Courtney@trinitynj.com


Tim Sexsmith, Property Supervisor
Tim@trinitynj.com

Parish Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Faye Hudson | Sylvia | Carol Joy Jacobson | Kevin Burkitt |
| Jackie Campanelli | Greg Manzi | Bill Koegel | Michael Issacson |
| Manal Miller | Zoe & Taz | Barry Braithwaites | Craig Breiner |
| Stephanie | Addison Levenstein | Tina S. | Mike Mack |
| Margaret Jones | Tom Johnson | Tom.S | Mike Krutza |
| Miles Lagstein | Chet Szymanski | The Family of Devon | |
| Denzel Donaldson | Mark Gordon | Brown | |
| Gregory Curatolo | Eric | Janine Audet | |

If you would like to be added to the prayer list or would like to add someone else (*please get their permission first*), please email prayer@trinitynj.com or call Wendy Jaghab at 732-616-8568 by the Tuesday before you would like the name to appear in the bulletin. Names will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks, and can be readded upon request.

 **Prayer Team Ministry.** During communion, those who would like someone to pray with them are invited to come to one of the prayer stations located in the back of the church. A member of the Trinity Prayer Team will say a prayer with you for yourself or someone else. You are welcome to sit or stand during the prayer. What is said at the prayer station is held in confidence by the person who prays with you. They cannot talk with you or anyone else about your requested prayer without your permission. The only exception is a person intending to harm themselves or someone else.

Questions about this ministry? Contact Joanie McCoy, leader of the Prayer Team at 908-216-5529 or 732-780-3111 or PrayerTeam@TrinityNJ.com.

Trinity Cycle of Prayer During Morning Prayer this week, we will be praying for the following Trinity Parishioners and Friends:

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 8/25 | 8/26 | 8/27 | 8/28 | 8/29 |
| Elizabeth Meehan | Elizabeth Mendez | Bob Michielutti & George Lee | Patrick Miller | Douglas Mills |

News & Notes

Trinity Summer Fellowship Series - Sensational Soul Cruisers Concert Tuesday, August 26 at 6pm at Springwood Park

Our Hospitality Committee invites you to participate in the last event of our Summer Fellowship Series: The Asbury Park Music Foundation Summer Series presents the Sensational Soul Cruisers at Springwood Park in Asbury Park. Wear your Trinity t-shirt or gear if you have it and bring chairs or blankets. We'll meet at Springwood Park and enjoy music under the stars.

Devin Brown Funeral Service ~ Saturday, August 30 at 2pm

The funeral service for Devin Brown will be held here at Trinity on Saturday, August 30th at 2pm. All are invited to join us in celebration of Devin's life. May Devin's soul, with the souls of all the departed, rest in peace with God.

School Supply Drive and Blessing of the Backpacks ~ Sunday, August 31st

We are collecting school supplies for students from our community through Sunday, August 31st. On the 31st, we are inviting all of our Trinity kids, youth, young adults, and teachers returning to school to bring their backpacks/bags to the 8 or 10am service for a Blessing of the Backpacks and School Supplies for a new year of learning and fun! We are collecting backpacks, lunch boxes, folders, notebooks, pencils, pencil cases, crayons, glue sticks, highlighters etc. Bring your supplies by on Sundays or during the week by appointment. Thank you!

News & Notes

Let's Get Ready to Ride for Food Justice ~ September 6, 2025

Volunteer to Help or Start/Join a Team Today!

The 7th Annual Jersey Shore Ride for Food Justice is back! Last year we raised \$66,000 for our Food & Housing Justice Programs at Trinity. We are excited to beat that goal this year and we are going to need your help! To find out more about the ride or to join, visit us here:

<https://bit.ly/justiceride>, scan the QR Code, or contact Dave Osis at Foodjusticeride@gmail.com.



To Volunteer the Day of the Ride, email Dave Osis at foodjusticeride@gmail.com Phone: 732-610-0839 Your support is what makes this event possible!

Wednesday Bible Sharing ~ On Hiatus until September 17

Bible Sharing is on hiatus until Wednesday September 17th. Ever want to know more about the early church? Here is your opportunity! Beginning on September 17th, we will be studying the Book of Acts! All are welcome to join our friendly group at 5pm! Any questions? Call Joanie 908-216-5529

Children's Sermon and Ice Cream Coffee Hour August 31st

Our last Summer Children's Sermon will be August 31 and will feature a sermon for all ages by our rector, the Rev. Chase Danford. This is our last children's sermon of the summer and what better way to celebrate than to have ice cream! We will share in some cool treats after the service as we say goodbye to the summer and hello to a new school year!

Monday Bible Study with Fr. Geoff on Zoom ~ On Hiatus for September!

The Monday Bible Study will be on hiatus for the month of September. We will restart on October 6th. Watch this spot for more information!

Weiland/Posten Scholarship Applications Due September 1st

The Weiland/Posten Scholarship, given in memory of former Trinity parishioner Frank Weiland, is available annually to all members of Trinity enrolled in a post-High School program. This includes vocational and professional schools as well as colleges and universities. The applicant should be involved in the life of Trinity Church in some capacity. Applicants are encouraged to submit a letter to the church office detailing educational goals with evidence of acceptance into one of the post-secondary programs as listed above by September 1st. Details of participation in Trinity should also be noted. The letters will be reviewed by the vestry and the scholarship, in the amount of \$500, will be granted by October 1st. Please submit your letter of interest to office@trinitynj.com

Volunteer Opportunities in our Feeding Programs!

On Tuesdays, our Food Pantry is looking for people to sign up to be here from 9:30am-1pm to provide hospitality and help with pantry flow. Pantry guests wait in our gym as a place for people to gather and receive hospitality while they waiting for their turn to be served. Questions? Contact Derek at Derek@trinitynj.com. Sign up to volunteer here: www.signupgenius.com/go/8050848ADAF2FA1FD0-45101754-pantry

Saturday Soup Community Meal On the first Saturday of every month, we invite you to volunteer on Trinity Saturdays from 10am till 1:30pm. Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050848ADAF2FA1FD0-trinity1>

Children and Youth at Trinity ~ Join Us!

Summer Sundays - Join us on Sundays as we have some summer fun each week beginning at 9:45am. We will read stories, make crafts, play games and then rejoin our families after The Peace. For questions, contact Jill Osis at Jill@trinitynj.com.

Nursery - Our Nursery is open every Sunday from 9:45am until the end of the service. The nursery will accept children aged 6 months through 4 years. The nursery is located at the end of the hallway in the office wing.