



# Trinity Topics

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In literature, winter, darkness and night are often used as metaphors for death.

But in this time of midwinter, before the light comes back, I'm going to say: Winter, darkness and night are a time of profound growth!

In the frosty ground, animals hibernate, some pregnant with next spring's babies. Nurse logs, which "nurse" insects and other important contributors to our ecosystems, grow silent communities under themselves, in darkness. In the night, we not only rest, but recharge and refuel for the next day. The winter, the darkness, and the night are times where new life is forming and growing, quietly.

This time of midwinter can be a profound period of growth personally and spiritually. When I came to Trinity, it was clear: We want to grow! We have some new faces joining us, and this has been a blessing! We need to keep reaching outward, with all hands on deck, to invite people into the wonderful place we know Trinity is.

It can be awkward in these polarized times to talk about religion. So many of us nurse wounds from traditions that have betrayed us or those we love. Some have hijacked what it means to be Christian with a false narrative about our Prince of Peace. But at Trinity, we know that God's plan through Jesus is to invite everyone to God's table: there are no strangers and there are no "others." There are only beloved children of God.

This winter, here is your challenge: invite someone to join us. Pat K. had an amazing idea, and she invited her circle to church to celebrate her birthday. Several families showed up en masse at Christmas. In the coming season, we have even more opportunities!

In January and February, we have several activities coming up that can be a less-awkward way to invite someone you think may be seeking God to church. For example, invite someone to our community soup supper on Jan. 25 at 4 p.m.: service is many people's love language with God, and helping cook, serve, or just joining us for the meal and brief prayer service is a great way for someone to get to know us! We also are planning a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Feb. 17 at 5 p.m. In the Middle Ages, Christians would use up all their rich ingredients like butter and sugar and eggs to prepare for the fast of Lent. Somehow, that became pancakes in modern times! What better way to build community than over sugar and carbs!

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Finally, consider bringing someone to our Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. on Feb. 18, or inviting them to drop by the church with you during the day for prayers, blessings and ashes, or join our class on Franciscan spirituality on Wednesday evenings, beginning Feb. 25 (more details to come).

Of course, we gather every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for our Eucharist! Finally, we have on-going needs: have a laundry party to help us continue to distribute our clothing or join up with a friend to take a week's worth of Tide Over Pantry restocking (we need about 30-40 items every Sunday and Thursday). These are great neighborhood or social circle projects that help show who we are as a community.

Finally, I want to say: Thank you. Thank you for being who you are. Thank you for what you do. Thank you for the support you have given this church through your time and work and pledges. Trinity is a special place - let's get the Good News out!

Kristen

## FUNDRAISING

As the new year begins, so also do plans for some "fun-raising" events at Trinity. I don't want to let the cat out of the bag too soon, but I can tell you that we'll be kicking things off with a popular fun night in March, so stay tuned for the details so you can mark your calendars.

And two things to remember....fundraising is critical to the lifeblood of Trinity, so these events need your support. Also, the events don't happen by themselves, so if you're interested in joining the team, contact Pat, Donna, Stacey or myself as we'd love to have you on "Team Fundraising"!

Best regards, Vic Shanley Chmn., Fundraising Comm.

## Community News From Liz Hulse

**On February 1, 2026** Trinity will host an informative community meeting after coffee hour about Alcoholics Anonymous. Please join us for this educational presentation of vital interest to our community. It is open to the Coatesville community. Invite anyone you think might be interested.

**CYWA code blue** services could use blankets and pillows. You can drop them off at CYWA, 423 E. Lincoln Hwy, during normal business hours, or bring them to Trinity

Chester County Hospital Community Wellness Dept. is hosting several informative events on Zoom this month. You can register at 610-738-2300:

**January 14 to February 18**, Wednesdays 6-7:30 Stop Smoking Now on zoom

**January 15** Bones, & Joints: Arthritis of the Hip and Knee 6-7pm on zoom

**Please check our website for details for the local, weekend celebration of Martin Luther King Jr., Jan. 16-19.**



<b>Jennifer Chance</b>	<b>2-Dec</b>
<b>Samuel Haak</b>	<b>4-Dec</b>
<b>Ann Furlong</b>	<b>5-Dec</b>
<b>Bella Baynard</b>	<b>9-Dec</b>
<b>William McWilliams</b>	<b>16-Dec</b>
<b>Shane McWilliams</b>	<b>17-Dec</b>
<b>Miranda Croft</b>	<b>21-Dec</b>
<b>Pam Smyth</b>	<b>22-Dec</b>
<b>Chase Crompton</b>	<b>24-Dec</b>
<b>William Terry</b>	<b>25-Dec</b>
<b>Bruce Murray</b>	<b>29-Dec</b>
<b>Betty Sullivan</b>	<b>31-Dec</b>
<b>Kristina Rosa</b>	<b>1-Jan</b>
<b>Diane Izzo</b>	<b>2-Jan</b>
<b>Liz Hulse</b>	<b>3-Jan</b>
<b>BJ Baynard</b>	<b>7-Jan</b>
<b>Mildred Bruce</b>	<b>10-Jan</b>
<b>Donna Anderson</b>	<b>10-Jan</b>
<b>David Thompson</b>	<b>14-Jan</b>
<b>Jennifer Grubb</b>	<b>15-Jan</b>
<b>Sabrina Lewis</b>	<b>25-Jan</b>
<b>Ariel Abbott</b>	<b>25-Jan</b>
<b>Paul Shidlowksi</b>	<b>30-Jan</b>
<b>Kevin Evans</b>	<b>31-Jan</b>

## Readers, Servers and Greeters for January 2026

Date	First Readers	Psalm	Second Readers	Prayers
1/4	Greg Bentley	Deborah Murray	Pat Bush	Bill Terry
1/11	Chris Haak	Minnie Kirwin	James Gaddy	Kent Nation
1/18	Paul Shidlowski	Erika Haak	Greg Bentley	Deborah Murray
1/25	Vic Shanley	Pat Bush	Bill Terry	Chris Haak

<b>JANUARY</b>						
<b>2026</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
						NA 10AM SH Rented
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
9:30 a.m. Worship  Pantry restock day		AA 7PM		Healing Service Zoom, 12PM Pantry restock day		NA 10AM  SH Rented
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
9:30 a.m. Worship,  Pantry restock day	Bible study, 11:30-1	AA 7PM		Healing Service Zoom, 12PM Pantry restock day		NA 10AM  SH Rented
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>
9:30 a.m. Worship,  Pantry restock day Vestry meets after service	<b>MLK DAY</b> See website and bulletin for events <b>NO BIBLE STUDY</b>	AA 7PM		Healing Service Zoom, 12PM Pantry restock day		NA 10AM  SH Rented
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
9:30 a.m. Worship, Pantry restock day  Community Soup Supper, 4 p.m. (cooking before, starts after services)	Bible study, 11:30-1	AA 7PM		Healing Service Zoom, 12PM Pantry restock day		NA 10AM

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE TRINITY**

323 East Lincoln Highway  
Coatesville, PA 19320-3409

For more information contact:

The Rev. Kristen Ostendorf,  
Priest-in-charge  
908-489-1452 (cell – receives  
texts!)

**Office information:**

610-384-4771

trinitycoates@aol.com

Website:

www.trinitycoatesville.org

**Mission Statement**

Church of the Trinity is a  
congregation rooted in the  
faith and love of Christ, unified  
in diversity, seeking to grow  
and nourish the Trinity family  
and our Coatesville  
community.

Weekly Schedule:

Holy Eucharist,  
Sundays: 9:30 AM

Bible study, Mondays,  
11:30-1 (bring a lunch)

Healing Service  
Thursdays via Zoom:  
12:00 PM

Jamoca Harkins,  
Parish Administrator

**Parish Office Hours:**

Evenings Monday - Thursday

**Save the Date for these Upcoming Events!**

Feb. 1 – AA presentation, 11-1

Feb. 14 – Work Day, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Feb. 17 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5 p.m. (volunteers needed!)

Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday: Prayers and ashes available all day, service at 7 p.m.

Feb. 25 – Franciscan Spirituality Lenten Group starts, details coming!