

# TRINITY TOPICS

MAY 2026

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## Y'all: We're doing it!

Six months ago, when I started at Trinity, I heard loud and clear a few things that the parish wanted to do:

- Grow the church
- Visit those who cannot attend church due to illness or age
- Reach out to the community
- Try new things

We are doing it all, and more! I could not be prouder of you and this tiny church with a huge heart.

I don't want us to focus on numbers, but how we feel Christ's love when we are together. Here's where I have seen the risen Jesus alive and working through Trinity recently:

- Easter was amazing and joy-filled!
- We hosted Episcopal Legal Aid, the NAACP and League of Women Voters, and the Church Farm School. The Holy Spirit was crackling in the air as we welcomed these important community members and prayed together.
- We have some newer faces who are coming back after their first visit.
- Our prayer chain is up and running, and we are holding at least a dozen special intentions in daily prayer.
- We have a 12-step group using our buildings 6 days out of the week.
- We are bursting with hall rentals.
- We are visiting vets regularly.
- We give out hundreds of items from our Tide Over Pantry each week, and our neighbors tell us that they are so grateful.
- Our community garden is sold out and we are adding plots. We had dozens of children from Coatesville Kids to College, gardeners, and parishioners gathered to help open it up for the season the last week of April.
- We now have scheduled open sanctuary times four times a week for everything from conversation to prayer to hot chocolate, and we have other impromptu open hours. Folks know to look for the sandwich board.

(continued on page 2)

**CHURCH OF THE TRINITY**

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(accepts texts)



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## Y'all: We're doing it! (continued from page 1)

- Every month or so, our homebound get a visit from me, and we are working on plans to bring parishioners to visit, just like we celebrated Violet A. for her big birthday earlier this year.
- About a dozen people met weekly to pray and learn about St. Francis during Lent.

We are reaching out and reaching in to find God in the world and in each other. With God's help, we are doing it!

It's easy to let our faith take a vacation in the summer, but the One who watches over us neither slumber nor sleeps. Consider the summer a time to focus on your life with Jesus: when you're tempted to take a Sunday off, remember that we have air conditioning, and that we miss you! Keep inviting people: if your nephew or friend or child is only going to come to church a couple of times a year, bring them here. Maybe we can change their minds about that.

So here is your summer homework assignment from this former school teacher:

- Have you been confirmed? Received into the Episcopal Church? Would you like to be? See me for some preparation and just us and the bishop at a special celebration on June 6. We want to show the entire deanery and diocese who we are, so please plan to join us at Church Farm School regardless!
- Have you been baptized? Aren't sure? See me and we will get that done ASAP!
- Challenge yourself to invite one person to church. For Mother's Day, Father's Day, your birthday.
- Get your clearances and Safe Church training done and join us as we welcome youth interns from the Coatesville Youth Initiative this summer: We are partnering with Brandywine Valley Area Active Aging (the senior center) and Greg Bentley's farm, Runnymede, to give youth a chance to earn a paycheck and work in a diversity of environments to consider questions like: What is community? How do we create it? How can we help our neighbors? What can we do to meet their needs, particularly around issues such as food insecurity?
- Pitch in anywhere you feel called: We need each other.

See you at church,

Kristen

## Diocesan Men's Fellowship BBQ – May 30 4:00 – 8:00 at St. David's, Wayne



Join us for a laid-back **in-person** gathering filled with good food and Fellowship with Christian men! The **PA Diocesan Men's Fellowship BBQ** is the perfect chance to connect, share stories, and enjoy some delicious BBQ with fellow men from our diocese. Fellowship is so much more than just friendship--as we share our gratitude for our Lord. Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity to kick back and build Christian Men's Fellowship in a relaxed setting. Enjoy libations, cornhole, and some of the finest grilled meat! Bring your appetite and come ready for a fun time! Meet across the street from the Chapel in the Fairgrounds next to our historic church.

04:00 PM - 06:00 PM

**Gathering & Connecting: (Libations, Cornhole & Conversation)**

06:00 PM - 07:00 PM

**Prayer, Dinner & Opening Remarks**

07:00 PM - 08:00 PM

**Men's Fellowship Formation & Round Table Discussion**

**Registration URL:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pa-diocesan-mens-fellowship-bbq-tickets-1982988271300>

We can carpool to Wayne – see Chris Haak to discuss!

# Vic's Picks

## The Griffin Clothes Closet

By Vic Shanley



If you were at Coffee Hour last Sunday, you heard from the folks at Church Farm School (CFS) and the work they do for boys from under-resourced schools and communities, involving a college preparatory program while attending this 108-year-old institution. This is all done at little to no cost to the students' families.

As part of this boarding school experience, the staff also provides some often-well-needed clothing for the students, ensuring that every "Griffin" is ready for success in chapel or at an internship. For this reason, donations of gently used men's clothing are always welcomed in their Griffin Clothes Closet, and Trinity will partner with CFS to add to the inventory of wearables.

What better time than now, when we're switching around our closets from winter to summer wear, maybe trying to squeeze into those items that "somehow shrunk" during the winter months. So, why not donate them for our clothing drive for the Griffin Clothes Closet. We're looking for any men's item, including sport coats, suits, topcoats, trousers, shirts (polo, golf etc.), sweaters, ties, belts, shoes, sneakers etc. regardless of the season or the size.

Pack up your donations in boxes or large, green plastic bags and drop them off at Trinity **between Saturday, May 23 and Saturday May 30** (no earlier or later, please). We will attempt to deliver your donations at the deanery event on June 6; Rev. Kristen will be speaking more about this. And we'll welcome your help in making the delivery to CFS.

Let's face it, men, it's a lot easier than dieting!!!

Thanks for showing your Trinity spirit as we always do!

## Readers

By Vic Shanley

It's been great seeing several new readers making their voices heard each Sunday, and there's always room for more. The readings are important elements of our service, so I invite you to reach out to me if you'd like to be a part of it. Whether you want to be a fixed member of the rotation or just a stand-by, let me know and I'll be glad to add you to Team Readers!

## Altar Flowers

By Vic Shanley

Each Sunday, our altar table is flanked by pedestals holding floral arrangements in remembrance of a loved one, commemorating a birthday or other special occasion etc. While most weeks have been annually reserved, I do announce an opening every now and then for a Trinity member to fill. In addition, however, we often have arrangements placed at the side altar at the request of members who want their remembrance on a day when the main altar has been already reserved.

If you're interested in honoring someone or recognizing an occasion, hearing your intention read aloud during service and then taking the flowers home, please don't hesitate to contact me and I'll be happy to handle it for you. It can be a one-off gesture or noted each year on approximately the same date. The cost remains at \$50.00, payable by check to Trinity Episcopal Church, online at the Trinity website or cash. Thank you!



# COATESVILLE FIRST FRIDAYS ARE BACK IN 2026!



**COATESVILLE FIRST FRIDAY SERIES 2026 5PM-9PM**

- 1** **MAY**  
FIRST FRIDAY FIESTA
- 5-6** **JUNE**  
JUNETEENTH/STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
- 3** **JULY**  
HAPPY 250<sup>TH</sup> BDAY AMERICA
- 7** **AUGUST**  
REGGAE & THE ARTS
- 4** **SEPTEMBER**  
TASTE OF COATESVILLE
- 2** **OCTOBER**  
OKTOBERFEST




SCAN TO REGISTER

Experience the vibrant spirit of **First Friday**, a monthly celebration showcasing Downtown Coatesville’s thriving businesses, diverse culture, and rich history. From May to October 2026, join us on the **first Friday of each month from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM** along **1st to 3rd Avenues** for an unforgettable evening filled with:

-  **Live Entertainment**
-  **Downtown Shops & Local Vendors**
-  **Food & Drink Specials from Restaurants & Food Trucks**
-  **Art, Activities & Community Fun**

 **Special Edition: June’s First Friday – Strawberry Festival Downtown Coatesville Edition!** In partnership with **Coatesville Rotary Club**, June’s First Friday will feature a **Strawberry Festival Downtown Coatesville Edition**, packed with seasonal treats, family-friendly activities, and exciting festivities! 🍓🌟

Each First Friday offers something new, so bring the family and make a night of it! As you enjoy the festivities, share your moments on Instagram and Facebook:  [@downtowncoatesville](https://www.instagram.com/downtowncoatesville) | [#cvilleFF](https://www.facebook.com/downtowncoatesville)

## READERS FOR MAY 2026

Date	First Readers	Psalm	Second Readers	Prayers
5/3	Erika Haak	Deborah Murray	Vic Shanley	Pat Bush
5/10	Chris Haak	Bill Terry	Greg Bentley	Minnie Kirwin
5/17	James Gaddy	Kent Nation	Paul Shidlowski	Erika Haak
5/24	Vic Shanley	Deborah Murray	Pat Bush	Chris Haak
5/31	Bill Terry	Greg Bentley	Minnie Kirwin	James Gaddy

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Engagement Opportunities

By Liz Hulse

Kids to College Garden event at our **Community Gardens** took place last Monday evening with young students through high school age students learning by doing and hearing from a Food Bank Educator about how to grow a garden. The young ones planted plants and the older students worked on cleanup of the gardens and made some real needed improvements. It was a picture-perfect evening weatherwise, and an enjoyable time was had by all. Thank you for bringing this together, Pastor Kristen!!



### **Community Engagement Opportunities:**

**May 12 1pm-4:30** Faith & Wellness event at Trinity. This is an opportunity to connect church clergy and lay people with community resources for a variety of services from health to housing, etc.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** Caregivers Summit 1:30-4:30 at Chester County Library in Exton. "Services for older adults and how to access them...respite for caregivers, guidance to improve the dementia experience." To RSVP call 610-344-4171.

To learn about more free community health events available through Penn Medicine on every health issue from joints to heart health, go to the Penn Medicine calendar by searching for **Penn Medicine community wellness events** or use this link:

<https://pennmedicine.trumba.com/chester-county-hospital>

### **Youth Engagement Opportunities:**

We are making two significant connections with Coatesville Youth this year. We will have 2 students between 14-16 yrs old from Coatesville Youth Initiative's Service Corps program. They will be here Mon-Thurs, 9-3 for 8 weeks beginning **June 22<sup>nd</sup>**. It would be great if you have any time to mentor these young folks and introduce them to Trinity, especially this summer. Even part of one day, a morning or afternoon, would be a huge help. This is one way we can grow our church!

Church Farm School visit and **E.I.T.C.:** We learned last Sunday when folks from the Episcopal school visited at Trinity that we can use part of our PA tax dollars to support young scholars who are PA residents. 100 % of students at CFS rely on financial aid. Through this program it costs a dime to give a dollar. Want to know more? Contact Erika Gross at [egross@gocfs.net](mailto:egross@gocfs.net).

## Announcements

**Regular CYWA food bank commitment:** See Kent N. if you would like to be part of our small but regular volunteer crew every other Thursday at the CYWA. ***Our next commitment is Thursday, May 7, 11:30-3 p.m.***

**All hands on deck! Join us for our work day on May 9.** We will need help preparing lunches for a local organization, prepping a meal for the Clare Project later in the month, tending to our garden beds around the church, organizing the clothes in the basement, and other tasks. Work will begin at 9 and we will wrap by 1.

**WANT PRAYER?** Our prayer chain is ready! Place your request in the basket using the form on the credenza by the baptismal font. Give as little or as much information as you want: It is confidential.

**Are you comfortable reading aloud in a language other than English?** Please let Kristen know! We are making plans for our service for Pentecost, Sunday, May 24.

**Step/Sanctuary Sit and Tide Over Pantry:** Did you know we need about 200 items a week for our tide over pantry? Can you help re-stock or sit in the sanctuary to meet the neighbors? It's easy, and a great way to serve our community. Ongoing needs: Items for Tide Over Pantry (shelf stable "complete" meals, shelf stable milk, bread, PB&J, cereal, canned meats and fish, hygiene items); clothes washing from our basement stock.

Last month, Trinity was given a new AED machine through Penn Medicine. We will be having a training on **Sunday, June 7th after coffee hour** for Hands Only CPR + AED use and Narcan administration. If someone is experiencing cardiac arrest, seconds count. Narcan can save someone from dying from a drug overdose. Please plan to attend the training!

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Liz Hulse at [liztrinity323@gmail.com](mailto:liztrinity323@gmail.com).

# MAY 2026 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> Coatesville First Friday	<b>2</b> NA 10AM
<b>3</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship  Pantry Restock Day	<b>4</b> Bible Study 11:30-1:00	<b>5</b> AA 7PM	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Healing Service Zoom, 12PM CYWA w/ Kent Pantry Restock Day	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Parish Work Day 10AM-2PM NA 10AM Stone Hall Rented
<b>10</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship Mother's Day Pantry Restock Day	<b>11</b> Bible Study 11:30-1:00	<b>12</b> AA 7PM  Faith & Wellness Event 1-4:30	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Healing Service Zoom, 12PM  Pantry Restock Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> NA 10AM  Stone Hall Rented 12-7
<b>17</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship Stone Hall Rented Pantry Restock Day	<b>18</b> Bible Study 11:30-1:00	<b>19</b> AA 7PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Healing Service Zoom, 12PM  Pantry Restock Day	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> NA 10AM
<b>24</b> 9:30 a.m. Pentecost Sunday  Pantry Restock Day	<b>25</b> Memorial Day Office Closed 	<b>26</b> AA 7PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Healing Service Zoom, 12PM Pantry Restock Caregiver's Summit Exton Library 1:30-4:30	<b>29</b> Stone Hall Rented 12-9	<b>30</b> NA 10AM Stone Hall Rented Diocesan Men's BBQ 4:00 @ St. David's Wayne
<b>31</b> 9:30 a.m. Trinity Sunday Worship  Pantry Restock Day						

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAY BIRTHDAYS</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr><td style="width: 70%;">Jill Hayes</td><td>May 4</td></tr> <tr><td>Michael Fazio</td><td>May 5</td></tr> <tr><td>Beatrix Kirwin</td><td>May 6</td></tr> <tr><td>Connor McWilliams</td><td>May 11</td></tr> <tr><td>Greg Bentley</td><td>May 12</td></tr> <tr><td>Tony Carroll</td><td>May 12</td></tr> <tr><td>Donald Carron</td><td>May 16</td></tr> <tr><td>Hailey Crane-Grubb</td><td>May 17</td></tr> <tr><td>Zoe McGovern</td><td>May 24</td></tr> <tr><td>Jack McGovern</td><td>May 24</td></tr> <tr><td>Debra Tillotson</td><td>May 27</td></tr> <tr><td>Mary Davis</td><td>May 28</td></tr> <tr><td>Kathleen Deets Price</td><td>May 28</td></tr> <tr><td>Beth Fazio</td><td>May 29</td></tr> <tr><td>Alfred Carey Sr.</td><td>May 30</td></tr> </table>	Jill Hayes	May 4	Michael Fazio	May 5	Beatrix Kirwin	May 6	Connor McWilliams	May 11	Greg Bentley	May 12	Tony Carroll	May 12	Donald Carron	May 16	Hailey Crane-Grubb	May 17	Zoe McGovern	May 24	Jack McGovern	May 24	Debra Tillotson	May 27	Mary Davis	May 28	Kathleen Deets Price	May 28	Beth Fazio	May 29	Alfred Carey Sr.	May 30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAY ANNIVERSARIES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kirwin, John &amp; Minnie    May 26</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MISSION STATEMENT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>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.</b></p>
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