



Trinity Presbyterian



Church

Volume 69 No. 1

February 2026

“Be still, and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah” *Psalm 46:10–11*

In worship on January 4th, we participated in the spiritual practice of *Star Words*. *Each person was given a word meant to serve as a guiding light for the year. Just as the magi followed the star to find the Messiah, our word is meant to lead us closer to Jesus.*

My word for the year is Appreciation—and I appreciate this word because it is something I need to practice. Often, I jump from one fun thing to the next without taking time to appreciate the joy of the moment I’m in. I’m always ready for what comes next, rather than lingering where I am.

I also invited us to choose a word for the congregation—a word that would guide us in the year to come. As we worship and pray, learn and grow, and plan for the future, we will spend time with our congregational word. Our word for the year is Pause. Initially, pause felt strange to me—and maybe it does to you, too. Perhaps it feels as though the church has already been living in a pause as you transitioned from longtime pastors, to the interim, and now to me as your newly installed pastor. I wonder if you are ready to be done pausing and eager to move on to what comes next.

After worship on January 4th, I received a note from George Kofron that offered an acronym for our word *Pause: Postpone Acting Until Spirit Engages*. That framing feels exactly right. This year, we are invited to pause—not out of fear or uncertainty, but out of attentiveness. We will sit together, listen carefully, and look for the Spirit’s movement, going when and where she calls us forward.

When I was interviewed by the Pastor Nominating Committee back in June, one of the questions I was asked was, “What does your first year look like? What do you want to accomplish?” My answer may surprise you: my first year doesn’t look like accomplishments. I could have said that I want to grow the church, encourage giving, or start new programs—but I didn’t, and I don’t.

There is an old piece of wisdom often shared with pastors entering a new call: don’t change anything in the first year. With a few exceptions, I believe in that advice. In my first year, I don’t want to accomplish things—I want to get to know the church. I want to listen to who you are, both individually and communally. I want to pause with you.

One way I hope to live into this pause is through *Meals with Molly and Michael*. Over the next few years, I would love to share a meal with every person or family in the church. Given the size of the congregation, I expect this will take at least three years, but I am committed to sitting at the table and breaking bread. I believe the table is one of the best places to truly know one another. My hope is that you will invite Michael and me into your home, but I also understand that not everyone is comfortable hosting or able to do so. If that’s the case, let’s go out to eat instead. I will have dinner dates listed in the Triangle each month. This month we are available February 19 and February 25. Send me an email or call me to claim one of these dates. Please feel free to reach out about other times as well, including breakfast or lunch (though Michael may not always be available for those). I’ve already shared several of these meals, and they have been invaluable to my experience at Trinity.

In many of the Psalms, the word Selah appears often, though its exact meaning is unknown. Many believe it is a cue to pause—to let the words of prayer and praise settle into the soul and to listen for God’s response.

May this year be, for us, a holy pause as we learn, listen, and attend to the Spirit’s gentle urging.

With Joy, Pastor Molly

1120 Darley Road

Wilmington, DE 19810

GATHER

February Sundays

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MISSION CAUSE - HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

February 1 ~ Communion Sunday

Scripture Lesson: Micah:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

Rev. Molly Fisherkeller preaching the sermon, "Blessed Requirements"

Congregational Meeting immediately after worship in the Sanctuary

Music Enrichment and Classes begin at 10:25am

February 8 ~ Scripture Lesson: Matthew 5:13-20

Rev. Molly Fisherkeller preaching the sermon, "Your Job in the World"

Music Enrichment and Classes begin at 10:25am

Stewards of the Earth Bake Sale at 10:30am in the lobby

February 15 ~ Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 17:1-9

Rev. Molly Fisherkeller preaching the sermon,

"You Make the Whole Place Shimmer"

Cross+Generational Activity at 10:50am in the Fellowship Hall

February 18 ~ Ash Wednesday

7pm service with disposition of ashes and Communion

February 22 ~ First Sunday in Lent; Communion Sunday

Scripture Lesson: John 2:1-11; Matthew 13:31-32

Rev. Molly Fisherkeller preaching the sermon, "Catch Us By Surprise"

Music Enrichment and Classes begin at 10:25am

Guatemala Presentation at 11am in the Fellowship Hall

Cross+Generational Activity

Children, youth and adults are invited to a Lenten Cross+Generational Activity on Sunday, **February 15** following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Together we will share a meal, bake bread that will be used as the communion bread on Ash Wednesday, and prepare sandwiches and bag lunches for the Emmanuel Dining Room.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all generations to serve together as we prepare our hearts and hands for the season of Lent. Please plan to join us!

Super Bowl Bake Sale

Stewards of the Earth (SOTE) will sponsor a bake sale on **Sunday, February 8** after worship in the lobby. Pick up some sweet treats to enjoy during the Deacons Fellowship hour **AND** take some home to share with family and friends during the Super Bowl! Proceeds will be used toward the purchase of an environmental stewardship banner for the church.

GATHER

Send a Little Love

On Sunday mornings, many of us are blessed to be able to greet and catch up with our friends and church family before and after worship. At Trinity, these connections are an important part of our faith community. There are several folks however who can't attend worship regularly -- or even at all -- making it hard for them to feel connected.

Beginning February 1, you can help change that! Each week, on a small table in the Narthex, you will find greeting cards with envelopes addressed to our homebound members. To help us out, we ask that you:

- choose an envelope/card from the table
- write a friendly note and sign it
- add a stamp and mail it

On February 1 and 8, the cards will be for Valentine's Day. Each week after that, we'll offer a variety of cards, some blank and some with special messages including birthday greetings.

Whether you can do this every week, once a month, or just now and then, you will be helping some very special Trinity friends know they are thought about and cared about. Thanks for your help with this!

Ushers Needed for the Trinity Team

Want to serve Trinity in some capacity but don't have a lot of time? The Usher Team might be a good fit for you!

Can you spare **one Sunday every 4 to 6 weeks** to help usher during worship from 8:30am to 11:00am? You see some of the tasks that the Ushers do when you come to worship. But there are others that you might not be aware of that make Worship run smoothly each Sunday.

Contact Mary McDowell for more information by calling her at 302-893-3040 or emailing her at mary.mcowell7641@gmail.com.

Young Families Fellowship

The **Young Families Ministry** invites your family to a special **Valentine's Day party** on Saturday, February 14 from 11am to 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Wear your fanciest outfit or Valentine's attire and join us for games, crafts, and making Valentine cards. Food and drinks will be provided. This event is for children through fifth grade.

Please sign up in the lobby or email Sara Ross at saraross0819@gmail.com to RSVP.

GROW

3rd Thursday Work Group

The 3rd Thursday Work Group performs **small maintenance tasks** in our church building and on the grounds to spruce up and maintain Trinity's wonderful facility. You don't need to have a specialized skill, just a willingness to give your time to do a few odd jobs!



Thanks to the January team of **Bill Nicholson, Tom Tarloski, Carol Shumway, Bruce Shumway, and Jim Geller.**

Our next work day is **Thursday, February 19.** We meet in the Conference Room at **9:15am for assignments and are usually finished before noon.** Please contact Tom Tarloski at tom.tarloski@gmail.com with any questions.

Circles

Rebecca Circle will meet on **Wednesday, February 11 at 11:30am** in the Conference Room. Learn more about Mary and Martha as we continue the DVD bible series, "The 12 Daring Women of the Bible."

Bring your lunch and join us! Contact **Kay Bowes** at kaybowes14@yahoo.com for additional information.

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, February 4 at 9:30am** in the Library.

Contact **Sue Crump** at s.crump@comcast.net for additional information.



Covenant Group

Trinity's Covenant Group will meet on **Tuesdays in February (3, 10, 17 and 24) at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall.**

Contact Peg in the church office at 302-475-5495 for more information.

Trinity Book Group

Trinity Book Group will meet on **Wednesday, February 25 at 7pm** in the church library to discuss **Black Cake** by Charmaine Wilkerson. This debut novel relates the story of Eleanor Bennett who dies from cancer and has left her children a recording instructing them to share a black cake "when the moment is right." Secrets are exposed and the black cake, a traditional Caribbean rum cake, is served.

Looking ahead...

On **March 18** we will discuss **The First Ladies** by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. The novel is about the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune, an unlikely friendship that changed the world.

The First Ladies is the New Castle County Reads 2026 book selection. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, **April 8** for our field trip to the Chase Center on the Wilmington Riverfront where co-author Victoria Christopher Murray will join New Castle County Libraries for a discussion of the book.

GROW

Stewards of the Earth

Stewards Of The Earth (SOTE) will meet on **Sunday, February 8 at 8:30am** in the church library. New members are always welcome!

After worship on **February 8**, SOTE will host a **bake sale in the lobby**. Proceeds will be used toward the purchase of an environmental stewardship banner for the church.

Thanks to everyone who donated to Plant With Purpose. We raised \$460 to help with reforestation throughout the world.

The dates for the **2026 Adopt-A-Highway Program** are: April 11, June 13, and September 19. Trinity has adopted a section of Naamans Rd from Carpenter Station to Philadelphia Pike for three clean ups per year. If you would like to be involved with this mission please reach out to **Grace Nasseh** (graceneh@msn.com) or **Tom Tarloski** (tom.tarloski@gmail.com).

Bruce and Carol Shumway invite you to join them on **Sunday, February 22 at 11:00am** in the Fellowship Hall for a **presentation about their recent trip to Guatemala**. Hear about the stove project results and the tree planting that Trinity has been supporting for a number of years.

Garage Sale Containers

Remember to save your gently-used items for Trinity's Garage Sale. We accept household goods, books, electronics, towels and linens, pictures and frames, toys, and sporting goods. No clothing please.

Items can be donated on the first Sunday of each month. Donations are accepted at the large green containers located at the back of the church parking lot. The Garage Sale Containers are open from 10:45am – 12 noon on February 1 and March 1. Additional dates will be added in late March and early April.



The 2026 Garage Sale will be Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) 2026

Trinity will be sending teams to Appalachia from July 4-11. Thanks to all who have expressed interest in serving this year. We must make our commitment by March 1, so all youth planning to participate must let Katie know as soon as possible!

ASP fundraising is underway! We still welcome filled Quarter Canes. Please put your name on the cane so we can credit you!

Our **next ASP fundraiser** is the **2nd annual Easter Bunny Breakfast**, scheduled after church on **March 29**. All ages welcome!

GO!

Mission Possible Kids

On December 7, **members of Trinity went Christmas shopping** at Target for two families from Maple Lane Elementary School. Thanks to this effort, **we were able to purchase gifts for three children**. The school's social worker expressed deep gratitude to Trinity and was excited to call the families to let them know that their gifts had been delivered to the school.



Participating families had a wonderful time selecting gifts from the children's wish lists, making this a joyful and meaningful experience for everyone involved.

Cross+Generational Fellowship

On Sunday, January 4, about 30 members participated in a meaningful Cross+Generational activity centered on the Epiphany. We began by breaking into small groups to answer some icebreaker questions, then switched groups to give everyone a chance to sit and mingle with different people. During this time, participants heard the Epiphany story told from the perspective of one of the Magi.

After reflecting together on a few discussion questions, we switched groups once more to take part in a creative art activity. Some people worked on a paper-folding project to create star lanterns. Before folding their paper, they wrote their "star words" along with the names of people they wished to hold in prayer throughout the year. Others participated in a "Waters of Hope" activity, writing their fears on canvas and then used different shades of blue to make wavy lines around and through the words. This visual reminder showed how moving water will wash away or wear down our fears over time.

Youth Fellowship

On Friday, December 12, our middle and high school youth gathered to decorate Christmas cookies and enjoy Christmas-themed games together.



Everyone had fun being creative and sharing laughs. Some of the cookies were given to Trinity's Christmas Carolers to bring to home-bound members and the rest went home with the youth!

Christmas Caroling

On Sunday, December 21 **we spread holiday cheer by caroling to Trinity members** who are either homebound or living in care communities. A total of 16 children and 11 adults participated in this annual event, visiting seven members, and sharing music, joy, and connection during the Christmas season.

GO!

Instant Church Directory

Trinity members have access to an online directory *with pictures*, a great way to find out who you chatted with last Sunday!

What we love about this directory:

- only Trinity members can access the it
- it's easy to use -- via the website [www.instantchurchdirectory.com] or the Instant Church Directory app
- creating a log-in is simple -- use your email and create a password
- you can update your own listing, both photo and contact info
- it's free to Trinity members thanks to the Deacons

If you have any questions, feel free to ask Bruce Shumway at twoshums@aol.com or Peg Maguire at office@trinitypresby.org

Want to submit your picture to be included in the Instant Church Directory? We'd love to add it! Login and add it yourself or ask Bruce Shumway to take your photo on Sunday mornings. He'll take it from there!

Dear Trinity

Trinity folks are the best! Not once, but twice, they delivered meals and showed love and caring with cards and prayers after both of my hip replacement surgeries. A big Thank You for everything. All was most appreciated.

Martha Fenoglio

My heartfelt thanks to my Trinity family for your visit on December 21. I enjoyed the caroling, cookies and most especially seeing you all of you!

With gratitude,
Peggy Dorsey

Sympathy and Prayers are with

Carol and Joe Eculano on the passing of Carol's sister, Sylvia Swanson, on January 8, 2026 in Connecticut.

Town Hall Meeting at Concord Presbyterian Church

Call to Cooperative Action — Dignity for Souls who are Homeless

Monday, March 2, 6:30pm — 8pm
1800 Fairfax Blvd., Wilmington, DE

The Town Hall meeting will look at homelessness, its personal and societal impact, and possible ways to make a difference.

Peace Center at UD

The Peace (Presbyterian Episcopal Alliance for Campus Engagement) Center at University of Delaware is excited to introduce their new campus minister, Rev. Dr. Rachel Hébert, who began her ministry on January 15.

Click [here](#) for more information on the PEACE Center and Pastor Rachel.

Reminders

Lobby Donation Cart

Thank you for your continued donations to our local missions. In addition to items for Claymont Food Closet and Friendship House, Trinity also collects eyeglasses, used cell phones, batteries, and printer cartridges. Items can be left on the roll-away cart in the Lobby.

Current Needs for Claymont Food Closet:

Pasta, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, chicken, veggies, and tuna.

Current Needs for Friendship House:

Ground coffee, powdered creamer, paper products, cleaning supplies, disinfectant wipes and spray, Swiffer wet wipes, dish soap, dishwasher detergent, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, Windex, and dish towels.

Online Giving

Online giving can be set-up by visiting www.trinitypresby.org and clicking on "Donate." Then under "Give Online," you'll see the "click here to give" button to set up a one-time gift or a recurring donation.

Monthly Mission Causes along with special programs like the Trinity Choral Scholars and the Appalachia Service Project can also be designated through online giving.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z34F/home>

Sanctuary Flowers

Would you like to **donate Sanctuary flowers** for Sunday worship?

Flowers can be donated in memory of loved ones, in honor of a person, or to celebrate a special occasion like an anniversary, birthday, or graduation.



Sign up for a flower donation in the notebook in the Lobby. Arrangements are **\$45 each**, billed to you by Belak Flowers. If you have questions, contact Pat Greager at 610-543-2152.

Deacons Fellowship Hour

Please consider providing snacks for the Deacons Fellowship Hour on Sunday after worship. There is **no cost to you** for providing snacks. Simply submit your receipts to the church office for reimbursement.

Use this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4AAD92FA7FB6-60067179-2006>

or contact Deanna Dudash
at deannaddudash@gmail.com.

Plastic Recycling Program

Trinity collects **recyclables year-round** in the **collection container just to the right of the Garage Sale containers**. You can drop off items at any time of day. **Donated plastics must be loose, empty, clean, and dry!**

ACCEPTED: Sheet plastics like plastic bags, along with #2, #4, and #5's marked in the recycle triangle on the bottom. Some examples of these are washing machine detergent bottles, pill bottles, plastic milk jugs, and the tops to plastic water and soda bottles,

NOT ACCEPTED: #1's (water bottles, PEET), #6's or #7's.

Bear Ministry

Trinity's Bear Ministry is still going strong! Since its inception in 2007, **over 650 bears have found homes after hearing the words of Scripture, hymns, prayers, and sermons.**



There are more bears ready to go out and comfort those needing special care. If you would like to take a bear, please sign the book on the table in the Lobby. Any questions can be directed to Tom Cook at cookt1420@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 2026

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Worship 10:25am Music/ Classes 10:30am Cong. Mtg 10:45am GS Containers Open	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 8am SOTE Mtg 9:30am Worship 10:25am Music/ Classes 10:30am SOTE BakeSale	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:30am Worship 10:50am Cross+ Generational Fellowship	16 Office Closed	17	18	19	20	21
22 9:30am Worship 10:25am Music/ Classes 11am Guatemala Presentation	23	24	25	26	27	28

Trinity Presbyterian Church

1120 Darley Road Wilmington, DE 19810 302.475.5495

www.trinitypresby.org Email: office@trinitypresby.org

Rev. Molly Fisherkeller, Pastor

Penny Lindell, Associate for Ministry

Alexis Ward, Director of Music Ministry

Suzanne LeComte, Children's Church Coordinator

Amy Vitsorek, Church School Coordinator and VBS Director

Peg Maguire, Office Administrator

Mary McDowell, Associate for Ministry

Kim Robbins, Associate for Ministry

Lindsay O'Brien, Nursery Coordinator

Christy Lewis, Associate for Arts/Drama/Technology

Katie Oliver, ASP Coordinator

Joe Ross, Associate for Ministry

Greg Buckmaster, Technology Coordinator

Gayleen Carmichael, Parish Nurse

SESSION

CLASS OF 2026

Ron Bowes

Katrina Harris

Rad MacFarlane

Julie Monaghan

CLASS OF 2027

Debra Balliet

Sue Crump

Joe Eculano

Joyce Hutchison

CLASS 2028

John Balaguer

Leslie Connor

Debbie Schrass

Lauren Williams

Clerk of Session: Leslie Connor

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2026

Carol Eculano

Anne Hardesty

Lee Lewis

Carol Shumway

Betsy Struck

CLASS OF 2027

Deanna Dudash

Courtney Kledaras

George Kofron

Nancy Moore

Bruce Shumway

CLASS 2028

Tom Cook

Susan Fuhs

Barb Lilley

Carol Phillips

Kim Robbins