

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
The Episcopal Church in Athens since 1842  
703 South Main Street (office at 701) Athens, PA 18810  
The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz, Long-Term Supply Priest

Office: Voice and Fax: 570-888-5715  
Parish Administrator, Barbara Cameron Caum: 570-888-8981  
Web site: [www.trinityathens.org](http://www.trinityathens.org) - [information@trinityathens.org](mailto:information@trinityathens.org)  
[Facebook.com/Trinity.Episcopal.Church.Athens](https://www.facebook.com/Trinity.Episcopal.Church.Athens)

## Pentecost Season - June 2023

### Further Down the Rabbit Hole

*A Ruminatiion by Fr. Ben Lentz*

I have found that retirement, isolation, and a wet Spring (keeping me from cutting the lawn as often as I'd like) have provided me with the opportunity to do research and study that have frequently been left to the back burner. Subtly encouraged by a newsletter editor who shall remain nameless, I began researching and contemplating Trinitarian Heresies.

There are two primary heresies involving the doctrine of the Trinity: Modalism and Arianism (not to be confused with Aryanism and the Nazis). There are however, many derivations of these two primary heresies: Sabellianism, Docetism, and Socianism (not to be confused with socialism) to name only a few.

Don't stop reading yet. I'm not going to try to deal with all of them!

Although it's always dangerous to attempt to distill a heresy down to a sentence or two, that's never stopped me before. I live for danger, at least theologically.

Modalism collapses the three persons of the God-head into one person. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but not simultaneously. In other words, at one point in history God was the Father, then switched to being the Son, and now is the Holy Spirit. A pictorial representation of modalism:

As delicious as it appears, Modalism treats the Trinity as sort of a divine schizophrenia. Since Modalism does not allow for an eternal fellowship between Father, Son, and Spirit, it is considered by the Church to be a heresy.



Arianism claims that Jesus is God's greatest creation and therefore rules over all of creation. A pictorial representation of Arianism (not Aryanism, well maybe):

As enticing as this is, it does mean that Jesus is not truly God because he's still only a creation of the divine, thus declared a heresy.



I must admit that after having to preach on Trinity Sunday for 40+ years, some of my earlier illustrative examples of the Trinity most likely dipped into the heresy pool (by accident, of course). It is because being three in one is not humanly possible. Therefore God can't be three in one. And when we try to figure out how a triune God could be possible, up pop the heresies.

The basis for all heresy is that humanity (the created) struggles to force God to act and be restricted by the same rules confining humanity. It doesn't seem fair that God doesn't have to abide by the same rules that we must follow, but that's what God does.

The Trinity is akin to the proverbial paradigm: Can God make a rock so big he can't move it? Answer: Yes, because God is not bound by the temporal human imagination.

So if God's way of being God is to be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit simultaneously from all and for all eternity, perfectly complete in a triune fellowship of love then that's the way it is. We must accept it on faith, using it as a starting point for talking about God. When attempting to discourse about an unfathomable divinity, it always takes a basis of faith.

That's the story of Job. In a nut-shell, God says: "Trust me."

Fini!



**Trinity Sunday**



We celebrate our name-day this weekend, beginning the service with the very familiar hymn, *Holy, Holy, Holy!* It was written by a parish vicar, Reginald Heber, for Trinity Sunday. In the early 1800s the only music sung was from the Psalter, and usually badly. He wrote over 100 hymns in an effort

to improve the singing in his small parish. The text reflects both the *Sanctus* and Revelation 4:1-11. The music was written by John Bacchus Dykes in 1861, after Heber's death. He named the tune *Nicaea*, after the First Council of Nicaea in 325, which formalized the doctrine of the Trinity. It is a tune we all know and which has opportunities for rich harmony, so sing it with gusto!

**How Many??**

Speaking of the Trinity, there is going to be a contest of sorts: how many representations of the Trinity are there in and on our church building? This will include everything - windows, pews, wood trim, etc. Look around and start counting and we'll compare notes and publish the findings in our next newsletter, which, hopefully, will also include the updated pamphlet created in the 90s about the symbols in our church building. Have fun!

**Stewardship Statements**

Your pledge statement for the first six months of the year will be ready for you to pick up on July 9. Please remember, this is not a bill! The statement is for your information so that you can compare your records with ours. If you have chosen not to pledge but would like weekly envelopes, they are available. Speak to Barbara.

**Garden help**

is most welcome. This season's work on our Memorial Garden has begun, but as you can see, St. Francis needs to be freed from the burning bush and Shasta daisies. We should have cut the burning bush \*way\* back in late winter before it started growing; it's covering windows and has gotten huge;



we'll plan to do that next year. The Shasta daisies will bloom soon, in the meantime the zinnias are struggling, between the hard frost we had and the voles, they've had a bad time. However, it's warm

now and coffee grounds and cayenne pepper have discouraged the critters, so they will fill in the area between the daisies and other annuals. We'll be slowly adding new plants as the daffodil greens die back - alyssum and dahlias are also on the list. The peonies are at their peak this week, although fewer than previous years and they also were affected by the freeze and current very hot temperatures. Whether you would like to dig in or prefer to keep your fingernails clean and share your ideas or suggestions, talk to our resident gardener, Barbara.

**FORWARD DAY by DAY**

Trinity offers regular and large-print editions of Forward, which is published quarterly by

[Forward Movement](http://prayer.forwardmovement.org) (prayer.forwardmovement.org). You are invited to pick up a copy for yourself or a friend. You'll also find a wealth of prayer, scripture, and more on their web site.



(from the Diocesan Newsletter) **Gather 23 - Piece by Piece** was a great success with almost two-thirds of Diocese of Bethlehem parishes present and 140 attendees in total. We enjoyed learning with our keynote speakers Dr. Lisa Kimball and the






Rev. Tricia Lyons, learning from each other during 24 small-group sessions, hearing from Bishop Kevin about diocesan priorities aligning to the wider church, and enjoying a closing worship service led by the youth of the diocese. Throughout the day, we shared fellowship and food with old and new friends and left the event feeling energized to return home and figure how the puzzle pieces of our parishes connect.

For those of you who could not attend, or for those of you who attended who want to watch it again, or for those of you who want to share the event with your parish, videos from the major sessions throughout the day are available on YouTube in the following playlist: click [here](#). **Laura Cama** attended the event.



# Trinity Episcopal Church - June 2023

Pentecost

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Trinity Cycle of Prayer:</b> <b>6/4</b> Steve and Jill Kormanik. <b>6/11</b> Nelson and Sue Kopatz. <b>6/18</b> Patricia Martin; Steve and Heather Martin Lake. <b>6/25</b> Ben and Theo Lentz.		<b>Anglicans around the World:</b> <b>6/4</b> The Episcopal/ Anglican Province of Alexandria, Bishop Samy Fawzy. <b>6/11</b> The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Archbishops Philip Richardson and Don Temihere, Bishop Sione Uluilakepa. <b>6/18</b> The Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith. <b>6/25</b> The Church of Bangladesh, Bishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin.		<b>Diocese of Bethlehem:</b> <b>6/4</b> St. Mark's and St. John's, Jim Thorpe. Kirby House. <b>6/11</b> Grace Church, Kingston, The Rev. Dan Gross, Rector. Clergy of the Diocese. <b>6/18</b> Trinity, West Pittston, The Rev. Joseph Rafferty, Interim. Commission on Ministry. <b>6/25</b> Christ Church, Susquehanna.		
		<b>Pentecost is a time of learning and growth, the longest season of the church year. The liturgical color is green.</b>		<b>Our Partner Diocese of Kajo Kejo:</b> <b>6/4</b> St. Peter Kinyiba. <b>6/11</b> Gurube and Mangaloti Parishes. <b>6/18</b> Sonder Parish. <b>6/25</b> St. Paul Kasurak Parish.		<b>1</b> AA 7 pm
<b>4 Trinity Sunday</b> <b>10 a.m. Holy Eucharist II</b> 11 - Coffee Hour  <i>Jack Strange</i> 		<b>5</b> AA 7 and 8:00 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> AA Intergroup 5 pm AA 7:30 pm	<b>8</b> AA 7 pm	<b>9</b>  <i>Laura Cama</i> <i>Chris Bailey</i>
<b>11 Pentecost 2 - Proper 5</b> <b>10 a.m. Holy Eucharist II</b> 11 - Coffee Hour		<b>12 St. Barnabas</b> AA 7 and 8:00 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> AA 7:30 pm	<b>15</b> AA 7 pm	<b>16</b>  <i>Kate Murray</i>
<b>18 Pentecost 3 - Proper 6</b> <b>10 a.m. Holy Eucharist II</b> 11 - Coffee Hour  <i>David Caum</i>		<b>19</b> AA 7 and 8:00 pm  <i>Bruce &amp; Colleen Barton</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21 Summer Begins</b>  AA 7:30 pm  <i>Hildegard Mohr</i> <i>Greg &amp; Ginny Caum-Lake</i> <i>Jill &amp; Steve Kormanik</i>	<b>22</b> AA 7 pm  <i>Jeremy Forbes</i>	<b>23</b>  <i>Jessica Cameron</i>
<b>25 Pentecost 3 - Proper 7</b> <b>10 a.m. Holy Eucharist II</b> 11 - Coffee Hour <b>**Vestry Meets**</b> <i>Tom Bubniak</i> <i>Shannon Bubniak</i>		<b>26</b> AA 7 and 8:00 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> AA 7:30 pm	<b>29 St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles</b> AA 7 pm  <i>Karen Nichols</i>	<b>30</b>  
					<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Pride Mass, 5 pm</b> <b>Christ Church, Stroudsburg</b> 
						<b>10</b>  <i>Malcolm Forbes</i>
						<b>17</b>  <i>Kate Murray</i>
						<b>24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist</b> <b>5 pm - Juneteenth Celebration, Trinity, Easton</b> <i>Charles Ford</i>



## June at Trinity

Worship is Sundays at 10 a.m. followed by coffee hour in the parish hall, which is located across South Main Street.

Our services are Holy Eucharist II. Our worship is enriched by Fr. Ben's exceptional sermons as well as a variety of music and musicians.

**Sunday, June 4 - Trinity Sunday, our Name Day.** We will begin the service with the traditional hymn for the day, *Holy, Holy, Holy!* We will also switch to our summer service music from *Wonder, Love and Praise*. Come celebrate!

**Sunday, June 25 - Vestry meets after coffee hour.**

### Help is needed:

- **Sign up to host a coffee hour.** You'll have help with making coffee; your job will be to provide snacks. We'll be grateful for anything, from crackers to cake and anything in between.
- **Become a lector.** You can be scheduled to read the Old Testament lesson. Since we have resumed offering the chalice, you can be trained as a **Chalice Bearer**. To become a **Worship Leader** (Lay Reader) further training and licensing is required

to lead public worship. That training is available and if you'd like to learn more, speak to Fr. Ben or Barbara Caum, Doug Plank, Marny Gerhart, or Dan Gerhart.

- **Altar Guild.** Those who take part in this quiet ministry set up and/or take down the altar for worship, prepare linens, polish brass (although that's usually a group event), order flowers, or arrange offerings from their own gardens, and make certain all is ready for worship. Training will be provided.
- **Gardening.** Our resident gardener would love some help. See p. 2.

If you're interested in any of these areas or in something not on this list, speak to a member of the vestry or to Barbara, our parish administrator.

**Prayer List** — Please add or subtract names; the list is on the back table in the church.

**Birthday/Anniversary List** — make sure you and your family members are listed. It is regularly updated, so please check it for accuracy — add or edit as needed.

**Food Pantry items** - non-perishable foods in unbreakable containers please. Donations go to the Athens United Methodist Church which serves anyone in need.

*Personal note from your editor:* profound thanks to the vestry for voting to cover the cost of replacing the falling-down ceilings in two of the rectory bedrooms. Alan, Nate, and Barbara are extremely grateful!

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**Pentecost Season**  
June, 2023

*To seek and serve Christ in all people*