

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

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Pentecost - Advent - November, 2025

A TIME OF CHANGE

As you know, we, who are God's Episcopal people in Athens, are facing a time of change — beyond just the end of daylight savings time change this weekend.

We've known for some time that the 14-year blessing of having The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz — our Fr. Ben — as our regular priest was coming to an end. It was time for him to make a change in his living situation, be closer to his son, live in a house with fewer challenges, and not quite so far out in the country. We knew that he'd eventually put the old house up for sale, pack up Gandalf's cat tree, water fountain, and Gandalf, and actually move. We just didn't know when.

Fr. Ben has, indeed, moved to Williamsport, but he has been driving up on the weekends to lead our worship. We knew that would end soon — when the weather turned wintry and we had arranged for other supply clergy. Again, we didn't know exactly when.

The surprise farewell party we had for him on October 19 was great fun and he thoroughly appreciated it — especially the presents and the deviled eggs. We had it then because we weren't sure exactly when his last Sunday was going to be.

Now we know: Fr. Ben's last service with us will be **November 16.**

Change is hard. But with the pastoral help of Canon Melinda — The Rev. Canon Melinda Artman — we will continue to worship together at Trinity with the gift of the Holy Eucharist and music, central to our lives. But, to do so, we must adjust our worship time. The three or four local clergy who have agreed to supply for us all have their own churches with morning services, so we are moving our service to the early afternoon.

As of press time, that will be at 1:30 beginning November 23, the last day of the church year and the Feast of Christ the King.

The vestry has been working hard to make this transition easier — because, again, change is hard. Remember our mission statement: *To seek and serve Christ in all people.* That doesn't change.

We offer our sincere thanks and well wishes to Fr. Ben for the gift of these 14 years, his willingness to share his scholarship in Bible Studies, his thoughtful writing and preaching, his story-telling, and his time. We'll see him from time to time, surely. Go with God, Ben.

[From Fr. Ben Lentz:]

LAST TWO CENTS

As you may already know, vestry has accepted Sunday, November 16th as my last scheduled day to worship with you. We've known that the day was coming but it is no longer 'up in the air.' It's not my place to look to the future for you, nevertheless, here's my last two cents.

Worship at Trinity Church will be changing in the very near future. Vestry is making plans in order to have continual, regularly scheduled services, which requires the scheduling of multiple priests that will be able to celebrate the Eucharist with you. Imagine that, not the same, old, tired face hobbling around the sanctuary!

I appreciate the fact that Episcopalians, in general, do not like change. Nevertheless, it is apparent that a time change for Sunday worship is being necessitated by my departure. An early afternoon service time may seem inconvenient, yet, in this case, failure to embrace a change of time for Sunday worship could very well mean the demise of a congregation known as Trinity Church in the community.

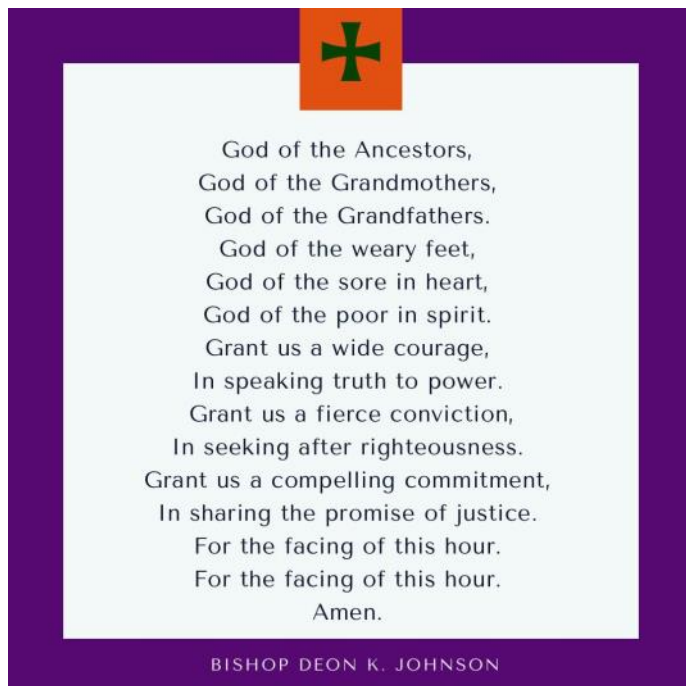
This may very well be seen by some as an eschatological moment — an inevitable end. However, before giving up because of an inconvenience, I'd encourage you to give consideration to the ministry which Trinity

ty Church (that's you, by the way) provides the community. Sometimes, it is in very simple ways the community knows Christ is present in their midst: cars parked along the street, bells ringing, people entering and exiting the building, the lighted signage at night. There's also the fact that your presence affords AA a place to meet and continue their healing ministry. Let's not forget the food basket at the back of the church which isn't full enough to feed the world, but you might be the one providing the meal that someone desperately needs.

Who knows, perhaps a time change will provide an opportunity for people yet unknown to be able to come to worship and be fed spiritually by the Eucharist.

Every year, the Christian calendar comes to an end, but the Church doesn't stop; Advent begins a new cycle. I don't know what the future holds for you. Yet, I pray that my departure isn't the end, but rather the start of a new year.

Ben +



This is truly a difficult time in our country, particularly for those at risk - and there are more in that category each day. As of press time, the judiciary has decreed that cutting SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program, also known as Food Stamps) during the current government shut-down is

illegal. Whether or not the funds will be released remains to be seen. We must guard carefully against assuming that those who receive this help are underserving - that they're lazy or unemployed by choice. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Most beneficiaries are hard workers, some with multiple jobs but low pay. Many are military families who are moved from place to place, which prevents the spouse from being able to establish a career to stay in a well paying job. Food costs a lot more than minimum wage can cover.

What can we do? In Matthew 25, we read:

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"

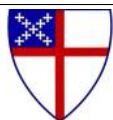
And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

While we do not have our own programs, we are each able to contribute to the Food pantries in our area. Each Sunday, be sure to bring items for the food basket that goes to the Methodist Church Pantry. We can make monetary donations to the Bridge for those who need help with heating bills or rent. We can give to Episcopal Relief and Development for those impacted by storms, war, and other disasters.



Our life at Trinity must reach outside the stone walls so our spiritual life continues to grow rich within. Outreach. It's a small word with great depth.

We may be a small parish, but we are rich - in love, in fellowship, and in extending the welcome of God's love to all.



Trinity Episcopal Church - November 2025

Last Pentecost
Advent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Trinity Cycle of Prayer 11/2 Jon, Wendy, Kim, Kate Murray. 11/9 Kelly Murray, McKenzie Elliott. 11/16 David O'Dell, Brendon Brophy. 11/23 Gene Osmun, Ray Parker. 11/30 Andy Patterson, Cathy Patton.		Diocese of Bethlehem: 11/2 Good Shepherd, Scranton. Diocesan ECW. 11/9 St. Luke's, Scranton, The Rev. Dr. Tyler Parry. Clergy of the Diocese. 11/16 St. Alban's, Sinking Spring, St. Alban's Learning Center. 11/23 Christ Church, Stroudsburg, The Rev. Bill Martin. Standing Committee. 11/30 St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, The Rev. Timothy Alleman.				1 All Saints Day Fall Back DST ends tonight 
2 All Saints Sunday 10:00 Holy Eucharist II And Renewal of Baptismal Vows 11:00 Coffee Hour 	3 All Souls Day (transferred) AA 7 and 8:00 pm Heather Martin Lake Marvin Frock, Jr. (Chip) Tim & Cheryl Frock	4 Election Day	5 AA Intergroup, 5:30 AA 7:30 pm	6	7	8
9 Pentecost 22 P-27 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour Matthew Hollywood	10 AA 7 and 8:00 pm	11	12 AA 7:30 pm	13	14	15
16 Pentecost 23 P-28 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour Fr. Ben's last Sunday	17 AA 7 and 8:00 pm	Our new service time of 1:30 p.m. begins November 23			21	22
23 Last Pentecost - Christ the King (P-29) 1:30 Holy Eucharist II Coffee Hour *Vestry Meets* 	24 AA 7 and 8:00 pm	25 Elizabeth Maneval	26 AA 7:30 pm Alex Mentzel	27 Thanksgiving Day 	28 The Bridge Annual Sleepout 24-hour Fundraiser	29
30 Advent I 1:30 Holy Eucharist II Coffee Hour 	Anglicans Around the World: 11/2 Church of the Province of West Africa, Bishop Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith. 11/9 The Church in the Province of the West Indies, Bishop Philip Wright. 11/16 The Episcopal/Anglican Church of Alexandria, Archbishop Samy Fawzy. 11/23 The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Bishops Justin Duckworth, Don Tamihere, Sione Uluilakepa. 11/30 The Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith.			Kajo Keji: 11/3 St. Matthew Gaderu. 11/10 St. John Mondri Parish. 11/16 Jondale Parish; St. Peter Keriwa Parish. 11/24 St. Matthew Lori Parish; Romogi-Richard Earl High School. 11/30 St. Mark Rodo Parish.	December 7 is Stewardship Sunday. December's newsletter will include a pledge card. You can mail it or place in the offering plate on that day. <i>Time - Talent - Treasure</i>	

November Highlights

Our service time changes on November 23



Sunday, November 2 All Saints Sunday - Holy Eucharist II and Renewal of Baptismal Vows. All Saints is a major feast of the church which is always November 1, but may be transferred to the following Sunday. Our worship will include some of our favorite hymns and remembrance of the Saints who have gone before and the Saints on earth.

November 2, 9, 16 - Holy Eucharist II at 10 a.m.

November 23, 30 Holy Eucharist II at 1:30 p.m.



Sunday, November 23 - The Last Sunday of Pentecost - Christ the King - Holy Eucharist II at 1:30 p.m. Vestry meets*



Sunday, November 30 - The First Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist II at 1:30 p.m.

This is the first day of the new church year; we will change from lectionary cycle C to cycle A.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who made my surprise celebration party a very special day for me: great food and fellowship. Thank you also for the special cards and gifts. The people of Trinity are always so thoughtful.

Fr. Ben



Remember to Fall Back on Saturday night, November 1. Enjoy that extra hour of sleep (you know your editor will!)



All Saints' Day is a universal festival of the Church. This festival day directs our attention to the richness of Christian history and the varied experiences of the grace of God by lifting up the lives of the saints.

The custom of commemorating all the martyrs of the Church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) celebrates not only the martyrs and saints, but all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the mystical body of Christ.

Below are the names of the members, family and friends of Trinity who have died since All Saints' Day last year. We remember them in our prayers today, and we give thanks for their lives. We remember and find strength in their faith and the faith of all the saints both known to us and known only to God.

This year we remember *Fanna Brown Proper*. If there are others, please add them during the prayers at the All Saints Day worship service on November 2.

*With the change in service time, vestry members need to consider what time would be best to meet - before the service or after? Maybe a monthly brunch?



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November at Trinity
Last Pentecost - Advent
Worship Time changes
November 23

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