



TRINITY
CATHEDRAL
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

A Sacred Place for All People

Winter 2025

The Congregation Corner

Cathedral Circles

Crossing the Political Divide



This group explores, practices, and implements strategies to engage in short, regular conversations with those in our lives whose political perspectives are widely different from our own, in the context of those relationships. Each meeting the group will share and discuss how these conversations went and collectively gather insights into best practices. The purpose is to bridge the fraught divide of political realities with persons in our lives, discover the visions we share, and widen both perspectives. The hope is that these experiences result in awareness of how practicing civil conversations about difficult perspectives can be a positive force in society.

Contact Anne Kmieck or Toni Ponzo on Realm for more information.

Racial Justice Rule of Life

Racial justice and healing calls us to deep inner work that can animate and energize our outer work. If you'd like to explore the intimate and personal work of racial healing, we hope you'll consider being a part of Trinity's Racial Justice Rule of Life Circle, which meets at 5 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month. We share stories and explore the possibilities of hope and healing in a space where we honor our respective journeys.

Contact Marie Curry or Geoffrey Jacobson on Realm for more information.

Trinity Cathedral | Charlie Comella Urban Farm

Confronting Food Injustice

Food is one of our most basic human needs; but sadly, it is not equally accessible to all people. "Food injustice" refers to unequal access to nutritious and appropriate food. Like many of society's complex problems, food injustice disproportionately affects historically marginalized groups: especially communities of color. Said another way: food injustice is one example of systemic racism.

Food injustice arises when barriers to food availability become insurmountable. The obvious one is poverty, but that is only the beginning. Food deserts (areas which lack access to fresh food) are commonly found in urban areas. Members of underserved urban populations frequently do not have transportation, making shopping at a traditional grocery store impractical. In place of supermarkets, urban areas are rife with convenience stores and fast food. These substandard options peddle ultraprocessed, sugar-, salt-, and fat-laden "foods" which are filled with empty calories but provide limited nutritional value.

A diet of poor quality food has been conclusively linked to numerous and serious health issues. By eating only



what is readily available to them (i.e., no fruits or vegetables), victims of food injustice are likely to become ill; and then encounter significant barriers to obtaining medical care. It is a vicious cycle, which is compounded when families with children are among those affected. A poor diet does not provide mental energy for learning in school. So, the cycle perpetuates to subsequent generations, and is very difficult to break. (continued on page 3)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Wreath Making

Sunday, Nov. 30 | 10:10 AM



An annual tradition at Trinity Cathedral—all ages come together on the first Sunday in Advent, to make Advent wreaths with candles and fresh greens. All supplies are provided—donations are appreciated. If you have a wreath form from last year, please bring it with you.

Join Us for a Bavarian Christkindlmarkt Outing

Saturday, Dec. 6 | 3 to 6 PM



Come along with Trinity friends on a holiday outing to experience a German Christmas market. The date is Saturday, December 6; the location is the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea. There will be traditional food and drink, music and entertainment, and open-air booths featuring local artists and craftsmen. Interested? Let us know by [registering](#) on Realm.



**TRINITY
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Join us for Evensong at 6PM on Wednesdays, October through May, in the cathedral or online.

Upcoming concerts

Wednesday, December 3 | 12PM

Cleveland Celtic Ensemble

Friday, December 5 | 7PM

Alla Boara presents Natale in Italia

Tuesday, December 9 | 7:30PM

Singers' Club of Cleveland

Tickets are pay-what-you-wish from singersclub.org.

Wednesday, December 17 | 12PM

Messiah Sing-a-long!

Thursday-Friday, December 18-19 | 7PM

Apollo's Fire presents Praetorius Christmas Vespers

Purchase tickets at apollosfire.org.

Unless otherwise noted, admission is free, and free parking is available in the Trinity Commons parking lot at 2333 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

Sign up for the Music & Art mailing list:

**Questions? Want to receive a brochure?
Email Emily at music@trinitycleveland.org.**

<https://www.trinitycleveland.org/music-art/>



Greening of the Church

Sunday, Dec. 21 | 12:30 PM

The Flower Guild and interested volunteers will prepare the church for Advent by hanging greens. All are welcome to stay after the 11:15 a.m. service to help—many hands make light work. No floral experience is needed.



Cathedral Tour

Sunday, Dec. 7 | 12:30 PM

Join a docent-led tour of the cathedral. You're sure to discover things you may have never seen before. You'll learn about the cathedral's history, architecture, art, music, windows and more. Meet at the altar following the 11:15 a.m. service.





Charlie Comella Urban Farm (Continued from cover)

As a vibrant faith community in the heart of the city, Trinity Cathedral is uniquely positioned to confront these challenges. We count as our neighbors many people who suffer from food injustice; and we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves.

The Trinity Cathedral | Charlie Comella Urban Farm was founded 20 years ago to help make nutritious, organic, fresh fruits and vegetables available to our friends in need who otherwise might be unable to get them. Over the past 20 years, the Urban Farm has donated over 47,000 pounds of produce to area food banks, in a true farm-to-table initiative. Trinity Cathedral farms at the intersection of the city and our evolving (and exciting) Racial Justice Rule of Life; and includes environmental stewardship, community partnerships and neighborhood beautification as added benefits.

Matthew 25 presents the imperative to feed the hungry; because by doing so for the least, we do so for Christ. These words are artistically depicted at the Urban Farm; and also put into practice there, every week of the growing season.



We are always looking for new volunteers. Even if gardening does not appeal to you, there are many ways to get involved. We would be pleased

to welcome you to the team in a role which aligns with your interests.

Contact Geoffrey Jacobson on Realm for more information.



A Stewardship Reflection from Darrell Lausche

Psalm 1:3

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season and their leaves do not wither.



Siblings in Christ, we have all been planted by the gracious hand of God beside a stream of living water we call Trinity Cathedral, and by God's mercy, we are bearing fruit in abundance. I have been blessed to walk with this sacred community for nearly a dozen years. In truth, I did not find Trinity Cathedral—**Trinity Cathedral found me.** For those who know my journey, you know that the faith tradition in which I was raised turned away from me long before I ever turned from it. As a gay man, I was told—through both words and silence—that I was somehow unworthy of God's love because of the very way God had fashioned me.



But the Episcopal Church has revealed to me a more radiant truth: that **God's love knows no bounds—no exceptions.** And here, in this holy place, I have been both rooted and renewed. Trinity has become fertile soil for my soul, calling me ever deeper into God's grace and shaping me into the person God created me to be—a branch that bears good fruit to be shared with others. Indeed, Trinity Cathedral is the first faith community that has seen me, fully and truly, and has loved me as I am—unconditionally and without reservation.

Throughout this season, we have heard many voices speak of **stewardship**—the sacred call to use all that we have and all that we are to make God's love visible in the world. Stewardship is not a modern invention, but a holy inheritance—rooted in the earliest gatherings of believers who shared their gifts for the

flourishing of all. Yes, we rightly speak of money, for there is a tangible cost to sustaining this cathedral: keeping its doors open in welcome, its lights shining in hope, its staff and clergy supported with dignity, and its sacred beauty preserved for generations yet to come. But I invite you to also remember the **other treasures** God has entrusted to you—your time, your talents, and your presence.

While I strive to increase my financial pledge each year, the offering I cherish most is my time. From the earliest days I walked through these doors, I felt called to serve—to join in the life of this cathedral with both hands and a willing heart. Over the years, I have been graced to serve in the LGBTQ+ Outreach Ministry, the Flower Guild, and Trinity Trekkers; to co-facilitate Sacred Ground, to serve as a docent, and as Clerk of Vestry. On Sundays, I find deep joy in serving as a verger, lector, and sacristan. At Trinity Cathedral, I have discovered that I am valued not only for what I can give, but for who I am and the time I offer in love.

And so, dear friends, as you prayerfully discern how to share the blessings God has poured upon you, I invite you to think expansively—to grow your pledge not only in dollars, but in devotion, in presence, and in love. How is God calling you to serve in this season? How might you help plant more trees beside streams of living water—trees that will bear fruit in due season, for the glory of God and the flourishing of this beloved community?

May we, together, continue to grow in grace and generosity, rooted in love and overflowing with life.

Sundays & Holy Days

Sundays at 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:15 AM

November 30 | First Sunday of Advent
Preaching: The Rev. Canon Adrienne Koch

December 7 | Second Sunday of Advent
Preaching: The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens

December 14 | Third Sunday of Advent
Preaching: The Rev. Megan Allen-Miller

December 21 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Preaching: The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens

December 24 | Christmas Eve | 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM
Preaching: The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens

December 25 | Christmas Day | 10:00 AM
Preaching: The Rev. Megan Allen-Miller

December 28 | First Sunday after Christmas
Officiant: The Rev. Canon Adrienne Koch

January 4 | Second Sunday after Christmas
Preaching: The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens

Evensong

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

December 3 | Choral
Preaching: The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens
Ensemble: Cathedral Choir

December 10 | Expansive | Taize
Preaching: The Rev. Canon Adrienne Koch

December 17 | Choral
Preaching: The Rev. Megan Allen-Miller
Ensemble: Cathedral Choir

Healing Eucharist

Thursdays at 12:10 PM

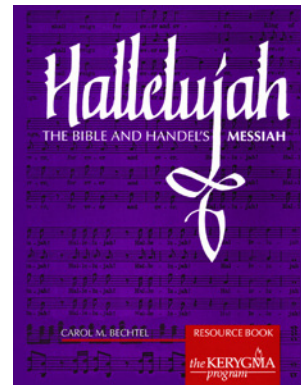
The Dean's Forum

Funeral and Estate Planning

The Dean's Forum on end-of-life planning, considered everything from funerals to wills to trusts to advanced directives. Trinity is blessed with members with great expertise—The Rev. Eric Funston, Ute Vilfroy, Marie Curry, and Amy Ryder-Wentz—who offered practical insight and information. Watch their panel discussion [here](#) on Trinity's YouTube channel.



Bible Study



Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah

This study is for both the music lover and the biblical seeker, it explores the scriptural texts of Handel's Messiah alongside its music. We have completed the four sessions on the Advent texts and are now moving toward the six sessions on the Lenten texts, Sundays at 10:10, Nov 30-Dec 21 and Jan 4-11.

Join clergy and lay facilitators in exploring the following themes this holiday season:

- Behold the Lamb of God
- He Trusted in God
- Who is the King of Glory?
- I Know That My Redeemer Liveth
- Why Do the Nations Rage?
- Hallelujah, Worthy Is the Lamb, Amen

Sunday Teachings

ChurchNext

In 2026, look forward to more formation classes via ChurchNext. ChurchNext offers video courses from great teachers around the globe from mainline Christian traditions. We listen to lectures from scholars and theologians and engage in conversations with members of our congregation to become better informed and more mature in our faith. The studies undertaken often have a transforming effect; the very act of drawing nearer to God brings God nearer to us.

Urban Farm Recipient of Eagle Scout Service Project

The sun was shining on Oct. 5th and that was appreciated by the group that came to do an Eagle Scout service project at Trinity's Urban Farm.

Trinity member Nolan Sgro chose Trinity's Urban Farm as the site of his Eagle Scout service project. An Eagle



Scout service project is a significant, community-focused undertaking where a Scout demonstrates leadership by planning and executing a project that benefits an organization other than the Boy Scouts of America.

The project was to build a sustainable walkway between the two sections of the Urban Farm. Previously there was only a path of single 2x6 boards that often were covered in water and mud. Nolan worked with property committee members and staff to conceive and execute the building of the walkway.

Nolan and his group completed the construction in under four hours. Trinity is thankful for the project and for Nolan's commitment to Scouting and Trinity Cathedral.



Eagle Scout Service Project participants Henry Rosby, Nolan Sgro, William Rosby, and Colin Robinson

Youth Group Takes Flight at Urban Air

What jumps, climbs, soars, and snacks? The Trinity Youth Group, of course! On Sunday, November 9th, twenty energetic youth group members and friends gathered at Urban Air Adventure Park for an unforgettable afternoon of fun.



From bouncing on trampolines and scaling climbing walls to zipping through the air and enjoying delicious pizza, the day was packed with excitement. One enthusiastic participant declared, "This is the most fun I've ever had!"

With vibrant, multi-colored lights flashing all around, the atmosphere was electric—making the experience even more thrilling for everyone involved.

Launching a New Partnership in Campus Ministry

Trinity Cathedral and Cleveland State University are both integral components of our community, so we are excited to share that we are teaming up with United Protestant Campus Ministries (UPCaM) to help meet the needs of CSU students. And we are looking forward to establishing a thriving relationship between our congregation and the CSU campus!

In August, a small group from Trinity had the opportunity to connect with students as we passed out ice cream at the annual "VikesFest," a welcome-back event for students. It was a joy to meet some of our CSU neighbors, and a blessing to share with them that they are always welcome at Trinity. We hope that events like this are just the beginning of our commitment to involvement in campus ministry.

We truly have the opportunity to make an impact as we support the mission of UPCaM and as we extend welcoming arms to all who find a safe space within the cathedral.

By Natalia Leslie



Lucky in Love Cabaret

Friday, February 13, 2026 | 6:00 to 9:00 PM

We're thrilled to announce our second annual music fundraiser, supporting both the cathedral's music ministries and Music & Art at Trinity. Thank you to everyone who made our first cabaret such a success this past Valentine's Day, and we hope you can join us for the Lucky in Love Cabaret on Friday, February 13, 2026. There are many ways you can participate, from donating or bidding on raffle and auction items, to being part of one of the musical acts, to helping with planning or setup—and of course attending on the day! We'll be auditioning acts in early January, so watch the weekly e-news for details.



Your generosity last year raised over \$4500 to be split between the two programs. For the cathedral's music ministries, these funds support the choir, the Abundant Table band, maintenance of pianos and organs, and music purchases. Each of the Sunday morning services has a different type of music, from organ voluntaries to bookend the 8:00 a.m. service, through the rousing leadership of the Abundant Table band at 9:00 a.m., to the more traditionally Anglican sound of the Choral Eucharist at 11:15 a.m. We bring a range of musical genres and styles of liturgy to the Wednesday 6:00 p.m. services of Choral and Expansive Evensong, as well

as the Solemn Eucharist at 4:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month. For Music & Art, these donations allow us to continue offering concerts free of charge, in keeping with our mission to "create inclusive, inspiring experiences where all are welcomed, supported, and uplifted." Especially for the Wednesday noontime series of Brownbag Concerts, our community is anchored by guests with a variety of disabilities, seniors participating in municipal programming or residing in assisted living, and teachers bringing student groups to the cathedral, meaning that we rely on the support of donors who make it possible for others to attend without making an offering of their own. Thank you for your generous support of all our musical programming, and we look forward to welcoming you to this year's cabaret. Contact music@trinitycleveland.org with questions or to get involved!

Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival

Sunday, December 28
2:00 PM and 4:30 PM

Tradition returns to Trinity! The Boar's Head is a cherished institution at Trinity, performed here since 1961. The Elizabethan-inspired pageant celebrates the arrival of the Christ child and the triumph of good over evil. If you've never seen it before, you owe it to yourself to take part in this holiday tradition.



Volunteers are welcome—come be part of the fun! See the link below to fill out an online form and see available roles. You can be a costumed participant or help out behind the scenes.

[ABOUT](#) | [VOLUNTEER](#)

Notes from the Vestry

• Delegates to the Episcopal Diocesan Convention this year were Fran Csoma, Wendy Miano, and Dan McGuire; alternate delegates are: Karla Rivers, Mike Waters, and Beth Cooper. The Convention took place on November 14-15 in Wooster.



- The Vestry has authorized the architecture firm Marous Brothers to move forward with preparing a design team and a contract for the next phase of the Cathedral Hall renovation project.
- The Cathedral Ministries Vestry Committee has recommended minor revisions in Cathedral mission teams and ministries to include: Neighborhood Partnerships mission team is to be renamed Community Partnerships &

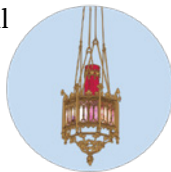
Outreach and the creation of a Liturgy mission team to help support systems of training and support for the various liturgical guilds. Other teams include Peace, Justice & Mercy; Faith Formation; Congregational Life; Invite, Welcome, Connect; Worship, Art & Music; and Diocesan & National Ministry.

- Communications position has been filled. The new staff person will begin in December.

Trinity Cathedral Legacy Circle

Founding Membership Invitation Extended

Our new Trinity Cathedral Legacy Circle, launched in February 2025, wants to identify folks who've made planned gifts to Trinity Cathedral and recognize them for making a lasting gift that benefits cathedral ministries today and tomorrow. If you are one of these, we'd like to thank you by inviting you to become a member of the Legacy Circle.



A Special Reminder: Anyone who confirms their planned gift to the cathedral in writing from now through

February 1, 2026, becomes a Founding Member (or members if a couple) of the Legacy Circle. Join by including the Cathedral in your will, trust, IRA, annuity or other planned gift if you haven't already, then document your planned gift intention with our Development Office by completing and returning a Planned Gift Intention Form.

For more information or to receive a Planned Gift Intention Form, contact development@trinitycleveland.org.

Leave a legacy. Leave a planned gift to Trinity Cathedral.

Did You Know?

Opportunities for Tax-Efficient Year-End Gifts to Trinity

The tax code contains some helpful tools to allow generous donors to make gifts to Trinity Cathedral and save income tax. While most are aware that contributions by cash, check, or credit card allow donors to claim income tax deductions each year on their tax returns, additional giving techniques allow even greater impact for the donor while providing a significant benefit to Trinity.



Direct Transfer of Appreciated Securities: If a Trinity member were to sell appreciated securities, and contribute the cash proceeds, the sale would create taxable income, and the contribution of the proceeds would create a tax deduction. But—instead, the member could make a direct transfer of the appreciated securities to Trinity. The member would not report income from the sale, but would claim a tax deduction for the full value of the

transferred securities. So if stock was worth \$10,000, and the member paid \$4,000 for it, a cash sale would create a gain of \$6,000, and a charitable deduction of \$10,000. Now compare that to a direct transfer to Trinity, which would create zero gain, and the same \$10,000 charitable deduction. Clearly, a much better result.

Qualified Charitable Distribution of IRA:

Another technique is that people over 70 ½ may ask an IRA custodian to transfer up to \$108,000 per person to a charity such as Trinity. Unlike a withdrawal by the owner, the transfer is not included in the owner's income. This is helpful as several tax issues are linked to a person's adjusted gross income ("AGI") so keeping an AGI as low as possible is helpful. Also, for people 73 or older who are required to receive minimum required distributions, the transfer counts against the required amount.

Interested in making a gift in one of these ways? To receive the cathedral's exchange information for gifts of stock/securities, contact [Dan Hout-Reilly](mailto:Dan.Hout-Reilly@trinitycleveland.org).



Pledge Drive

Although our dedicated 4-week pledge drive is over, our invitation remains open for those who would like to support next year's cathedral ministries by making a pledge commitment to support next year's ministries.

Our pledge goal is \$430,000 and we need your help to get there. You can complete the pledge form that was mailed out or pledge online. If you've made a pledge and have not yet collected your Trinity commemorative bag and would like to do so, [email](mailto:development@trinitycleveland.org) the development office.

FREEWILL

Through our new partnership with FreeWill, you can now create your legal will—entirely free of charge—in 20 minutes or less. It's a simple, thoughtful way to:

- Protect your loved ones and assets
- Ensure your wishes are honored
- Reflect on your faith, values, and enduring support for Trinity's mission

You'll also have the opportunity to include an optional planned gift to Trinity if you feel called to do so, sustaining our sacred space, community programs, and commitment to the arts for generations to come.

Consider making your free will today by going to <https://partner.freewill.com/trinitycleveland>.



Strengthening Community Through Service and Generosity

Each year, the Community Partnerships & Outreach Committee works with the administrative staff at Marion Sterling Elementary School, located in our Central Neighborhood, to support the school's students and families. We continue to have a generous turnout of volunteers for our Thanksgiving Baskets and Giving Tree ministries, providing support, care, and dignity to the Marion Sterling families.

The success of our Thanksgiving Basket and Giving Tree campaigns relies on the unwavering support of our dedicated volunteers. The generosity

of their time, energy, and spirit ensures that every basket is prepared with compassion and every gift is selected and wrapped with care.

From organizing donations to wrapping gifts, assembling packages, and assisting with distribution, these efforts transform into meaningful expressions of hope and kindness. Our volunteers play a crucial role in bringing comfort and joy to families who need it most.

We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming support from our Trinity



Cathedral community. The willingness of our volunteers, and of everyone who supported and contributed to these ministries, have made a meaningful difference during this season of gratitude and giving. Thank you for embodying the compassion and spirit of Trinity Cathedral. *By Corinne Wallner*

A Note from Trinity's Scheduling Team

Trinity Cathedral is, of course, a church, the seat of the bishop of the Diocese of Ohio, but did you know that in addition to our services and outreach ministries, we also host a number of community groups each week? In any given week, more than 100 people pass through our doors for community events, in addition to Trinity's own ministries, concerts, or other programming.

Every week this programming year, we have had at least three different recovery groups meeting, with around 50 people attending either AA or NA meetings most weeks. We're also honored to have been the meeting site of some community groups going back decades, notably PFLAG and the Neighborhood Leadership Development Program.

NLDP is a leadership training and development program designed for community leaders serving Cleveland's

neighborhoods, seeking to develop diverse leadership around the region. NLDP meets here twice a month, engaging around 60 people each month, and the related Community Development Corporations Leadership Program also meets here once or twice a month with up to 60 people participating each month. Meanwhile, PFLAG is the nation's largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them, and the local chapter meets here monthly, with around 50 people attending in person or on Zoom.

Sometimes, Trinity provides a space that is large enough, central enough, or neutral enough to welcome all who might benefit from a one-off event. You may recall when over 400 people filled the nave for the State of the LGBTQ+ Community event earlier this year, or occasions when we have partnered with

Greater Cleveland Congregations for voter mobilization events.

In addition, we recently hosted a conversation between survivors of the Rainbow Terrace fire from this summer and officials from the City of Cleveland and other service providers, where a neutral, welcoming space was needed to facilitate the ongoing conversations around this painful event.

Supporting these and other events is part of our mission to offer "an essential and inspirational voice for human dignity in greater Cleveland" through "transformative civic engagement" and by providing a gathering place for all of God's beloved community.

If any of the resources above might be useful to you or if you have questions about scheduling or space use, drop a line to our [facilities team](#).

By Emily Butler, Eric Travis, & Jon Silvis



GIVE TRINITY

trinitycleveland.org/give
Text "GIVETRINITY" to 73256
Venmo @TrinityCleveland



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Stay informed with The Trinity
Weekly newsletter released
every Thursday.



CALENDAR

Visit our website for a
complete list of events at
Trinity Cathedral & Commons.



Christmas at Trinity

DEC. 17 | Messiah Sing | 12:00 PM

Trinity's annual Christmas season sing along! Free of charge with free parking. Bring your own score or borrow one from us.

DEC. 24 | Christmas Eve

- **Family Eucharist & Pageant | 5:00 PM**
- **Choral Eucharist | 10:00 PM**

DEC. 25 | Christmas Day

- **Holy Eucharist | 10:00 AM**

DEC. 26 | BUILDING CLOSED

DEC. 28 | Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival | 2:00 & 4:30 PM

For more information, please visit: www.boarsheadcleveland.org

DEC. 28 | Lessons & Carols | 10:00 AM

Gather to sing carols and share Communion together.

JAN. 1 | BUILDING CLOSED



For more information

Scan me



or visit trinitycleveland.org