



# APRIL TIDINGS

Volume 7 Issue 4

April 2025



## A Reflection from Your Priest-in-Charge

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

As we move into this month of April, we find ourselves in the midst of transitions as winter gives way to spring and as Lent gives way to the Easter season. Soon, the communities in which we live in will begin to show signs of life returning, buds will begin to sprout on trees, flowers will begin to bloom and show off their colors, and the chirps of birds will soon be filling the air. Of course, some of you are eagerly waiting the return of the humming birds, so that you can put out your feeders and enjoy that small glimpse of God's creation while they are here.

This month we will also be transitioning our liturgical seasons, as we shift from Lent to Easter and beyond. As we approach this season of transition, we are reminded that again we are welcomed with new life, as Christ emerges from the tomb having triumphed over death and fulfilling the promise of the Messiah long foretold. (Better start warming up your vocal cords some alleluia proclamations on Easter Sunday). It is the good news to end all other good news. In it we hear the voice of God say, I love you and you are mine, now and forever.

As we prepare to enter into these new seasons, I wonder how we might be bold in proclaiming resurrection and where do we see that taking place? As I sat back and watched the peace be shared at our shared service on March 30<sup>th</sup> I couldn't help but see how new things were emerging. New relationships, new connections, new partners in ministry and as we continue to dive into these new things together. New life in the midst of challenging circumstances.

What a gift that truly is. Let us then be bold in going forth together, as siblings in Christ to proclaim resurrection in all that we say and do.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Dan

**Holy Trinity Church**  
**446 Hamilton Street**  
**Southbridge, MA 01550**  
**508-765-9559**

[holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com)  
[www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org)

**The Rev. Dan Purtell**  
**Priest-in -Charge**  
**Lynn Garland—Sr. Warden**  
(508-801-4638)

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## Holy Week and Easter Services

April 13<sup>th</sup> **Palm Sunday & Family Worship** 10AM @Holy Trinity

April 17<sup>th</sup> **Maundy Thursday** 7PM @Holy Trinity

April 18<sup>th</sup> **Good Friday** 7PM @Bethlehem

April 19<sup>th</sup> **Easter Vigil** 7PM @Bethlehem

April 20<sup>th</sup> **Easter Sunday** 9AM @Bethlehem

April 20<sup>th</sup> **Easter Sunday** 11 AM @Holy Trinity



### *Easter Sunrise Service*

*Sunday, April 20, 2025*

*6:00 AM*

*The Meetinghouse ~ Old Sturbridge Village*

*Join us for this ecumenical service of our Lord's Resurrection.  
A free will offering to benefit St. Luke's Guesthouse will be taken.  
Please enter through the main parking lot and park in the rear  
near the Security building.  
All are welcome!*

## Music notes.... From our Music Minister



**Choir will sing on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday.**

**There is no rehearsal on Thursday, April 3 and we will rehearse on Sunday, April 6 at 10:15.**

**Choir will rehearse on Thursday, April 10 at 4:00. At that time we will plan on an extra rehearsal during Holy Week for the Easter Service.**

**Palm Sunday service is at 10:00AM, so the choir will meet at 9:15 for rehearsal.**

**Choir will be singing on Thursday, April 17 for the Maundy Thursday service which is at 7:00. We will meet at 6:15 for warm up and rehearsal.**

**On Easter Sunday, we will meet at 10:00 for warm up and rehearsal.**

**There will not be any rehearsal on Thursday, April 27th.**

**If there are any questions, please contact Anne at 508-612-1246 or [anniebouv@gmail.com](mailto:anniebouv@gmail.com).**

## Food Pantry

Our April donations will go to Wales Community Food Pantry. Please bring canned meats or your favorite non-perishable food.

Thank you.



## BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Karen Ballou
- 1 – Anna Burns
- 6 – David DeMings
- 18—Susan Howland
- 20 – John Dirlam
- 20 —Madisynn Segarra

## Vestry Highlights

- The Confirmation Retreat at Camp Calumet in New Hampshire was an amazing experience for those who attended.
- On the 5th Sunday in March, the 30th, there will be a shared service. It will be held at Holy Trinity at 10 am, with a brunch to follow the service. Holy Trinity will host the brunch.
- A Scout from a nearby Troop spoke with the Vestry about a potential Eagle Scout Project to be done at Holy Trinity Church. The Vestry is interested and discussion about the project is continuing.

## April Mission and Outreach :ChildFund

ChildFund was founded in 1938, in Richmond, Virginia as China's Children's Fund. In 1951, it became Christian Children's fund. In 2009, it became ChildFund International. ChildFund's headquarters are in Richmond, Virginia.

ChildFund is a global community of people who care about children and take action to help them live at their fullest potential at every stage of their lives. ChildFund is a non-profit organization that helps children in need by providing support for health, education, and safety. They work with local partners in countries around the world. Their mission is to help children reach their full potential and realize their rights. They work to end poverty, violence, abuse, and exploitation. ChildFund helps children get ready for school and complete basic education. They support community-based health care, including prenatal care, maternal health, and childhood illnesses. ChildFund works to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

In 2023 ChildFund helped 14.8 million people in 23 countries to improve their access to health care, nutrition, education, livelihoods and protection, strengthening local organizations to continue supporting such services in their communities even after ChildFund is gone.

Please consider donating to ChildFund and all the children and families that are helped by this incredible organization. ChildFund is a 501C tax deductible organization.

Robin Yates, Member of the Mission committee

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## Confirmation Retreat



Camp Calumet was such a great experience. Not only was the food absolutely outstanding, but I really felt a super strong connection to God there. It was so gorgeous there, especially the lake and mountains. The activities were so fun and I feel like we all had a lot of great conversations on confirmation and Faith. It was so fun when we went snowtubing. I also really enjoyed the movie we watched and the discussion afterwards. I overall had a lot of fun and hope to go back to Calumet soon!

Submitted by Emilynn Bousquet

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## UTO Thankfulness Gratitude Practice

We tend to focus on the United Thank Offering as a way to give financial support to others; an offering we give in the Fall. But there is a second part that is equally important for us. That is a daily practice of thankfulness or gratitude. It is easy to be thankful when things are going our way. But it is even more important to practice thankfulness, or gratitude, when things are not going well. When we are able to find something to be grateful for, even during the most dire situations, this helps us cope better with whatever is going on. More importantly, it helps us remember that God is ALWAYS with us and loves us, no matter what.



I encourage us to start a gratitude practice even if we don't connect it with a financial UTO offering. The United Thank Offering project gives us a simple structure to reinforce this important daily spiritual practice, combining gratitude with offering. Get a UTO Box if you don't have one (find them on a table in the foyer). Each day, even if just for a moment, focus your attention on one thing you are truly thankful for, no matter how dire a situation is or how many other things are causing feelings of distress. Feel the gratitude (this is important!) and put something in the box: maybe a coin. Or maybe write what you are grateful for on a piece of paper and put that in. Or just put your hand on the box and say "thank you, God" or "thank you, Jesus". Or maybe you find a completely different way to practice gratitude that works for you.

In gratitude and thankfulness for our shared faith journey,  
Lynn Garland  
UTO Coordinator



## EASTER MEMORIALS



This Easter, you may wish to have a loved one remembered or to express special thanks to God for His blessings in your life. To do so, please complete this form and return it with your donation to the Church office by **Sunday, April 13th**. The donations collected for these memorials are used to purchase the flowers that decorate the sanctuary on Easter Day.

**Exact wording of memorial will be:**

Easter gifts for flowers are given to the Glory of God...

\_\_\_\_\_ in Thanksgiving for the life of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of your loved one or ones)

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ in Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of your loved one or ones)

**OR**

If this gift is in Thanksgiving of a person who is living, choose the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ in Thanksgiving for the Blessing of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of person or blessing)

given by \_\_\_\_\_

[Your name(s) – please use exact wording you would like to have published. You may, for example, say something like “by his family” or “by her husband” followed by your name or you may simply use your name(s).]

Please return this information sheet, along with your donation, to the church office or drop it in the offering plate by **Sunday, April 13th**. Donations of any amount are appreciated and will offset the cost of the flowers for decorating the church on Easter Day. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Church with the notation “Easter Flowers” on the memo line.

Do you know someone who would appreciate Easter flowers from the church? Please write their name and address here so arrangements can be made to bring them flowers:

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**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR DONATION WITH THIS FORM. THANK YOU!**

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
446 Hamilton Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550

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**Office Phone:** (508) 765-9559

**E-mail:** [holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com)

**Web site:** [holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://holytrinitysouthbridge.org)  
(trinity)

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western  
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

**Sunday Services**

**11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

**Pastor Dan Purtell, Priest-in-Charge**



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Tithly –Giving

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