

# FEBRUARY TIDINGS

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February 2025



## A Reflection from your Priest-in-Charge

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### Inside this issue:

Priest 's Reflection	1
Mission Plate	2
Food Pantry	2
February Birthdays	2
Souper Bowl	2
Scout Sunday	3
Note from Music Director	3
Expanding Ministries	4
Save the Dates	5

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

As we continue into the new year wanted to lead off this edition the newsletter to ask for prayers for our siblings at the Methodist Church in Southbridge. After many years of faithful ministry, they have closed their doors after their last Sunday worship service which took place this past Sunday. It is such a difficult thing to lose one's church community and place of worship, their community is certainly experiencing a great deal of grief.

That being said, the spirit is still moving and this month Holy Trinity will welcome Rosilda's Kitchen, a food ministry of the Methodist church to our building. It is a vital ministry for this community and I'm thankful for the ways we have been able to be in mutual conversation with our siblings and leadership from the Methodist church so that God could make a way for this ministry to continue.

Speaking of God making a way and God doing new things, this has become an extraordinarily busy season as Holy Trinity as in addition to Rosilda's kitchen, we prepare to welcome a new AA group to our building and continue to support the expanding ministry of

Foodshare. There are plans in the works for Foodshare to expand into some of our rooms down stairs, so that they can provide more resources to the community member who are in need it of it.

In the midst of conversations and votes, in the midst of meetings and building use agreements, the spirit is finding a way here at Holy Trinity and leading us to opportunities for our neighbors to encounter the love of God here in this place. Last weeks Gospel lesson from Luke 4 spoke of the mission that is before. It is a joy to continue to bear witness to how we continue to live into that mission here at Holy Trinity! In closing, let me extend my deep gratitude to all who working to support these new ministry opportunities here at the church.

With gratitude,

Pastor Dan



## February Mission Plate

The Mission Plate funds for the months of January and February will be going to the Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC) Fuel Assistance Program. This program aids limited-income homeowners and renters in paying their home heating bills. WCAC's Fuel Assistance Program serves all of our local communities (cities and towns) within Central Massachusetts. Well over 10,000 households obtained fuel assistance through WCAC last year.

This year's economic picture for many of our vulnerable local families isn't any brighter than last year. With rising housing and food costs and escalating utility and heating costs, many people in our local area are struggling to afford to keep themselves warm this winter.

Please, give as generously as you can to this program. No one should be left in the cold during this time of crisis. Thank you.

Loraine Brumskine

Member of the Mission and Outreach Committee



Our donations for February will go to the Wales Community Food Pantry. They have requested pasta sauce, canned meats (spam, corned beef, chicken), and hash.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 2—Tamsin Lucey
- 3—Robert Ikey
- 5—Nancy Waugh
- 6 – Briella Bousquet
- 15 – Jones Lowery
- 17—Barbara Wilson
- 18—Judith Reich
- 23—Emily Thompson

## Souper Bowl Sunday

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

We will sell soup in the parish hall after the service to raise funds for a local organization addressing food insecurity. (The Vestry will designate the recipient at their meeting next week.)

Please let Cat Reith-Lowery know how you can help, and if you will be bringing soup. A sign up sheet will be at the back of the church



## Scouting can change a child's life

How can Scouting change a child's life? Well, it is commonly known for the definition of 'Change' to be "to alter or modify someone/something so it is different", though I believe the word 'change' is an idea that can have a different definition for everyone

In scouting, 'change' has a positive impact on children through the fostering of personal development

As a scout, we learn many valuable life skills, such as leadership, teamwork, social skills; we also learn many practical skills, such as survival and first aid

We learn the importance of a community and our involvement within it, and how to use the ideas of discipline and responsibility to build on our skills and goals

Scouting encourages children to push the boundaries of what they think isn't possible and to overcome fears

So, I respond to my earlier question by saying, Scouting changes a child's life by teaching them important values they can carry throughout their lives, it gives them identity, so that later in life they may teach future generations what it's like to be a scout

That is how scouting can change children's lives.

*Read by Jace Reith on Scout Sunday*



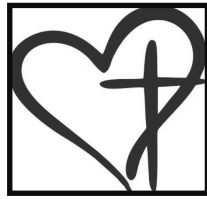
## A Note from Our Choir Director

In February the choir will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:15 to assist in leading the congregation. Anyone interested in joining us this month are welcome. We will rehearse the music for the Sunday service.

We will be singing some spirituals during the month of February starting with Sunday, February 2nd. The congregation will be singing "Children, go where I send thee" Neil Diamond does a rendition that you can listen to at [You Tube](#) and there is a children's [song, sung by a children's choir.](#)

**Children, Go Where I Send Thee**" (alternatively "**Children, Go Where I Send You**" or variations thereof, also known as "**The Holy Baby**", "**Little Bitty Baby**", or "**Born in Bethlehem**") is a traditional African American Spiritual song that had its roots from an English song.<sup>[1]</sup> Among the many different versions of the song, a defining feature is the [cumulative](#) structure such as the Twelve Days of Christmas, with each number (typically up to 12 or 10) accompanied by a biblical reference. Today, many people know it as a Christmas Carol, however we are singing the spiritual for our "Walk in Love" series which is Go! God's Blessings,





### ***Rosilda's Kitchen at Holy Trinity***

With the closing of the Southbridge United Methodist Church, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church was asked to continue the Rosilda's Kitchen Ministry to the Community. With vestry approval Rosilda's Kitchen will now be a ministry of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, with an existing team of volunteers who oversee and run the ministry. Rosilda's Kitchen hosts a once-a-week dinner on Friday from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Currently 20-30 people come for food and fellowship.

### ***Southbridge Noon Recovery Group***

At the same time, we received a request to rent space to the Southbridge Noon Recovery Group that had been meeting at the Methodist Church. They meet daily all year. With attention to logistics and details we are working on an agreement for them to use the Parish Hall from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm Monday through Friday and the Undercroft from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm Saturday and Sunday. All the existing ministries that use these spaces have been contacted, and there is some flexibility to relocate their meeting based on space needs.

### ***Food Share***

Food Share has been with us now for 6 months and the partnership is going well. They have a very dedicated team of volunteer and an exceptionally well-organized program. They are serving more people and what they lack is space. We have been in discussion with Food Share about renting the additional rooms in the "ministry wing". After talking with the Family Worship team, and seeing the need for good stewardship of the space, Family Worship has "gifted" their space to be available for other ministry needs, and Food Share would like to rent the additional three rooms.

If there are any questions about the details of these arrangements, please don't hesitate to contact Lynn Garland, [lynn24gar@gmail.com](mailto:lynn24gar@gmail.com) 508-801-4638 or Susan Howland [howlands@charter.net](mailto:howlands@charter.net) 508-612-3198.

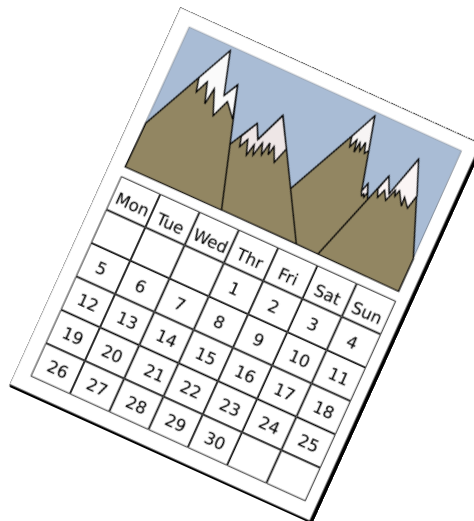
## Save the Dates

**Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Shrove Tuesday**

**Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Ash Wednesday**

**Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Easter Sunday**

**Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Bishop's Visitation**  
**with Confirmation and Reception**



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*(trinity)*

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western  
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

**Sunday Services**

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

**Priest-in-Charge**

**The Reverend Dan Purtell**



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