



# The Vine...

Connecting the Body of Christ one to another

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Essex, 1131 Mace Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21221  
(410) 687-5531 [www.holytrinityessex.org](http://www.holytrinityessex.org) April 2026



## **FROM THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE**

Greetings from the kingdom of God, the reign of love and the culture of peace (*already in progress somewhere very, very close to you!*)

*“God takes away even the hardest stones against which our hopes and expectations crash: death, sin, fear, worldliness. Hope is no longer an illusion. Hope is not an evasion, but a challenge. The light of Easter impels us to break down the barriers that divide us. From Jesus' empty tomb, all begins anew. God opens the path of life in the midst of death, of peace in the midst of war..... “* Pope Francis

If ever we needed an Easter, it is now.

And I am not referring to a celebration connected in some way to something that might have happened to Jesus, something that we can point to, something outside of ourselves, something to which we give a variety of meanings that serve our personal interests – No.

I am referring to the life-changing transformation that occurs when we decide that living by the rules laid out for us by the powers that be, the powers we do not question, the powers whose excesses we excuse, the powers that have brought us once again to the brink of disaster – no longer are allowed to close our minds and imprison our hearts and demand our loyalties.

The worlds that we inhabit – whether they are the ones wherein we execute our daily routines or the larger ones which overwhelm our senses and emotions – cry out for the loving touch of the Gospel. They call to us – as Pope Francis declared – to break down the barriers that divide us.

Jesus came preaching love and reconciliation and peace. They killed him for it – people like us, who found it too threatening and too difficult to pursue those values as a way of life. But then he came back – preaching love and reconciliation and peace. We can ignore him but we cannot kill him now, because love never dies. We can pretend that all he wants of us is to gather on Sunday morning to worship him.

But he's not there. He is out of the tomb, out of every box we stuff him into, out where he needs to be.

May this be the time that we go looking for him. Because we need Easter now.

Peace,  
*Ken+*

+++++

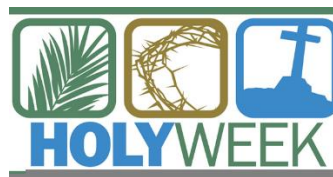
## Church News



### **Inclement Weather Policy**

It is that time of year again when we may have some inclement weather. Our church policy remains the same: We follow Baltimore County Public Schools closures.

SO, if Baltimore County Public Schools are closed or close early and we have an event, meeting, etc. scheduled for that night, it is cancelled. If there is inclement weather affecting our Sunday morning church service, an email will be sent out early Sunday morning...as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible.



### **Holy Week Services**

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated during Holy Week on the following dates:

**\*April 2, 7p.m.—Maundy Thursday**

**\*April 3, 12noon and 7p.m. – Good Friday**

**\*Sunday, April 5, 9a.m. – Easter Sunday**



### **Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil**

We will be having an all-night prayer vigil starting after the Maundy Thursday service, April 2, 2026, at 8pm, and ending the next morning which is Good Friday, April 3, 2026, at 7am. This will be a time of prayer and quiet contemplation in the Sanctuary.

This prayer vigil is meant to imitate the time when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane with his apostles the night before He was crucified. We sign up for one hour because in Matthew 26:40 we read, "Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?'"

We need a minimum of 11 participants to cover all of the one-hour prayer shifts. OR if some are able to cover more than one hour, we could get by with fewer people. And we can also accommodate more than 11. (*We*

*will also have at least one additional person in the building at all times. The doors will remain locked for safety except when people are changing shifts.)*

If you would like to participate, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the wall in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please see me after church or send an email to [HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com).



There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** after the church service on Easter Sunday! Please bring a basket or bag for your children to use to gather eggs (Pre-K through Grade 5). If you have any questions, contact Rachel or Sherry.



### **Vestry Meeting**

The next Vestry Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. *Please note: Vestry minutes are posted on the wall in the Parish Hall.*



### **Save the Date Items**

- 1. Spring Craft Fair on Saturday, April 18, 2026, 9a.m.-2p.m.** Contact Kathy Crump with any questions or if you are available to help.
- 2. Eastern Tech Fundraiser Car Wash on Saturday, April 25, 2026, 10a.m.-1p.m.** Eastern Tech Class of 2026 will be having a fundraiser car wash on the parking lot of Holy Trinity. Please bring your cars/trucks for a wash to support our local students!
- 3. Garden Planting on Saturday, May 2, 2026, 8:30a.m.-12noon.** Local Environmental Students will be planting a garden of coneflower, milkweed, goldenrod, and aster (plants native to our area) on the Holy Trinity property. Feel free to join in this effort! Contact Lilian with any questions.
- 4. Flea Market on Saturday, June 20, 2026, 8a.m.-12noon.** Contact Kathy Crump with any questions or if you are available to help.
- 5. Church Picnic in June.** Watch for the date and more information.

*(Watch for more details on all of these events as planning continues.)*



### **Sunday School**

Sunday School is held during the first part of the service on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. for children Pre-K through Grade 5! The children then join their families in church during The Peace portion of the service. If you have any questions, contact Leah.

### **Helping Hands Ministry**

We continue to support members of our faith community who no longer attend services due to advancing age, declining health, and other issues. We offer the following:

1- Holy Trinity Roadrunners whose purpose is driving parishioners who no longer can drive to visit loved ones confined to institutions.

2- Sheila continues to manage prayers for others. So if you can spare a few minutes to say a prayer and/or make a phone call to those on our prayer list and anyone else in need of prayers, contact Sheila at 410-382-2846 and add your name to her team.

3- The Order of St. Luke (OSL) Healing Ministers offer healing prayer at the rail during Holy Communion. *Each one of us has been called to live as Jesus did...loving, praying, and healing in His name.* If you are interested in joining OSL, we meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Kathy Crump for more information or to register at: [crumpkathy6@gmail.com](mailto:crumpkathy6@gmail.com).

As always, Leah is the contact to add or remove names on our Parish Prayer List and to add names for anyone asking for prayers. *We pray for perseverance, delivery from pain, and community with our loved ones.* If you are interested or have questions, please contact Kathy.

### **Bible Study**

There is a Bible Study held via Zoom every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Contact Sophia for more information.

### **Healing Service**

Our weekly Healing Service is held every Wednesday at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. Contact Ken+ with any questions.

### **Craft Group**

Our Monthly Craft Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Bring a craft to work on, and enjoy some conversation! Contact Barbara with any questions. *Please note: In case of a Hall Rental, the date is sometimes cancelled or changed. If you are new to the group, please check with Barb.*



### **Monthly Extended Coffee Hour**

We have our Monthly Extended Coffee Hour/Covered Dish on the last Sunday of each month after the 9:00 a.m. service. Please bring a dish to share! It can be homemade or store-bought, sweet or savory. If you have any questions, contact Millie.



## **Funeral Planning Forms and Emergency Contact Forms**

We have both forms available in the church office. Please at least complete the Emergency Contact Form and turn it in to the church office. If you have not made your funeral plans known to the church yet, please complete that form as well, and turn it in to the church office. If you have any questions about the forms, call or email the office. If you would like to meet with Ken+ for help with planning your funeral, contact him directly.



## **Outreach Ministries from and to Holy Trinity**

*from Lynn F., Chairperson*



### **Blessing Bags:**

Blessing Bags are an Outreach ministry for the homeless in our area. Beginning this month, the second Sunday of every month will be a collection of items to be placed in Blessing Bags.

The items collected will be presented by one or more of the children during the Offertory. After the service, the items will be sorted and placed in bags to be distributed by those who feel called to do so to those in need. Blessing bags can be packed with small items such as granola bars, lotion, and

gloves. These bags can be kept in your vehicle and handed out to homeless men and women at traffic lights, etc. Contact Linda+ with any questions.



### **Operation Backpack:**

Our backpack ministry will again include Sandalwood Elementary School and Essex Elementary School. We will be providing food items to students in need at both schools during the 2025-2026 school year. You are always welcome to contribute by bringing in needed food items such as: single serve oatmeal packets, applesauce cups, fruit cups, raisins, packs of peanuts, crackers, ramen noodles, instant chicken noodle soup, juice boxes, or white or chocolate milk or Yoohoo. We also accept small cans of tuna and boxes of macaroni and cheese. You can place any donated food items in the bin marked "Operation Backpack" in the Parish Hall. You can also make a monetary donation at any time. In addition to food items, there is a need for new socks and new underwear for elementary-age children. These items can also be placed in the same bin.

We pack the bags after the service. All are welcome to join in the effort. Also, each week there is a rotation of folks who deliver the bags to Essex and Sandalwood

Elementary Schools. We can always use additional volunteers to deliver the backpacks! If you have any questions or are able to make deliveries, please contact Chris or Lynn F.

### **Eastern Interfaith Outreach (EIO):**

EIO is open to serve those in need. They operate on an appointment basis, so please call in advance. (The address is listed later in this newsletter under “Food Pantry”.)

We are still collecting shelf-stable food items such as canned soup, pork and beans, tuna, and chicken for EIO. If you are able to buy a few items on your next grocery shopping trip or if you have any extra items in your pantry at home, please bring them in. ***Please make sure the expiration date is at least several months out.*** There is a bin in the Parish Hall labeled “EIO Donations” where you can place the donated shelf-stable food items to help those in need in our community. (More detailed information regarding EIO is also provided below under the Food Pantry section.)



### **Ronald McDonald House Baltimore:**

Please continue to collect the pull tabs from any aluminum can products. I collect the tabs, and once or twice per year I take them to RMH. The tabs are then recycled with the profit used to fuel the shuttle bus to take family members of the children to the local hospitals. The collection box is located on the lower shelf of the main table in the Narthex.

**Watch the bulletins and emails for the date of the next Outreach Committee meeting.**

If you have any questions, please contact Lynn F.



### **Local Food Pantries**

#### **Eastern Interfaith Outreach (EIO)**

**Contact:** 410-406-2288 OR 211

#### **Physical Address:**

Maranatha Chapel  
3 Bowleys Quarters Road  
Middle River, MD 21220  
410-406-2288

#### **By Appointment Only! Call first!**

**Donations:** Bring in shelf-stable items and place them in the bin in the Parish Hall marked “EIO” or make your check payable to “Eastern Interfaith Outreach” and mail it to:  
Eastern Interfaith Outreach  
P.O. Box 18122  
Middle River, MD 21220

#### **Hunger for Change:**

These food distributions are until the food supplies run out on that day. Please call for distribution dates and site information: 443-838-2126.

#### **Baltimore County has a Food Pantry**

**Locator service.** Just click on either of the links below for more information:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/county-news/2023/12/19/baltimore-county-releases-new-food-pantry-locator>

<https://bc-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/nearby/index.html?appid=2ec6ceb1732844bbb00a40ec1a0b733f>



Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland offers nutritious, fresh, prepared meals delivered to your home. Eat better with Meals on Wheels!

For those unable to cook or grocery shop for themselves – due to age, disability or illness - look to Meals on Wheels for dependable, friendly service.

To learn more, call 410-558-0923 or apply online at:

[mealsonwheelsmd.org/client-application](http://mealsonwheelsmd.org/client-application)

Meals on Wheels also needs volunteers to help deliver these meals. If you have any time to donate to this worthy cause, please call the telephone number listed above.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



### **April Anniversaries**

Gary and Mary – 4/4

Bill and Terri – 4/23

Jim and Chris – 4/26



### **April Birthdays**

Pam – 4/2

John N. – 4/5

John McC. – 4/6

Sophia – 4/11

Joe – 4/16

Loretta – 4/18

***ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS, SEE LEAH***



***O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants, that their weaknesses may be banished and their strength restored; and that, their health being renewed, they may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Christine  
Alice  
Elliott (Alice's great great grandson)  
Jason R. (Alice)  
Millie  
Elizabeth P. (Millie's sister)  
Kelly (Millie's niece)  
Jean C. (Millie)  
Beau (Millie)  
Helen  
Ryan (Helen's grandson)  
Henry (Cheryl)  
Joan  
Bill and Diane (Joan's son and daughter-in-law)  
Pam A. (Joan's son and daughter-in-law)  
Chris and Patty (Joan's son and daughter-in-law)  
Gladys  
John and Jeannie  
Powell family (John and Jeannie's family)  
Heather (John and Jeannie)  
Mike (John and Jeannie)  
Landon (John and Jeannie)  
Christoper (John and Jeannie)  
Kurt (John Nines)  
Ava (Pam Nines)

Somo  
Hutchins family (Somo)  
Eddie (Somo)  
Florence (Somo)  
Lynne C.  
Karen (Lynne C's daughter)  
Nancy B. (Lynne C.)  
Greg (Lynne C.)  
Crosby family (Lynne C.)  
Bennett family (Lynne C.)  
Arlene  
Gary and Mary  
Donald and Sylvia  
John and Anne  
Mary Anne and family  
Linda Q. (Mary Anne's sister-in-law)  
Butch and Wanda (friends of Mary Anne)  
Tyler T. (Mary Anne)  
Christine (Mary Anne)  
Chris S. (Mary Anne)  
Gloria N.  
Nancy T. (Jimmy's significant other)  
Kathy S. (Leah's cousin)  
Eleanor (Leah's aunt)  
Jim C. (Leah's uncle)  
Shirlyn (Sam's niece)  
Emma (Leah)  
Colomba (Michelle S's sister)  
Frank S. (Michelle S's brother)  
Frank H.  
Wendy  
Bridget (Kathy's daughter)  
Lynn J. (Joan and Michelle)  
Laura  
Bill  
Sharon  
Jake (Kay)  
Joan S. (Kay)  
Ron  
Alan (Ron)  
Debbie H. (Ron)  
Mary C. (Ron)  
Pat (Ellen's husband)  
Wayne  
Geoff  
Brett

LouAnne (Lynn F.'s sister-in-law)  
Doug Shaw (Carolyn)  
Dianne (Ken+)  
Daniel (Sheila)  
Darlene (Sheila)  
Janice  
Eric Z.  
Teresa  
Jerome  
Wyatt  
Rigoberto  
Williams  
Romanio  
James  
Jack  
Demi  
Liam  
Sage  
Fernando  
Megan  
Chris  
Eric W.  
Allison (Leah)  
Colson (Leah)  
Dottie  
Karen L.



***PLEASE ADVISE LEAH OF ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.***

## Who do I contact?

The office is generally staffed on Thursday morning from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

If you have a non-urgent question, call the church telephone number (410-687-5531) and leave a message on the answering machine OR send Leah an email at [HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com).

For urgent pastoral needs call:

The Rev. Ken Phelps, Priest-in-Charge  
410-790-1631

If Ken is not available, call:  
The Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Deacon  
410-967-7404  
OR  
Kathy Crump  
410-940-5100



## Vestry Officers and Members

Officers (elected by the vestry for one-year terms; can be re-elected; do not have to be an elected vestry member to be elected as an officer):

Senior Warden – Chris Kinard  
Junior Warden – John Morris  
Treasurer – Ellen  
Registrar – Lilian

Elected vestry members and date their terms end (initially elected by the congregation; if a position becomes vacant, the vestry elects a replacement to fill the rest of the term):

|            |      |
|------------|------|
| Lynne C.   | 2026 |
| Nancy      | 2026 |
| Sheila     | 2026 |
| Christine  | 2027 |
| Gladys     | 2027 |
| Michele A. | 2027 |
| Lynn F.    | 2028 |
| Carolynn   | 2028 |
| John M.    | 2028 |

The parish clergy are also ex officio members of the vestry and the rector is the presiding officer.



## REGULAR REMINDERS



### Coffee Hour

Join us for socializing before or after the church service. Light refreshments are available. Please see the sign-up sheet on the wall in the Parish Hall if you would like to bring something to share.

### Parish Hall Rental

If you would like information about renting the Parish Hall for an event, please send an email to [HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com) or leave a message at the church office 410-687-5531. The cost is \$400 per rental.



### Flower Memorials/ Thanksgivings

If you are interested, please complete a form with your instructions, along with a check for \$40.00, and return them to Barbara in person or mail them to the church address listed on the form.

The 2026 forms are available from Barbara or Leah in the church office. Memorials are on a per Sunday basis, not per name. More than one person may donate on any given Sunday.

### Housekeeping Notes

Please continue to keep areas clean and sanitized.

### Mailing List Updates

For changes to your home address or phone number, call the parish office at 410-687-5531 and leave a message OR send an email to [HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com).



### E-mail Messages

Please keep the church updated on any changes to your email address so we can notify you of situations impacting the parish. Please email any changes to: [HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com).



### Final Word from the Editor

Items for the May Newsletter are due by April 15.

## APRIL 2026 SERVICE SCHEDULE

### **April 2, 2026, 7:00 a.m. (Maundy Thursday)**

**Ushers:** Gloria G.  
**Lessons:** Sheila  
**Prayers:** N/A

**\*\* Please note:** Until further notice, those scheduled to read the Lessons will read the First Lesson, lead the Psalm, and then read the Second Lesson. Thank you!

### **April 3, 2026, 12:00 noon (Good Friday)**

**Ushers:** Ellen  
**Lessons:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Prayers:** N/A

### **April 3, 2026, 7:00 p.m. (Good Friday)**

**Ushers:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Lessons:** Nancy  
**Prayers:** N/A

### **April 5, 2026, 9:00 a.m. (Easter Sunday)**

**Ushers:** Sam  
**Lessons:** Gladys  
**Prayers:** Lilian

### **April 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m.**

**Ushers:** Gloria G.  
**Lessons:** Lilian  
**Prayers:** Gladys

### **April 19, 2026, 9:00 a.m.**

**Ushers:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Lessons:** Elizabeth  
**Prayers:** Nancy

### **April 26, 2026, 9:00 a.m.**

**Ushers:** Gloria G.  
**Lessons:** Rachel  
**Prayers:** Jackie



# April 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                    | Monday                            | Tuesday                                                 | Wednesday                            | Thursday                                                                                                        | Friday                                                                      | Saturday                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                           |                                   |                                                         | 1<br><br>12:00noon Healing Service   | 2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i><br><br>10am-12noon Office Staffed<br><br>7pm-Holy Eucharist (followed by Prayer Vigil) | 3 <i>Good Friday</i><br><br>12noon-Holy Eucharist<br><br>7pm-Holy Eucharist | 4                                                                |
| 5 <i>Easter Sunday</i><br><br>9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Zoom)<br>9:00 AM Children's Sunday School<br>7pm-AA Meeting                      | 6<br><br>12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting  | 7<br><br>7pm-Bible Study via Zoom<br>7:30pm-AA Meeting  | 8<br><br>12:00noon Healing Service   | 9<br><br>10am-12noon Office Staffed<br><br>7pm-Vestry Meeting                                                   | 10<br><br>All Day-Dr. Meade using offices                                   | 11<br><br>All Day-Dr. Meade using offices<br><br>1pm-Craft Group |
| 12<br><br>9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Zoom)<br>9:00 AM Children's Sunday School<br>7pm-AA Meeting                                          | 13<br><br>12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting | 14<br><br>7pm-Bible Study via Zoom<br>7:30pm-AA Meeting | 15<br><br>12noon Healing Service     | 16<br><br>10am-12noon Office Staffed<br><br>7pm-OSL Meeting via Zoom                                            | 17                                                                          | 18<br><br>9am-2pm – Spring Craft Fair                            |
| 19<br><br>9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Zoom)<br>9:00 AM Children's Sunday School<br>7pm-AA Meeting                                          | 20<br><br>12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting | 21<br><br>7pm-Bible Study via Zoom<br>7:30pm-AA Meeting | 22<br><br>12:00 noon Healing Service | 23<br><br>10am-12noon Office Staffed                                                                            | 24                                                                          | 25<br><br>10am-1pm - Eastern Tech Car Wash                       |
| 26<br><br>9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Zoom)<br>9:00 AM Children's Sunday School<br>10:15 AM Extended Coffee Hour/Potluck<br>7pm-AA Meeting | 27<br><br>12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting | 28<br><br>7pm-Bible Study via Zoom<br>7:30pm-AA Meeting | 29<br><br>12:00 noon Healing Service | 30<br><br>10am-12noon Office Staffed                                                                            |                                                                             |                                                                  |



LITTLE CHURCH IN THE WOODS  
**SPRING**  
**CRAFT FAIR**



Handmade items, Basket Raffle, Face Painting,  
Baked Goods, Hot Dogs & Cold Drinks



**APRIL 18 9am-2pm**

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1131 MACE AVE, ESSEX, MD 21221



**VENDORS NEEDED**  
**410-940-5100**

