

# Trinity Tempo

May 2026

## Spring Symbols Remind Us of Resurrection

By the Rev. Mark Price

When the weather turns warmer and the grass grows greener, it's easier to understand the promise of new life and renewed hope that Christians proclaim as “[Easter people](#).” The reminders are all around us so be sure to keep an eye out on your next spring stroll.



### Birds

The robin, a very common bird in the U.S., has a red breast and a legend to explain it. Seems that once a gray robin flew to Christ's crown of thorns to draw out a thorn, and when it did, a drop of Christ's blood fell on its breast, leaving a stain forevermore.

### Bees

It takes lots of [buzzing bees](#) to spread the pollen and make flowers grow. The honey these creatures create is a biblical

symbol of God's favor. The Torah agrees, for it describes God's promised land again and again as “flowing with milk and honey.”



### Flowers

Long considered a symbol of hope and new life, the daffodil is one of the blooms most often connected to the Resurrection. Tradition says that giving a gift of daffodils will ensure happiness for the receiver—but always give a bunch: a single bloom signals doom.



The flowering shrub known as the [forsythia](#) is what I call the Easter tree, because when its spidery branches are moving with the wind, they seem to be arms waving in praise of the season. According to tradition, forsythia means anticipation—an appropriate companion word for Resurrection.

It is said the dogwood tree used to grow straight and tall, but after it was used as a crucifix for Christ, God made it short and twisted with a thin trunk so it could never be used as a cross again.

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# Trinity Happenings

## Food Drive

Few foods beat pasta as a quick, easy, and filling meal. And people of all ages enjoy eating it!

Betty Capets, who manages the food bank in Trafford, has said that they cannot keep the makings for spaghetti in stock. So, now through Sunday, May 10, Trinity is collecting boxes of spaghetti and jars or cans of spaghetti sauce for the Trafford/Level Green food bank. Place these items in the box in the vestibule. And thank you for your continued support of our local food bank and our community.



## Mother's Day Flowers

BY JANE POGUE

May is the month for mothers, and we will once again be honoring all you ladies this month. Please come to church and receive a small token of appreciation for all those unnoticed things you do for your families daily. I present these flowers in memory of my mom, Velma Pogue, who was a wonderful role model for me.

## Community News

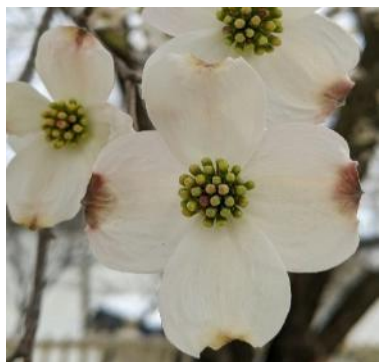
### Diaper Drive

Level Green Presbyterian Church is holding a Diaper Drive to benefit the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank. They will collect diapers, wipes or money to buy the items on Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to noon. To learn more about this community need, visit [wpadiaperbank.org](http://wpadiaperbank.org).

## Spring Symbols

(continued from front cover)

The dogwood bloom has four parts, each with a rusty red color on the end and a small hole, a reminder



of where the nails were driven into the cross. The center stamens look like the crown of thorns.

### Faith

The traditions that developed around these spring symbols helped explain the concept that God in the flesh took on death and came back to tell us there is life on the other side. [What fantastic news!](#)

This spring, [be a witness to the good news](#) that Christ is risen:

- Learn about the symbols and notice them when you are outdoors this season. Even better: plant some dogwoods and flowers in your yard and on the grounds of your church.
- Fashion a cross from cuttings of spring flowers. Invite others to help. Set it out in front of your church, or even your house, for all to see.
- Make (don't buy) a gift for someone who needs to be reminded of the love of God made known in the Risen Christ.
- Play. Not a video game or a phone app. Physically play. Move. Dance. Interestingly, the Irish jig and tap dancing have their roots in an early Saxon tradition called the “hop-egg.” The purpose was to step

among a dozen eggs as if walking the Stations of the Cross. This egg dance is likely the distant relative of hopscotch.

The Council at Nicaea in 325 AD gave the Church a revised creed. The last line reads: “We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.”

As Easter people, we don't have to look further than spring for an exclamation point to that affirmation.

*Mark Price is Minister of Spiritual Formation and Facilities Manager at Christ United Methodist Church in Franklin, Tennessee.*

Price, Reverend Mark. (May 14, 2014, updated April 6, 2022.) “Spring Symbols Remind Us of Resurrection.” *Western PA Conference*. Retrieved April 17, 2026, from <https://www.umc.org/en/content/spring-symbols-remind-us-of-resurrection>

## Save the Dates

BY JANE POGUE

Please mark your calendars! Our Strawberry Festival will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 4:30-7 p.m. More details to come, and there will be sign-up sheets later in the vestibule. Since our numbers are dwindling, Carol and I will really need everyone's help to make this festival a success. Please plan on helping.

Also, our Graduate Recognition Sunday will be held on Sunday, June 7, 2026. Speaking of Graduation Recognition, if anyone is aware of any of our members graduating, please let me or the church office know.



# Joys & Concerns

Please keep Trinity family, friends and neighbors in your prayers. To share a prayer concern, call Beverly Piper, (412) 607-1759.

## Pray for

Roger Beaulieu (Jane Beaulieu's husband, Manor First)  
Tom Bradley (Patty Aubele's nephew)  
Mary Ann Casper  
Sandy Chiappetta  
Judy Mason  
Olga, Volodymer, and Maryna Medunytsia  
Paul Ondulich  
Les and Donna Race  
Marlene VanRyn  
Michele (April Beam's friend)  
Our troops

Also take a moment and give thanks for friends and church family who celebrate their birthdays and anniversaries this month.

## Birthdays

- 2 Louise Redinger
- 5 Jenna Nigro
- 6 Josie Nigro, Shawn Schotti
- 7 Luke Allan Lowery
- 9 Mary Thornton, Darlene Williams
- 11 Jane Pogue
- 15 Amy Keefer, Harry Little, Pat Puckey, Robert Conlogue
- 16 Nancy Harris
- 17 Lexi Fanty
- 19 Robert Phillip Kalanja
- 20 Gracie Stultz
- 23 Lou Booher
- 27 Zack Keefer
- 28 Evelyn Felmlee, Anne Robinson
- 29 John Graw
- 30 Alex Silowash, Nicole Dodril
- 31 Les Race

## Anniversaries

- 16 Josh and Amy Ruccio
- 18 Nick and Danielle Mallik

**Greensburg District Conference** will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2026, from 2-3:30 p.m. at Community Church, Route 130, Irwin. Clergy, church lay leaders, and Ad-Council chair are encouraged to attend. All laity are welcome to attend and hear about the business of the district and celebrate the work and ministries of the churches.

## May

### Altar Flowers

- 3 open
- 10 Roger & Marlene VanRyn
- 17 Larry & Becky Mallik
- 24 Thelma Johnson & Family
- 31 open



# May

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>26</b> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship	<b>27</b> 1 p.m. Senior Friends	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:15 p.m. Choir	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9 a.m. Work Party at parsonage
<b>3</b> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship/ Communion	<b>4</b> 1 p.m. Senior Friends 7:30 p.m. Trustee Meeting at parsonage	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:15 p.m. Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship <i>Mother's Day</i>	<b>11</b> 1 p.m. Senior Friends	<b>12</b> 7:30 p.m. Ad-Council	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:15 p.m. Choir	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>Ascension Sunday</b> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship	<b>18</b> <b>Tempo Deadline</b> 1 p.m. Senior Friends	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:15 p.m. Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Pentecost Heritage Sunday</b> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship	<b>25</b> <i>Memorial Day (church office closed)</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Worship <i>Peace with Justice Sunday (offering)</i>	<b>1</b> 1 p.m. Senior Friends	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

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Articles and information for the June issue of the newsletter are due in the church office by Monday, May 18, 2026.



**Trinity United Methodist Church**

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Church office  
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office@tumctrafford.org

Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service: 11:15 a.m.

**Peace with Justice Sunday,  
May 31**

This Church-wide Special Sunday supports ministries for peace, equality, dignity and programs that seek to change systems that cause poverty, racism, and oppression.

Half of the funds stay local and support programs and ministries in the Western PA Conference. The other half of the funds support efforts across the U.S. and beyond.

Prayerfully consider giving to this special offering on Sunday, May 31.