



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 26

December 2022



Advent-Mindedness

Advent is a Latin word easily translated as “coming.” By now, the who and when is a little spoiled - it is Christ, coming anew into our world on Christmas day. Advent calls us to prepare our lives and world for Christ to come anew so that he will find a ready welcome and so that we can engage the gifts of God deeply and meaningfully. Our Advent wreath calls us to prepare the way of the Lord, not with baby clothes and a car seat, but with love, hope, joy, and peace.

But Advent is not about feelings. We are not asked to feel more hopeful and feel more loving, as if we could make ourselves feel the “right” way. Advent calls us to practice love, to treat others as we wish to be treated no matter how we feel. Advent implores us to practice hope, to pursue our core values with determination and flexibility, knowing we will fail and fall down, but be willing and ready

to get back up. Advent invites us to cultivate joy, to make room for God, to surprise us by being vulnerable with one another. As we practice love, hope, and joy, Advent calls us to practice peace-making, which is not the absence of conflict, but the creation of a new future.

Advent culminates in the birth of our Lord, who is coming to bring light to the dark and new sight. Let us practice Advent together and be ready both to receive the Christ child and to share him with our world.

- *St. Thomas the Apostle Church*



December 1 - Conor Reynolds
December 15 - Gail Beck
December 16 - Astrid Swanson
December 20 - Susan Shultz
December 25 - Joan Shaffner
December 29 - Rene Nacca-Visser

Christmas Fair Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work for the Fair. In spite of the rain it really was a wonderful day with so many hands working and so many friends visiting!

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m., Sunday Service in-person and via Zoom

Saturday, December 3, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 17, 11:30 a.m., Wreaths Across America, Town Green

Sunday, December 18, 10:30 a.m., Vestry

Saturday, December 24, 4:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25,
NO SERVICE

(Zoom connection information at end of newsletter.)

Note

No Service on Sunday Dec 25
Merry Christmas!

Clergy Schedule

December 4 -

Rev. Diana Rogers

December 11 -

Fr. Andrew G. Osmun

December 18 -

Rev. Diana Rogers

December 24 -

Rev. Diana Rogers

Living Well Advent Booklets

In the Episcopal Church, the first season of the year is Advent, which starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. It is a time of preparation and expectation; both for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ "in power and glory." Once again the Communications Commission has arranged for copies of Living Compass' Living Well Through Advent 2022 to be available in the church. If you haven't already picked up your copy, there are still some available in the two landings and in the Thrift Store (both English and Spanish). This booklet is intended for use as a daily personal reflection as you travel through Advent. The daily entries are short, but leave much to reflect on for the rest of the day.

Vestry Meeting

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, December 18th in the Library and via Zoom after the 9:00 a.m. service.

Senior Warden Report -

Barbara Parsons and George Coulombe attended the South Central and South Eastern Convocation with the Bishops last week. It was nice to hear Bishop Mello. Amber Gehr from ECCT has requested a meeting with the Vestry via Zoom to talk about next steps in the priest-in-charge process. Date/time is currently TBD.

Around the Church Christmas Fair



Building & Grounds - We are looking for another painter to paint the pillars and façade.

We have signed the 47 Park Place architectural review contract. The entire cost (\$18,500) will be covered by a grant from the State Historical Society.

New Business - We are looking for new Vestry members for 2023! If you are interested please reach out to any current Vestry member.



December 26 - Ron & Janice Blevins

December 31 - Mary Anne Osborn & Joanne Neel-Richard

Encouraging Words

Audrey Sundwall

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."
- *Isaiah 40:3*

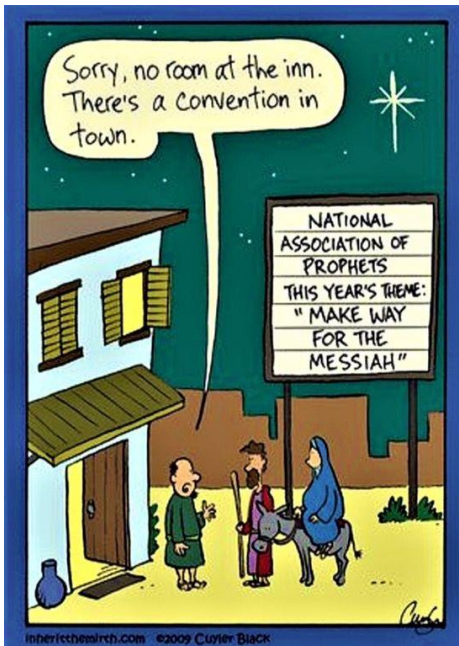
The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" - "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"
- *Mark 1:1-3*

The true light that gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. - *John 1:9*

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be upon his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. - *Isaiah 9:6*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. - *John 1:1-5*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. - *Lamentations 3:22-23*



Episcopal Church in CT (ECCT)

St. John's Essex receives first Witness Stone

St. John's Church has recently collaborated with the Witness Stones Project, an educational initiative that restores the history and honor the humanity of enslaved individuals who helped build our local communities. This event was recently featured on News Channel 8! Tom Shultz attended this event and found it very moving.

[Watch Video Here](#)



ECCT South Central Region

ECCT Kwanzaa Concert and celebration

On December 28 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (111 Whalley Avenue, New Haven) join us for a Kwanzaa Concert and celebration sponsored by the ECCT Racial Healing, Justice & Reconciliation Ministry Network.



Zoom Christian Education 2023



Pathways for Baptismal Living is excited to announce the course schedule for January-June of 2023.

<https://www.bexleyseabury.edu/pathways/>

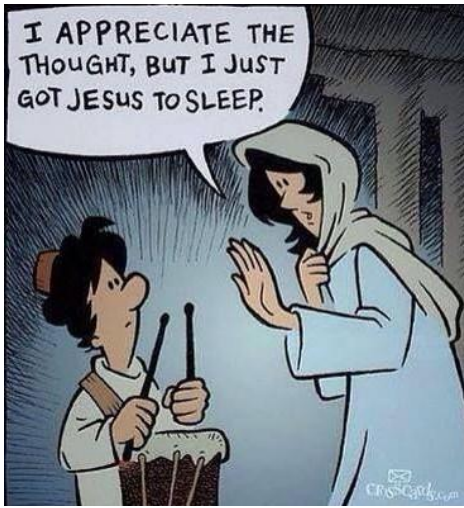
Once registered, you will join a learning community for 4-8 weeks, depending on the course. Together you will engage 3-4 hours/week of reading, watching videos, and interacting with peers and your instructor in online text-based discussions that you can schedule to do when you want (asynchronous) each week as well as through live conversations via Zoom (synchronous).



New England Province 1 Zoom

Join Episcopalians from across New England on Saturday, December 17 on Zoom for our Winter Conference and Budget Meeting! Our theme, **Coming Together in Hope and Healing**, reflects the inspiration we've experienced seeing new seeds of ministry

crop up across New England this year, and featured speakers at our 12-2 p.m. program session will include provincial grant recipients, leaders whose ministries cross diocesan lines, and Episcopalians taking leaps of faith in their life and work. For more information and a link to register, navigate to province1.org/conference2022



Come hear Barbara Coulombe and Susan Shultz sing in the Greater New Haven Community Chorus concert on Sat. Dec 10 at 7:30pm at Bethesda Church in New Haven. Tickets are \$15 available here: www.gnhcc.org

A Prayer for Transition and Guidance

O Lord, you are with us in every transition and change. With your deep compassion, presence and abounding love ease our anxiety. We pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, and daring in our faith. We thank you for the gifts,

talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Help us accept change as a gift of your direction for our journey in this transition. Instill in us a vision of the church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alfred, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Bohdan & Family in Ukraine, Brandon, Carol Ude, David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Dick, Ed, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Faith, Fran Zella, Francesca, Holly, Judy Herzman, Jack Uberti & Holly Chickos, Jack and Jan McDonald, Jay Medlyn, Jay W., Jim R. & Family, Joan

Shaffner, Joyce Aurelius, Leah S., Lee Hubbard, Linda Lonardo, Lucas Sundwall, Mark Conti, Matt R., Mike, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Rachael, Ray Sundwall, Sr., Richard Mead, Sallie Alexander, Susan, Susan Diaz, Tricia Clearwater, Turiano Family

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested.

Next issue

The deadline for the January issue is **December 20**. Submissions can be sent to newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310.

Infant Holy
A Christmas Concert
Trinity Choir of Men and Boys | Trinity Choir of Adults and Girls

Friday 16 December at 7:30pm
Suggested donation: \$20

Trinity
ON THE GREEN

Parishioner Spotlight - Mary Claire Peach-Keyes

Tell us about your immediate family

I have one son named Edward, a dog named Seamus, and two cats, Sinead and Finnegan. My son works as an Applications Support Analyst and assists in IT support and laptop procurement for people all over the world.

What is your occupation?

I am a Special Education teacher and work with elementary school age children. Being in this career has taught me a great deal about patience, empathy, and understanding others' views.

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany?

I went to a fair on the East Haven Town Green and saw people on the front lawn of our church selling desserts. My friend Melanie and I went to talk and buy some snacks, and the rest is history.

In what ways do you serve your church family or community?

I believe I serve our community by teaching young people to be kind to each other, respect themselves and others, while also teaching academics.

What's your favorite pastime?

I like to hike and take walks. I usually check out state parks because they are great places to be in nature and enjoy peace and quiet. I've even hiked a bit on the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut.

What's one thing about you that no one knows?

I was the first female volunteer firefighter in East Haven and fought many building and grass fires. My dad and then boyfriend, Dennis, fought fires along with me. As a little girl, I dreamed of being a firefighter, but only men were allowed into the brotherhood at that point. Being a firefighter was scary in the beginning, but people soon got used to seeing me at fires.

What brightens your day?

I love observing my son being successful and happy in life. He worked hard to obtain his degree in Computer Systems Information and is currently employed in his field. He has good friends by his side and, like me, enjoys hiking and relaxing in nature. He also bikes 4 to 8 miles every day in season.

What is your fondest childhood memory?

Spending time with my family. We didn't have a lot of money so we often enjoyed our backyard. My dad had a garden and I loved to spend time with him gardening. We also fed the wild birds in our yard. The birds began to feel very safe with us and I could walk among them without any of them flying away. My brother, sister, and I played softball, tag, and basketball with neighborhood friends and we were outside all day long.



2022 Diocesan Convention Report

Barbara Coulombe & Astrid Swanson

Around noon on Friday, November 4th, Astrid Swanson picked me up and drove us to Hartford for the Annual meeting of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. We successfully parked the car and found the route up the escalators to the top floor of the Convention Center! After checking in and registering, we discovered our Bishops were walking around chatting with early arrivals. Astrid whipped out her cell phone camera and took pics of us with them. Bishop Jeffery Mello was a delight to meet and even suggested the selfie!



The first session began at 2pm and both the Budget of Convention and the Clergy Compensation Resolutions passed after some minimal discussions. The highlight of the afternoon was Bishop Mello's address to all attending the event. We strongly encourage you to watch it on Youtube. You can find his remarks here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll-rxPndVwU>

On Saturday, we felt assured as we now knew our way around and easily found our way to the Continental Breakfast on the Balcony. Following breakfast, we convened for the second Business Session. The third resolution adopted was "Expressing Sorrow for Past Statements that Harmed Indigenous People". The Reparations Task Force showed a wonderful video for their report which inspired Astrid and I to attend a meeting presented by two native American women who explained hardships and the unjust stories in their family histories.

The two final resolutions adopted involved the Mergers of St. John the Evangelist, Yalesville with Grace and St. Peter's, Hamden and St. Peter's, Monroe with Grace, Trumbull. Representatives from each parish spoke and explained how the mergers came to be and how they are working out God's mission together.

The luncheon was not the usual box one, but rather a formal dining experience in the ballroom of delectable food - especially the chocolate mousse pie!

Before closing the Convention Bishop Jeffery Mello gave a wonderful message to us all. He encouraged us to "be a people of integrity, be who God called you to be, and to be good to yourself and to one another. Above all, remember that God loves you abundantly and so do I. I know you are exhausted - stop right now and take a deep breath because of all the work you're doing at your church. I know how hard everyone is working. I'm listening. Take care of one another, extend grace and mercy to one another, and be kind to one another. Let us be trendsetters of mercy, love, and kindness in this world."



History Nook: The Christmas Creche

Audrey Sundwall

We are blessed at Christ and The Epiphany Church with a beautiful Christmas Creche which reminds us of “the reason for the season.” On Christmas Eve, the creche is placed in the chancel and filled with the supporting characters. The central figure, the Baby Jesus, is placed on the Altar. During the service, Jesus is ceremonially placed in his manger, and the Christmas Story starts anew. (By the way, the three Wise Men may seem to be missing, but they are placed elsewhere in the church, and advance toward the creche until they reach it on Epiphany.)

Our creche was handmade by Father John A. Budding, the first rector of Christ and The Epiphany Church. It actually was given in 1960 in memory of Walter B. Smith, who was a member of Christ Church before the merger. After Father Budding crafted the creche for the church, he made some smaller versions for home use. My family was lucky enough to have one of those small ones, so seeing the creche in church on Christmas Eve brings back loving memories for me.



Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	OCT	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$10,519.60	\$3,393.60	\$82,479.24	\$3,150.74
EXPENSES	\$7,246.13	(\$910.87)	\$90,816.60	\$6,809.60
NET	\$3,273.47	\$4,304.47	(\$8,337.36)	(\$3,658.86)

Income was over budget in October because a few rental groups paid their rent early so it is a timing change and does not represent an actual net increase in income. On the expense side our building maintenance continues to be over budget but we are saving in personnel employer costs so in the balance we ended up under budget on the expense side.

Worship Schedule (9:00 a.m.)

	<u>December 4</u>	<u>December 11</u>	<u>December 18</u>	<u>December 24</u> <i>(4pm)</i>
Usher	Audrey Sundwall	Pat Walters	Barbara Parsons	Diane Villano
Officiant	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lay Reader	Gail Beck	Wendy Bellmore	Richard Mead	Barbara Parsons
Crucifer	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe
Acolyte	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall
Lead Counter	George Coulombe	Astrid Swanson	Pat Walters	Susan Shultz
Asst Counter	Richard Mead	George Coulombe	Melanie Miller	Audrey Sundwall

Zoom Worship Connection Information

To connect by computer click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9933030663?pwd=VnU2RjAxZDg0WWcvbVA4RHdOd3ZUUT09>

To join by phone call:

929-436-2866

Meeting ID = 763 909 4733

Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin please contact Diane in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 860-669-1104 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

39 Park Place
East Haven, CT 06512

Phone: 203-467-2310

Email: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: www.christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship
In-person with social distancing and optional masking

*(See the newsletter, our website, or Facebook page for
Zoom connection information details.)*