



# CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 29

November 2025



## Living a Life of Christian Stewardship

*Give thanks to God, bless His name” (Psalm 100:4)*

Thanksgiving is the one holiday where everyone in our nation, regardless of our differences, gives thanks for our many blessings. How amazing would it be if everyone lived every day of their life like it was Thanksgiving? That is precisely what a faithful Christian steward is called to do.

As Christians striving to live a life of stewardship, we are called to give thanks in all that we do throughout the year. Sure, we remember to say our blessing before meals and give thanks at Services, but do we remember to thank God daily for our family, friends, life and the gifts and talents He generously gave us?

Life gets messy and hectic, especially around the holidays and it is easy to forget to thank God for all the blessings in our life. It is difficult to remember gratitude and generosity as we navigate our daily routines. As faithful

stewards, we are called to undergo ongoing conversion and make an effort every day to appreciate God’s gifts, nurture them and share them willingly and generously.

We may ask ourselves, why is it so important to be grateful? Thanksgiving is a consistent theme throughout the Bible. Scripture is overflowing with a call to give thanks to our Lord always and in everything.

St. Paul was passionate about giving thanks to our Lord. He reminds us in almost every letter he wrote that we are called to be thankful to God in all aspects of our life. Consider these examples for your Thanksgiving reflection:  
*1 Corinthians 1:4, 2 Corinthians 9:11, Ephesians 5:20, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 1:3, 2 Thessalonians 2:13 and 1 Chronicles 16:34.*

Have you ever noticed the number of times we thank God during a Communion Service? From the Gloria to our responses to the readings, we are giving thanks to God. During the Eucharistic prayer, we respond “It is right to give him thanks and praise.” We are also reminded that Jesus gave thanks before breaking the bread at the Last Supper. The word “Eucharist” comes from the Greek word “eucharistia,” which can be

## Worship Services

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

## Events

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**, Tuesday, November 25, 7:00 p.m. at Our lady of Pompeii.

**Ecumenical Advent Bible Study**, Wednesdays starting November 19, 12:15 p.m. [see schedule for locations]

*(Zoom connection information at the end of newsletter.)*

translated to “thanksgiving.” The Service ends with a final sending of “Go in peace ...” where we the faithful reply, “Thanks be to God.” With God, there are no coincidences.

It is right and just to give the Lord thanks. God has blessed each of us in so many ways, let’s remember to embrace an attitude of gratitude in all that we do every day.

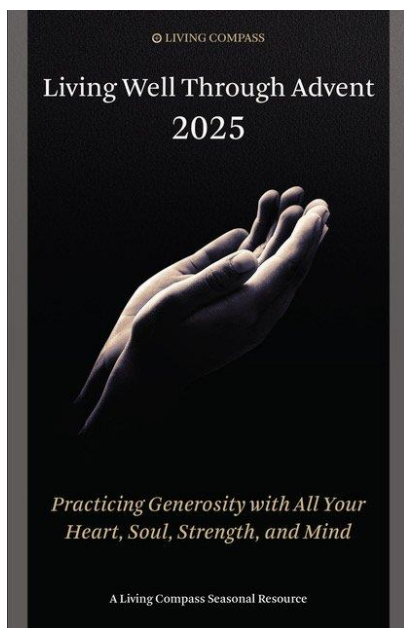
*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you -- 1Thessalonians 5:18.*

*-- Shannon Roh is the Executive Director of the Office of Development and Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Mobile.*

## Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service & Advent Bible Study

This year's Ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be held on Tuesday Nov 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Pompeii on Foxon Road. Please join us for this event and celebrate our community of faith.

Also during Advent there will be an ecumenical bible study on Wed at 12:15pm. See the schedule at end of newsletter.



## Living Well Through Advent

The 2025 Living Well Through Advent devotional booklets from Living Compass are available in English and Spanish on the stair landings and in the Narthex. This year's theme is practicing generosity with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. The booklet is also available in digital format and as a PDF document at [livingcompass.org/Advent](http://livingcompass.org/Advent).

## Christmas Fair

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Fair will be **Sat Dec 6th** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed! All sign-up sheets are on the Christmas Fair Board in the Upper Hall. Please take a minute to write down how you can help!

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, (which would be used as a decoration on the day of the fair, then you take it home) please sign up on the upper hall bulletin board by Sunday, November 16th. (Payment to be made the day of the Fair.)

We still need the following donations (as soon as possible please)

- \* Scratch lottery tickets for lottery tree (unscratched)
- \* Gift certificates for raffle tree. Ask at your favorite store, hairdresser, restaurant, etc. Give these to Ken or Kathy Dougherty. (They also have donation letters if you need one).
- \* Bake table items - cookies, breads, pies, etc.

Set-up for the fair will be on Dec 5th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. There are signs to make and hang, baked goods to be packaged, etc. Everything must be completed by end of day on Friday.

Any questions please contact a Fair Committee member. Carol Link-Ude, Barbara Parsons. Audrey Sundwall, Melanie Miller and Paul Barrett.

**SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!**

## Around the Church

New ECCT sign



Flowers in front yard



Dr. Seuss Xmas signs



Blessing of the Animals



Note: The driveway (south) door will now be locked on Sundays for increased security. The front and north doors will remain unlocked and open.

## 47 Park Place

### Painting News

You may have noticed that 47 Park Place has the primer coat on three sides, thanks to the very hard work of some C&E parishioners and friends. In the spring the rest of the primer will be applied, and the top coat will be done.

Painters will be needed for the house and the windows, once the weather warms up enough. If you are unable to paint, you can still help out. The paint cost about \$800.00, which is not in the 2025 budget. If you would like to donate toward the expense, please include a note on the memo part of your check indicating that it is toward the house painting.

2026 will mark our country's 250th birthday. It will be nice to have the house looking its best for events that take place on the Green.



Nov 4 - James Reynolds  
Nov 8 - Fred Walters  
Nov 9 - Carol Link-Ude  
Nov 10 - Ray Clearwater  
Nov 11 - Anthony Reckart  
Nov 13 - Andrew Osmun  
Nov 24 - Lucas Sundwall  
Nov 30 - Stephen Juhasz

## Around the Church

### Blessing of the Animals



## October Vestry Meeting

**Next Meeting** - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, November 16th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

**Senior Warden** - We will pursue getting free active shooter training and will now keep the driveway door locked on Sundays.

**Worship** - Removed the COVID restrictions from the Sunday bulletin cover page. Confirmed there is no ECCT policy restriction on how consecrated wine is allowed to be distributed in other than the Common Cup. Working on proper disposal of worn prayer books and hymnals.

**Building & Grounds** - 47 Park Place is primed on three sides and topcoat will be done in the Spring. The annual furnace maintenance will be happening soon - we expect there to be some extra work needed but will see how things play out. We have a wedding reception scheduled for the Great Hall.

**Treasurer** - Q3 contribution statements were sent out. The 2024 audit is still being worked on. Sorry it is overdue.

**Altar Guild** - Audrey Sundwall sewed a new lining for the tabernacle where reserved sacrament is kept. Thank you Audrey!

**Thrift Store** - The Thrift Store has had multiple great weeks - each bringing in over \$500! Diane Villano also sold two high end pocketbooks (one a Tiffany!) on eBay for \$174.

## Encouraging Words

Audrey Sundwall

Rejoice always, and pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

--1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

--1 Chronicles 16:34

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.

--Psalm 100:4

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.

--Hebrews 12:28-29

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

--Colossians 3:15

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

--Psalm 95:1-2

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

--1 Peter 4:10



## ECCT's 241st Annual Convention

ECCT's 2025 annual convention took place the last weekend of October. The theme was "Growing in Faith, Living in Hope, Serving in Love."

Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello's address from the Convention's Saturday morning Eucharist is now available on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EG9vAzZbO4>

### Stay connected with ECCT!

Stay connected with the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) and receive bi-weekly e-news as well as occasional special news and updates via email. Sign up: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/Lsqyl8J>



Thanks to Shirley Ostrander 01-1  
HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

**Next Issue** The deadline for the December issue is Nov 18th. Send submissions to [newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com). For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310 or email [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com).

## Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alexis, Amanda, Amy, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Beth Flynn, Brandon, Carol Ude, Charlie & Kris Langlan, David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Debbie, Donna Hodge & Family, Dot Logan, Doug, Ed, Elaine, Ellen McDonald, Erick Villano, Family in Ukraine, Francesca, Gail, Gail & Marnie, Geneva O'Donnell, Hal Levi, Holly Chickos, Holly, Jan McDonald, Jim R. & Family, Joan Shaffner, Judy C., Kathy, Kathy Guida, Kira, Korey Mollor, Kris, Larry L., Lauren, Lucas Sundwall, Rev. Lucy, Matt R., Maureen McPherson, Mike, Michael M., Mila, Minogue Family, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Rachael, Regina Schwall, Richard Testa, Sallie Alexander, Sam W., 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.



## Parishioner Spotlight - Anthony Reckart

### Tell us about your immediate family and pets

At this point in life, my family is quite small and quiet. Here in CT, my wife, Jena, and I have lived in the East Haven and East Shore area since 2003. We currently have a one year old tornado of a puppy named Aurora who loves to keep us and our cat, Nadja, on our toes. They are both very sweet and give us lots of love to be thankful for.

It wasn't always just the two of us. Our son, Anthony Wolfgang, whom we called Wolf, passed at the age of 27 in a car accident in California in July of 2020. Wolf was an amazing man. He was loved and lived a full life every second of those 27 years. He may have been one of the most genuine people I have ever known. Truly unique. But also kind, generous, loving, and honest in his own right.



### What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany?

My whole life has been a long spiritual journey of seeking and absorbing all of the various faiths of mankind. In the early 2000's, I embarked on a serious pursuit to find the origin of human spirituality. What did I find? The Golden Rule and my initial love for the faith I was born into. I did research into which Christian denomination would resonate best with my combined beliefs and the Episcopal church turned out to be what I was looking for. When deciding on a church to start attending, I had the gut feeling that Christ and the Epiphany would be welcoming and have found a spiritual home here.

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

I am honored to serve the church and the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit every Sunday in whatever capacity I can; as a Lay Reader, Presider, Drummer, or Parishioner. I wish I had time to devote all of my waking hours to the mission of our church, community, and ECCT. In fact, I dream of leaving my 26 year career in television behind every single day and going to Divinity School to become ordained or a Chaplain, or both; such as our beloved Rev. Charles. In fact, I hope to speak with Bishop Jeff and Reverend Hatch about this soon (with Charles' blessing!). I live to serve Christ for the remainder of my time here on this Earthly plane.

### What is your occupation?

As mentioned above, I have been in television production for 26 years. I worked for the Home Shopping Network in Saint Petersburg, FL and I came to ESPN in 2003, where I still work as a Studio Camera Operator. My favorite job, however, was as a Jungle Skipper on the World Famous Jungle Cruise in Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom; where I took 32 passengers on a 10 minute boat ride through contrived jungle scenes filled with animatronic animals and told them really horrible puns and jokes that were written in the 1960s. That was so incredibly fun.

### What's your favorite pastime?

I have been a musician my whole life. Drums have been my main instrument for playing with others but I play many other instruments as well; guitar, bass, mandolin, banjo, lap steel, and a little bit of piano. I also write songs and sing. I have been in bands and performing since I was 16 years old. Music has been a real gift in my life. I cannot say where this talent comes from as I do not know how to read music, nor have I taken any music theory courses. I am mainly self-taught and pick things up by ear or simply pick up an instrument and play whatever comes out of me. I give the credit of this gift solely to the grace of God.

### What's one thing about you that no one at church knows?

I am the youngest child of five children. I was an unexpected miracle baby, which has lead me to wonder what my purpose in this world is supposed to be my whole life.

**What is your fondest childhood memory?**

My Grandmother was the most saintly person I have ever known in my life. I love her dearly. Lately, I have been thinking about the memory of a small version of me at my Grandmother's home, reading her Bible, on the backstops of a little pink house, in South Lakeland, FL. I was very young, perhaps between 6 to 10 years old, and my passion for becoming a Franciscan Friar was just as weighty and consuming as was my love of playing my drum set. I read the Gospels... well... religiously. I felt it deep in my heart that it was to be my calling and my future.

**What brightens your day?**

Smiles and humor and hugs and positivity. These are the joys of this world. Tell the ones you love how special they are, always. Tell them they are needed, wanted, required, and most of all loved. This will keep you on the path to righteousness and, hopefully, them as well.

**Do you have any favorite psalms, Bible passages, or inspirational sources?**

The Life of Saint Anthony of the Desert is very important to me. I have read it many, many, many times. I relate to him on a deeply personal level and find his life incredibly inspiring.

**Message from our Bishops**

ECCT - October 31, 2025

Greetings Faithful Members of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut,

Tomorrow, November 1, unless there is action by our elected officials in the federal government, millions of people around our country, and approximately 360,000 people here in Connecticut, will lose access to critical food assistance benefits, referred to as SNAP.

As I said in my address to you at Convention, as the support networks and safety nets of our civil common life seem to crumble and fail, we as faithful followers of Jesus Christ, must respond. The food pantries and feeding programs located in congregations across the Diocese are preparing for a spike in need while already overwhelmed by the need they have been seeing and working faithfully to meet.

I am grateful to the Deacons of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut who have been raising awareness and sharing resources that the hungry among us might be fed.

If you find yourself in need of food assistance, please contact your local Episcopal Church, Connecticut Foodshare, or call 211. If you are wondering how to help in this moment, you can give financially to your local Food Ministry or to Connecticut Foodshare; you can donate food to your local food pantry and you can volunteer. I have included links in the comments below to connect you to these ministries.

And you can pray. Pray that the hungry will be fed, and pray that our elected leaders will find a way forward without harming the most vulnerable among us in their negotiations.

In Matthew 25, the question is asked, "Lord, when did we see you hungry...and not minister to you?" In this time, may God give us the will and the courage to see the hungry among us today, and to respond in faith.

God Bless You, and Thank You,

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello  
Bishop Diocesan



## Prayer of General Thanksgiving from The Book of Common Prayer

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.

## Ecumenical Advent Bible Study Schedule

*Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.*

- \* Nov 19 - Our Lady of Pompeii - Luke 23:33-43
- \* Nov 26 - Christ & The Epiphany\* - Matthew 24:36-44  
(\*led by Barbara Coulombe)
- \* Dec 3 - Old Stone - Matthew 3:1-12
- \* Dec 10 - Old Stone - Matthew 11:2-11
- \* Dec 17 - St. Vincent - Matthew 1:18-25

## Stewardship Susan Shultz

It may seem obvious that the themes of Thanksgiving and Stewardship go hand in hand. One of the best ways to show thanks to God for all he has done for us is to use his gifts to be good stewards of his world. This can take the form of volunteering or providing financial assistance with projects that protect our neighbors and physical world.

Another foundation of stewardship is the acknowledgement that everything we have comes from our Creator and thus giving it back to him is another expression of thanks and humility.

Lastly, we can think about how stewardship of our parish can give praise to God and provide a physical beacon and symbol of God's love in the world. Having a place where everyone is welcomed and can find refuge can feel almost rebellious in these times.

November is stewardship month and as we prepare for next year's budget, spend some time praying on how you can be a good steward of God's gifts and kingdom.



## ECCT 2024-2025 Prayer Cycle



<b>November 2</b>	<b>Parishes:</b> Emmanuel, Weston; Christ & Holy Trinity, Westport <b>Additionally:</b> The health & well-being of persons employed by The Episcopal Church. For the Presiding Bishop & the President of the House of Deputies <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> Church of the Province of West Africa
<b>November 9</b>	<b>Parishes:</b> Trinity, Wethersfield; St. Paul's, Willimantic; St. Matthew's, Wilton <b>Additionally:</b> All deacons & the Deacons' Council. For the Province I School for Deacons <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> The Church in the Province of the West Indies
<b>November 16</b>	<b>Parishes:</b> St. Paul's, Windham; Grace Church, Windsor; St. James', Winsted <b>Additionally:</b> Ministries with older adults. For the Brotherhood of St. Andrew & the Daughters of the King <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria
<b>November 23</b>	<b>Parishes:</b> All Saints', Wolcott; St. Paul's, Woodbury; Grace, Yantic <b>Additionally:</b> The Program & Budget Committee. For the Faith & Order Commission <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia
<b>November 30</b>	<b>Parishes:</b> Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam; Christ Church, Bethany <b>Additionally:</b> Postulants & candidates for Holy Orders; the Commission on Ministry & its members. <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

## Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	SEP	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$ 8,519.76	(\$ 2,446.57)	\$ 94,893.00	\$ 5,923.53
EXPENSES	\$12,909.51	(\$ 2,648.96)	\$101,248.02	(\$ 2,868.51)
NET	(\$ 4,389.75)	\$ 202.39	(\$ 6,355.02)	\$ 8,792.04

Notes: For the month of September we were exceedingly close to budget (\$202 discrepancy). While we were a little short in income (no September special gifts) we broke even due to savings in our expenses (building maintenance and insurance). Overall we continue to work each month to reduce our projected YTD deficit of \$13,500 (of which we are currently beating by \$8,000 - yea!).

### SAFE CHURCH TRAINING SCHEDULE (NOV-DEC)

Safe Church Certification is a requirement of The Episcopal Church for all persons serving in these roles/areas: Acolyte, Altar Guild, Bible Study, Communications, Crucifer, Fund Raising, Hospitality, Lay Reader, Music, Officiant, Pastoral Visitor, Property Management, Technology, Thrift Store, Treasurer, Usher, Warden, or Worship Committee. Comprehensive trainings take about five hours to complete and are done once. Recertification training is done every three years after the comprehensive training is completed.

Nov 9, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. - Comprehensive via Zoom

Nov 22, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - Recertification via Zoom

December 4, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. - Comprehensive via Zoom

December 16, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - Recertification via Zoom

Register online at [www.episcopalct.org](http://www.episcopalct.org)

## Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)

	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
Service	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
Presider/ Officiant	Rev. Charles Kamano	Terry Osmun	Rev. Charles Kamano	Rev. Juan Martinez	Rev. Charles Kamano
Crucifer	George Coulombe		Kristina Langlan	George Coulombe	Kristina Langlan
Acolyte	Kristina Langlan		Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe	Kristina Langlan
Lay Reader	Evelyn Conant	Audrey Sundwall	Anthony Reckart	Barbara Parsons	Brad Conant
Usher	Audrey Sundwall	Wendy Bellmore	Barbara Parsons	Ken Dougherty Kathy Dougherty	Diane Villano
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz	Astrid Swanson	George Coulombe	Susan Shultz	Astrid Swanson
Asst Counter	Audrey Sundwall	Melanie Miller	Barbara Coulombe	Evelyn Conant	Audrey Sundwall

### Clergy, Vestry and Staff

Priest-in-charge	Rev. Charles L. Kamano
Senior Warden	Diane Villano
Junior Warden	Barbara Parsons (& Outreach)
Treasurer	Susan Shultz (& Technology)
Clerk	Kristina Langlan
Vestry Member	Ray Clearwater
Vestry Member	Carol Link-Ude (& Altar Guild; Hospitality & Fund Raising)
Vestry Member	Astrid Swanson
Vestry Member	Pat Walters
Vestry Member	Brad Conant
Music Director	Barbara Coulombe
Parish Administrator	Diane Rowley

ECCT continues to experience a shortage of supply clergy for Sunday services. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving at C&E, please contact the office at [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com).

To connect by computer, enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>, or click on the link on our webpage: [www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org](http://www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org)

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 Rowley in the office at 203-467-2310 or [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com). If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 203-589-1142 or [sbshultz@gmail.com](mailto:sbshultz@gmail.com).

# **Christ and The Epiphany Church**

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## **Worship Schedule**

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship