



Episcopal Church of the Advent
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Dear Friends,

I bring great news from the Episcopal Church: for the second year in a row, Sunday attendance has increased across our denomination! People across the country are finding renewed meaning and purpose in our Episcopal communities.

Here at Church of the Advent, we too are seeing new faces in worship. A number of people who were not with us last year are now attending regularly. You know why this church matters to you—and sharing that with others is the best form of evangelism. When you tell your friends, neighbors, and family why Advent is special, you invite them into something life-giving. As our church grows, our ministry is strengthened and the future of Advent is ensured.

As we invite others to join us, whether for worship or parish events, we extend Christ's love to our wider community. It's important that we welcome visitors warmly and help them feel at home. (We have a new parish ministry of greeters to help with that, but really, that's something we can all do.) Even more importantly, we want to connect newcomers to the life of the church—inviting them to fellowship opportunities, encouraging them to attend our men's and women's groups, and asking if they'd like to serve in Sunday ministries.

That same spirit of care extends to our homebound members as well. We are deeply blessed by the ministry of Deacon Charlene, who coordinates visits and pastoral care for those unable to attend in person. Her leadership of our weekly women's Bible study and her oversight of the Eucharistic Visitors program are wonderful examples of how God continues to call gifted people to Advent to share in our work and witness.

As a church in a town that receives many visitors, it's easy to assume that everyone is just dropping by for the day. But people move here often—help them become part of our church family. Evangelism, hospitality, and pastoral care together are the best ways to secure the long-term health of a parish.

Our annual stewardship campaign concludes this month. Each of us contributes to making Advent a wonderful place to worship. I invite you to prayerfully consider how you can share your gifts of time, talent, and treasure with Advent. Please return your pledge cards by Sunday, November 30, so we can plan responsibly for next year and continue our ministry for the glory of God's kingdom.

Yours in Christ,
Alan+

DEACON'S DESK

Fall is in full swing and it has begun with a flurry of renewed activity. Committees have resumed their regular meeting schedules, Sunday school has begun and the children are back! Our choir is back to full voice (a real joy) and we are looking forward to the holiday season! The Cape May Ministerium is planning their annual Thanksgiving Service (more news of that soon) and God is showing us the power, majesty and beauty of His creation. We only need to look at a sunrise or sunset to know our God and his wonderful might!

We find ourselves living out an evolving life of renewal! God is change and we are all growing and ever changing! The moment we are living now will never be again and we will never be the same either. Our lives, our Church, our community and our world is like the Maple tree! Each season brings change and purpose but it is always God's beautiful creation, growing and changing to serve God's people!

Let us learn to be transformed by the way we show up in our day-to-day lives! Be that beautiful Maple tree.

Blessings,

Charlene

OUR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Dear Friends,

Our Stewardship campaign is a chance to reflect on the many ways that we are connected to each other. Our theme this year, "Tell out my soul", focuses on the stories we tell and the ways we are called to share our words, our actions, our love, and our joy with each other in church, with our neighbors, and with the world. This year, we are assaulted daily with the news of nasty politics, ever-shifting economic forecasts, multiple conflicts, disasters, and unresolved issues that cause an ongoing malaise of turmoil. It seems that the one comforting constant has been the connections we have formed here in our church. Come in and embrace this community of God's people.

Our stories bring us together. Each of us has a unique story to tell, a reason why we found this congregation and continue to participate. Some of our stories reflect the transformational gift of the "Good News". Other stories tell of inspiration, strength, forgiveness, abundance, and other blessings we have received from God. One of the parts of the Good News is that we can bring our whole selves, all of our story, to this place and to these people and be given support, encouragement, and the light of our Lord's love for us.

In mid-November we will be sending pledge information for you to use in your discernment of how you will share your blessings with us and our neighbors. Each hour spent volunteering and each dollar that you donate to our Church of the Advent is transformed into ministry and mission as we follow Jesus and demonstrate love and compassion for our neighbors.

Please return your pledge "cards" by NOVEMBER 30TH so that the Finance Committee, Treasurer, and Vestry can formulate the budget for 2026 before the end of the year.

Your prayers, your presence, your pledges, and your participation enrich our lives together and enable our mission as Christians.

Thank you!

Joel Rutenberg
Stewardship Chairman

CHARITABLE GIVING THROUGH AN IRA

Did you know that you can make a charitable contribution directly to Church of the Advent from your IRA, and the contribution will not count toward your income for tax purposes? The American Taxpayer Relief Act allows an individual who is eligible to make an IRA withdrawal, to have all or part of a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) sent directly to a charity—this is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). By doing so, the QCD is not included in taxable income. Many people today take the standard deduction so charitable contributions, that do not cause the standard deduction to be exceeded, have no tax benefit but, because they do not increase income, they might minimize Medicare premiums. Plus, our church will receive your entire contribution without taxes being withheld. Making a QCD is not a complicated financial transaction. If you have not taken your RMD this year, you might want to discuss this with your financial advisor.

- Joy Wadleigh

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00 PM at the home of Jack and Lorraine Shaw. The book for discussion is Table for Two by Amor Towles. There is no meeting in December. In book to be discussed in January is Bound for the Promised Land, by Kate Clifford Larson.

Below is a list of the books to be discussed for the 2026 year.

January 12, 2026	Bound for the Promised Land	Kate Clifford Larson
February 9, 2026	Deacon King Cong	James McBride
March 9, 2026	Inventions of Wings	Sue Kidd Monk
June 8, 2026	Slaves and the Family	Edward Ball

All are welcome. For more information please call Lynda Cogswell at 609-884-6675.

ADVENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Scholarship Committee has engaged in a rewarding season during 2025. The highlight of accomplishment is the long-awaited creation of the Evelyn McCoy Scholarship. Several years ago, the Outreach Committee accepted donations in honor of Evie McCoy, a career educator and active member of the Advent family. The goal was to provide financial support to a student entering college in pursuit of a degree in

Education. This year, the Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the award of the Evelyn McCoy Scholarship to a worthy candidate who fulfills this requirement. The scholarship reward is renewable during the term of the undergraduate program, as it will be matched with funds from the Sunday School Scholarship.

Scholarship recipients during the 2025-2026 term are: Colin Kirk (*Frances McDougal*, University of Vermont), Isaiah Kohler (*Frances McDougal*, Essex Community College), Julia LaVance (*Evelyn McCoy*, The College of New Jersey), Kona Wong (*Sunday School*, Temple University/Japan), Leilani Wong (*Sunday School*, Temple University/Japan).

Many thanks are extended to members of the committee for their dedication in support of scholarship candidates: Trish Andrzejczak, Marrie Cassidy, Anna DeForest, Pam Kelly, Fr. Alan Leonard, Larry Morier. Embracing the continued success of our ministry, Barbara Smith, Chairperson.

SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The Outreach Committee will be collecting for Seamen's Institute from November 1-30. Seamen's collects personal care and cold weather clothing items for international sailors who arrive in the Port of Philadelphia. Many of these folks do not have the paperwork that would allow them to leave their ship to even purchase a tube of toothpaste. See the list below for items to donate.

SEAFARERS WISH LIST

Knitted Hat & Scarf in dark colors
Razor & Shaving Cream
Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Shampoo & Comb
Work Socks & Work Gloves
Deodorant
Mini Sewing Kit

Chap Stick
Nail Clippers
Playing Cards, puzzles
Hand lotion
Hard or boxed candy
Cough Drops, gum
Pen & Stationary

Full sizes for toiletries

Founded in 1843, the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) serves the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of 35,000 visiting seafarers on 1,500+ ships docking at terminals along the Delaware River in PA and NJ on a yearly basis. Every December SCI's chaplains and ship visitors distribute around 2,200 Christmas Ditty Bags to the merchant mariners who will be at sea during the Christmas Holidays. Our Ditty Bags bring real joy to the brave men who spend 9-10 months at sea bringing us the things we need for our everyday lives. For some, this is the only Christmas gift they receive. Imagine your Christmas morning...far away from your family, friends and familiar surroundings. Now, imagine how happy it would make *you* to find a bag of necessities, packed by people sharing in God's love, on Christmas morning! We hope you will be able to help our seafarers.

Please place your donations in the box in the church vestibule or drop off in the Parish Hall during office hours by November 30, 2025. We are grateful for any contributions you may donate.

CARING FOR KIDS GIVING TREES

The Outreach Committee will again have the giving trees for Caring for Kids of Cape May. Trees will be set up by Sunday, November 23 so you can start picking up ornaments with holiday wishes for local kids who might otherwise not find anything under the tree on Christmas morning. Thank for your continued support of these important ministries.

-Pam Kelly, Chairperson

November Birthday Celebrations

November Anniversary Celebrations

1	Frank Garcia	3	Jason & Kathryn Brown
2	Colin Ginder	8	Dale & Joanne Morrison
10	Kitty Garcia	22	Corbin & Lynda Cogswell
12	Dale Morrison		
19	Lew Price		
20	Savannah Brown		
23	Donafaye Burke		
25	Dwight Coleman		
30	Jane Carol Wilson		

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday: The Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

The 10:30 service is also livestreamed on YouTube

Wednesday: Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday: The Holy Eucharist at 12:00 Noon



ECW Christmas Bazaar

Dec. 6 from 10:00 to 2:30

It's time for our annual Christmas Bazaar! It is an old-fashioned church bazaar with everything handmade and/or donated by the good people of Church of the Advent. As usual, we need your help to make this fund-raising effort a success.

Please bring your donations starting Nov. 30 and continuing all week from 9-1. On Monday we will be decorating and pulling things out. We will be sorting and pricing on Tuesday through Friday. Here's what we need:

Soup-to-go: donations of homemade soups. Last year we had 15 different kinds of homemade soup and we sold it all. Contact Joel Rutenberg and he will tell you when to bring it. Dave Hammond is his partner.

Baked Goods: Do you bake? Barbara Smith will let you know what you can donate and how best to package it. Joy Wadleigh will help Barbara at the bazaar. (Make sure you label your cookies clearly so that we know whether they are for this table or for the MAC house tour.)

Crafts and Handmade needlework: If you are into crafts and needle work, please consider making something for this table. The Santa at the top of this page is a product of our Craft Group. There are lots of really good things to sell. Contact Kathe Christensen for additional information (adventsecretary@comcast.net or 609-884-3065).

BASKETS: Sharon Werth, is in charge of the Gift Baskets at the Chance Table. Please call her to tell her what gift basket you are donating. If you can't make a basket but still want to help, you might donate to someone else's basket. Let Sharon know.

Collectibles and Antiques: We are looking for new or gently used items that you would love to keep if only you had room or maybe you changed the color scheme, and they don't match anymore. Call Lynda Cogswell to discuss. Her helpers are Susie Reckord and Jo Ann Price.

Jewelry: This is a great time to clean out your jewelry box and donate those gems that you haven't worn for a while. Regina Dougherty-McCarren (twgables@verizon.net) can answer your questions.

CHRISTMAS PASTS: Please consider looking through your gently used decorations for things that are still good but you want a new look! Richard Hudson will look forward to your donations.

Thanks to the ECM, we have some men not assigned yet, but willing to help. We will certainly need them during the week and at the sale. Contact Carol Obligado at 609-972-1820 or cobligado@aol.com if you have questions or want to donate your time at the bazaar.

PS: Our Fabulous Pecans are again for sale!!! Contact Glenda Unzelmann (443-243-7615) to order them.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CHURCH OF THE ADVENT	NOVEMBER 2025					1
2 Pentecost 21 Holy Eucharist -8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Classical Cape May Concert -4:00 PM-Reception after	3 ECW Crafts -4:00 PM-Parish Hall Bible Study -7:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	4	5 Office Closed Advent Walkers -8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer -9:30 AM	6 Holy Eucharist- Noon	7	8
9 Pentecost 22 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com Livestream at 10:30	10 ECW Crafts -4:00 PM-Parish Hall Bible Study -7:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	11 Men's Breakfast -8:00 AM-Parish Hall Advent Book Club -7:00 PM-	12 Office Closed Advent Walkers -8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer -9:30 AM Confirmation Class -7:00 PM-Parish Hall	13 Holy Eucharist- Noon	14	15
16 Pentecost 23 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Vestry Mtg -Noon	17 Outreach Com. Mtg -3:00 PM-Parish Hall ECW Crafts -4:00 PM-Parish Hall Bible Study -7:30-8:00 PM via Zoom	18	19 Office Closed Advent Walkers -8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer -9:30 AM Confirmation Class -7:00 PM-Parish Hall	20 ECW Meeting – 10:30 AM – Parish Hall Holy Eucharist- Noon	21	22
23 Last Pentecost Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	24 ECW Crafts -4:00 PM-Parish Hall Bible Study -7:30-8:00 PM via Zoom	25	26 Office Closed Advent Walkers -8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer -9:30 AM	27 Holy Eucharist- Noon Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 Advent 1 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30						