



Episcopal Church of the Advent
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Volume 46 Number 10 October 2026

Dear Friends,

The theme of this year's stewardship campaign is "Plenty Good Room." It comes from an old spiritual and reminds us that there is always room in God's house for more—more people, more gifts, more ideas, and more opportunities to serve. I think it is a particularly good theme for Advent as we consider where we are as a parish and where God may be calling us next.

Last month I wrote about the two sides of financial stewardship: using our resources wisely while also investing in the things that make a healthy parish possible. This month, as we begin our annual stewardship campaign, I want to talk more directly about how each of us supports the work of Advent.

Much of Advent's ministry happens because you give your time and talent—serving in worship, visiting our shut-ins, participating on committees and in our fundraisers, and organizing fellowship and outreach. Thank you for all that you do.

Our financial giving makes that ministry possible as well. Pledges are particularly important because they give the vestry a realistic idea of the resources we will have in the coming year. That allows us to plan not only for the bills we have to pay, but for the ministry we want to do.

As you consider your pledge, I encourage you to think about the biblical tradition of the tithe—giving ten percent to God. The point of the tithe is not simply the number. It reminds us that what we have is a gift from God and asks us to make giving a real part of how we use what we have. Ten percent may not be possible for everyone, but the tithe gives us a place to begin thinking seriously about our own giving.

It is also worth looking at how long it has been since you changed your pledge. We all know how much the cost of everything has increased. The same is true for the church. A pledge that was generous ten or twenty years ago simply does not go as far today.

So I ask you to consider prayerfully whether you can increase your giving this year. Not everyone can, and every pledge is important and appreciated. But if many of us can increase our pledges even modestly, together that can make a substantial difference.

I also hope you will join us for our Stewardship Dinner on Friday, October 9, at 6:00 p.m. There is no charge for dinner. This is a chance for us to enjoy being together,

celebrate some of what we have accomplished at Advent, and talk about what our parish needs as we look to the future.

"Plenty Good Room" is ultimately about more than a stewardship campaign. It is about the kind of church we want to be—a church with room for those of us who are already here and room for those who have not yet walked through our doors.

As you complete your pledge card, please consider what you can give to help Advent continue its ministry and make room for what God may be calling us to do next.

Faithfully,
Alan+

FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

I am sitting here tonight listening to the gale force winds whipping around my house, reading all the warnings about flooding, and seeing the waves breaking on the beach. It is dark and cold. It makes me think about how life is sometimes.

Earlier today the wind was blowing, the warnings talked about the possibility of flooding, and the waves were breaking on the beach, but the sun was out and there was light. Earlier today I wasn't worried. I could see all that was out there. Truth be told, I enjoyed watching all that was happening. I was enjoying the sights and sounds of a storm at the beach! Tonight, not so much!

This made me think about our life in faith. We experience light and darkness, calm and storms, feast and famine, security and anxiety. We are called to three things in our life in Christ. First, we are called to rejoice in the light! Recognize the wonder and beauty of the present. Second, we are to trust our relationship with our God that has carried us through the darkness in the past to carry us in the storm and darkness.

Finally, we are called to give thanks with all that we have and all that we are, that we will be the light that shines in the darkness for others. Our time, talents, and treasure are all gifts to us, so that we can take to others the message of the living God by word AND example.

Give thanks always!!

Blessings,
Deacon Charlene

MAKING ROOM

Plenty Good Room is this year's theme from the Episcopal Network for Stewardship which reminds us of the abundance of God's gifts to us and the call of the Spirit to make more room in our hearts for gratitude, hospitality, love, generosity, and service. God's kingdom is not only revealed in mountaintop moments or holy days, but in the steady unfolding of daily life as we share a meal, teach our children, volunteer in our community, support a charity, help a neighbor, or support the many missions of our church.

Church of the Advent is our community dedicated to follow the teachings of Jesus and there is always Plenty Good Room to expand our individual commitments to those teachings to love God and neighbor. In this season of Pentecost, we are challenged to let the Spirit move through our own giving. Stewardship is not just about sustaining budgets; it is about igniting mission. Our pledges and offerings are not obligations -

they are fuel for the Spirit's fire, resources that help the Church proclaim God's abundance everywhere.

Please join your Advent community at our annual free (donated) Stewardship Dinner at 6 pm on Friday October 9th in the Parish Hall to share fellowship, review church finances, and offer your ideas about our community. Think about what God has done for you in your life and consider the value our church has for you. Make room in your hearts to share yourself with our Advent community by volunteering within the Church, by making a Pledge, and by donating to our Endowment Fund. Let us continue to sow the seeds of generosity as we trust that God will bring growth to our community and a harvest of grace.

-Joel Rutenberg, Stewardship Chairman

CHARITABLE GIVING THROUGH AN IRA

Did you know that you can make a charitable contribution directly to our Church from your IRA and that contribution NOT count toward your income for tax purposes? The American Taxpayer Relief Act allows an individual, eligible to make an IRA withdrawal, to have all or a 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 and, when you designate our Church, your entire contribution will be received without taxes being withheld. If you wish, your QCD this year may be credited toward your 2027 pledge and/or the endowment fund. 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.

-Your Finance Committee

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

One of the initiatives that our congregation supports through Outreach is the Collateral Repair Project in Jordan. We recently received a thank you email from the CEO, Amanda Lane. Her words really struck me. She wrote:

"You and your congregation have supported CRP for years now through this fund (Mustard Seed Jars). I don't think I say it enough, but that kind of steady, faithful giving means so much to us. It's not flashy, it just shows up, year after year, and that's exactly what makes it powerful.

Right now in Amman, that gift will go toward real things for real people: meals, classes, a safe place to land. Refugees and low income Jordanians walk through our doors every day looking for a little stability and a little hope, and your support is a big part of how we're able to give them that.

Thank you for seeing us and sticking with us. It means the world to us."

I loved that she made a point of recognizing the power of consistency. The Outreach Committee could not participate in the good works of helping those in need

locally, nationally, and internationally, without the consistent pledges of our parishioners. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by so many!

Thank you!

Pam Kelly, Outreach Committee Chair

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the home of Fred and Carol Obligado. How Ike Led by Susan Eisenhower is the book for discussion. New members are always welcome. Please join us.

Below is a list of the books to be discussed for the 2026-2027 year.

November 10, 2026	Project Hail Mary	Andy Weir
January 12, 2027	Say Nothing	Patrick Radden Keefe
February 16, 2027	We Did OK Kid	Anthony Hopkins
March 9, 2027	Becoming Madam Secretary	Stephanie Dray
April 13, 2027	Born a Crime	Trevor Nash
May 11, 2027	TBA	
June 8, 2027	TBA	

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

-Lynda Cogswell

ECW NEWS

ECW met on the third Thursday of September to plan our fall/winter season. Activities coming up include helping at our tables at the MAC Community Yard Sale on October 3 from 9:00-2:00. We are not asking for donations as we have plenty to sell and would ask that you keep donations for the Christmas Bazaar. If you would like to help at the sale which is at the Physics Estate, contact Peter Van Syckle or Joy Wadleigh. Also on October 11, we will host a "robust" coffee hour after the 10:30 service. Come and join the fun.

ECW will be doing receptions after the Classical Cape May concerts once a month from October through April. If you would like to help and/or donate baked goods, please sign up on the list on our bulletin board in the Parish Hall. The concerts are free and wonderful, so don't miss them.

We will once again be making Christmas baskets for our members who are housebound. This is a fun way of remembering them as we deliver them to their homes. More about this later.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is our Christmas Bazaar which is on December 5 from 10:00-2:30 in the Parish Hall. Our Crafts Group now meets in the Parish Hall on Mondays from 4:00-6:00 to make things to sell at the Handmade Table at the Bazaar. No experience is necessary. Please bring scissors. If you do crafts, knit or crochet at home, we'd love to have your donations.

Also, on December 5 we host the MAC Christmas House Tour. This involves providing hot drinks and cookies and a rest stop for those on the tour. The church is also open for the tour. We need volunteers to help do this. Please consider pitching in. We thank you for your help.

-Carol Obligado

LADIES, ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR

The ladies of the church are invited for light refreshments at the home of Joy Wadleigh, 1023 Washington Street, Cape May, on Tuesday, October 27 at 2:30 PM. We will be joined by our out-of-town friends visiting for a few days, Sharon Werth and ELCA's Mrs. Santa Claus, Barbara Vigliotti. Please RSVP: 239-948-2696.

-Joy Wadleigh

THANK YOU

Be the eye of God dwelling with you,
The foot of Christ in guidance with you,
The shower of the Spirit pouring on you...

To aid you and enfold you
Each day and night of your lives.

Sharing prayer with my church family is a sacred privilege in this life.

During a time of medical crisis, the Advent congregation rallied to offer respite care for me, recovering from a stroke and challenged by the role of caregiver following my husband's surgery soon after.

The spirit of the excerpts from this inspiring Celtic prayer reflects the definition of our church community. Prayers for God's healing, the model of Christ's love, and the guiding role of the Holy Spirit brought caring friends to our home for an hour each weekday afternoon over a span of nearly three weeks.

Expressions of love and kindness are themselves the power to heal, in body, mind, and spirit.

In appreciation of the entire Advent Family with special thanks to our visitors: Richard Hudson, Fr, Alan Leonard, Brenda Leonard, Sherrie Maahs, Lew Price, and Bill Snyder,

With prayers and thanksgiving for the Church of the Advent,

-Barbara (Basia) and Dennis Smith

October Birthday Celebrations**October Anniversary Celebrations**

2	Amy DePietro	2	David & Kristen Craig
2	Melissa Maahs	4	Jason & Leigh Ann Downie
4	Julie Shaub	5	Bob & Trisha Andrzejczak
5	Robert Horn	7	Joel Rutenberg & Gini Tate
7	Brenda Williams Grubisic	19	George & Brenda Williams Grubisic
11	Zeke Craig	29	Christopher & Mimi Wood
13	Amanda Pierce		
16	Gail Markley		
26	Kathryn Brown		
26	Robert Bullington		
29	Jordon Brownstein		

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

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

The 10:30 service is also livestreamed on YouTube

Thursday: The Holy Eucharist at 12:00 Noon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OCTOBER 2026	AA Meetings: Sun-4:00 PM Mon – 7:30 PM Tues-7:30 PM Wed-7:30 AM Thurs-7:30 PM Sat – 6:30 PM	1 Holy Eucharist- Noon	2	3		
4 Pentecost 19 Holy Eucharist -8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Classical Cape May Concert- 4:00PM	5 ECW Crafts -4 PM- Parish Hall Bible Study -7:30- 9:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	6	7 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade	8 Holy Eucharist- Noon	9 Stewardship Dinner – 6:00 PM- Parish Hall	10
11 Pentecost 20 Holy Eucharist -8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	12 Outreach Comm. Mtg. -3:00 PM ECW Crafts -4 PM- Parish Hall Bible Study -7:30- 9:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	13 Men's Breakfast – 8:00 AM Advent Book Club- 7:00 PM- Obligado's home	14 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade	15 Holy Eucharist- Noon ECW Mtg. – 10:30 AM-Parish Hall	16	17 Wedding -3:00 PM
18 Pentecost 21 Holy Eucharist -8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Vestry Mtg. -Noon	19 ECW Crafts -4 PM- Parish Hall Bible Study -7:30- 9:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	20	21 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade	22 Holy Eucharist- Noon	23	24 Wedding – 4:00 PM
25 Pentecost 22 Holy Eucharist -8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	26 ECW Crafts -4 PM- Parish Hall Bible Study -7:30- 9:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	27	28 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade	29 Holy Eucharist- Noon	30	31