



January 2021

The Harvest

Moving Toward the Light

As of Tuesday, last (December 22nd), we have been moving toward the light. Each day forward we will have both more light and warmth (hopefully); and for that we can rejoice.

This morning Tom and Zoe went outside as is their custom. It was a cool 28 degrees but sunny with little wind. Tom returned inside shortly; but no Zoe, which was somewhat unusual. I was reading in the kitchen and didn't particularly give it much thought. After about an hour, I decided to see where she was just to be sure she was okay. She was lying in front of the garage door scouting the landscape and basking in the light of the sun. An hour later, I did another check and she had moved because the sun had moved. Finally, about mid-afternoon, I did a final check and she had moved yet again. Each time she moved was so to stay within the light and warmth of the sun. I believe we could learn something from Zoe and Mother Nature.

For the better part of 2020, we have been living in the darkness of isolation and fear due to the pandemic and the future is still filled with uncertainty. But there is hope; we have a vaccine. Perhaps we can cautiously see the light at the end of the tunnel. We must keep moving toward the light and the promise of life renewed.

Our scripture readings last week reminded us 'that [the] time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.' (Is 9:1-2). And John tells us that 'The WORD gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the

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To Connect to Christ Church via Zoom

[Compline – Thursday 7:00 pm](#)
[Live Zoom Service – Sunday 10:00](#)
[Zoom Coffee Hour – Sunday 12:30](#)
[Donate with PayPal](#)

Food Drive Jan 9th

Did you know that there aren't many churches who are helping their struggling neighbors during COVID? I assumed everyone was doing what they could, but I was informed recently that a lot of places are now closed where help was available. That makes our food drives even more critical.

The next food drive will be January 9th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. We need non-perishable food, and this month it will all be used to fill the Blessing Boxes in Lockport.

Some of the people who depend on the Blessing Boxes have homes so they can prepare the food, but others may be homeless. As you select food to contribute, please be sure there is some that is easy to open and could be eaten directly from the can. This time of year hearty warming foods are most needed. And sweets are a treat for everyone occasionally. If items are packed in individual servings, the outer package can be opened and shared by more at the Blessing Box.



Sat, 1/9/2021 11:00 – 1:00

darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.' (Jn 1:4-5). We have every reason to be confident, to be hopeful. We have every reason to rejoice because of Isaiah's promise and John's declaration that the promise has been fulfilled in Jesus.

Given our cynical world where most of the news is of division, anger, hatred and despair; where the focus is on the moment with ever-increasing accusations and disregard for the other; we need to raise our eyes toward the light. More than that: we need to move toward the light, toward the life, toward the WORD.

I am very glad to see 2020 come to a close. And I look forward to the bright future of 2021 and our eventual re-remembering of the Body of Christ as we break our Eucharistic fast and worship together in person. That day will surely come! BELIEVE!

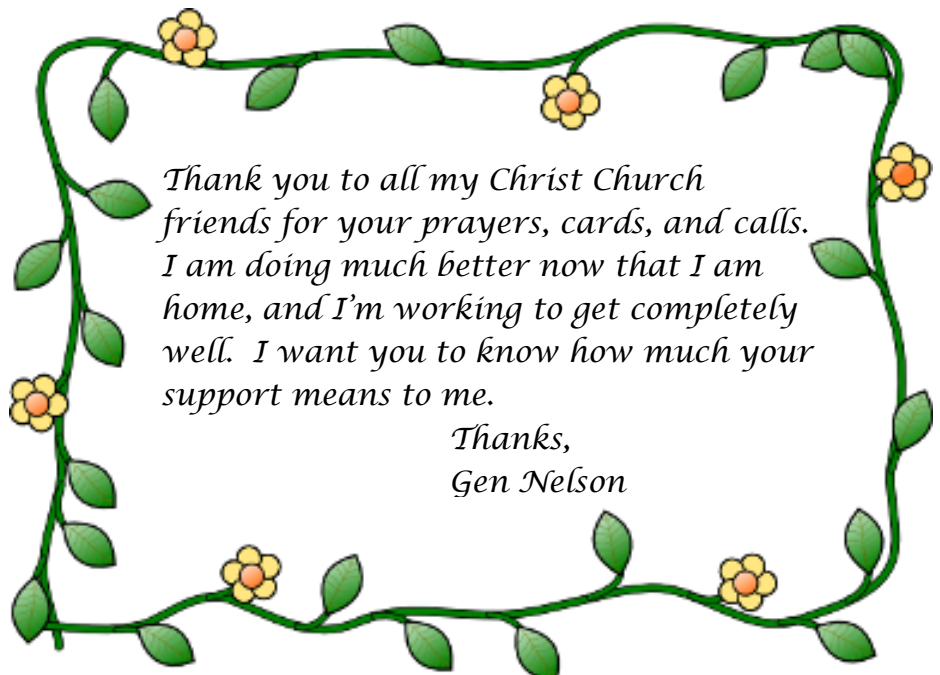
But be warned: If we spend too much time focusing on the minutiae of the moment only, we will miss the big picture. If we keep our heads bowed and our eyes downcast, we will never see God's wonderful creation.

I learned something from Zoe today: I need to keep moving forward and stay in the light and warmth of the Son. Rejoice!! Again, I say, Rejoice!!

A Blessed New Year to all!!

Fr. Thomas +

By dissecting her petals, no one ever gathered in the beauty of the rose.



We Are Companions on the Journey

There is a hymn that is a favorite in our household and was sung during our wedding service: "We are companions on the journey, breaking bread and sharing life; and in the love we bear is the hope we share, for we believe in the love of our God" (*Carey Landry © 1985*). This song holds significance not only in the love of two people, but even more so in the love of the community of people who travelled with us for many years and were in the congregation on our wedding day. They all continue to be our companions on the journey, and over the past ten years we have added *all of you* as our travelling companions.

Now this journey also includes my process of formation for ordination to the Diaconate, which I began in October, 2019 with my first retreat. The first year of participation is *not* part of the Formation Process, but is rather a time for the Aspirants to come together with members of the Commission on Ministry (COM) and Standing Committee (SC) at semi-annual retreats to share in small-group discussions. It's an opportunity for the Aspirants to discern further their calls and for COM and SC to get to know the Aspirants. Our March, 2020 retreat was cancelled due to the pandemic, but we all continued with Ember Day Letters (four times per year during Ember Weeks) to the Bishop, keeping him apprised of our spiritual, ministerial, educational and personal development. In October, 2020 a Zoom retreat was held (it was a very good experience), and afterward I received a letter of approval from COM for me to move forward into the Formation Process.

The next step will be Zoom gatherings of small groups of Aspirants with a COM Discernment Group on a regular basis. COM is currently making adjustments to the process due to Covid restrictions, but we do expect to move forward within the next two months. It is my hope that at some point this year I will be approved to move forward from the Aspirant stage to the Postulant stage of formation, which will include academic requirements. The stage following Postulant is Candidate for Ordination, and then to Mastery (ordination). All of this will take about four years, over which time I will continue to share with you my progress, as well as any challenges I may experience. The Vestry will be asked to give its written support for my nomination as I move from one stage to the next. The Canons of the Episcopal Church require the sponsoring parish to pledge its involvement in my preparation for ordination, as well as financial support.

I invite you to be my companions on this journey, supporting me in prayer, in love and in whatever ministry I may pursue in this Process that includes my sponsoring faith community (that's you!).

Robin Kozlowski
Aspirant for Ordination to the Diaconate



Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Ron Steen |
| 2 | William Conley |
| 4 | Sandy Crimi |
| 5 | Alexandra
Wijewardena |
| 14 | Martha Farone
Cindy Shaw |
| 17 | Peter Slobodzian |
| 18 | Cindy Theurer |
| 21 | Barbara McHenry |
| 22 | Laura Baker
Debbie Bronschidle |
| 29 | Linda Few
Robin Kozlowski |

Anniversaries

No January
Anniversaries

Vote – Annual Meeting

As we meet the legal requirements to meet annually to conduct our business and elect people to fill open offices, we need your participation.

We have been collecting nominations and volunteers throughout December. The ballot is ready, now we need your vote. For those who receive the Harvest by email, [here is a link to print the ballot](#). Those who receive their Harvest in the USPS mail, will have a ballot included.

Please print a ballot (both pages, on two sheets of paper, not back-to-back), vote, and return the ballot to:

Christ Episcopal Church
7145 Fieldcrest Drive
Lockport, NY 14094

To count, your ballot must be received at Church by Friday, January 22, 2021. The results of the election will be announced during the meeting. If there is a tie, the seven Vestry members will vote to break the tie.

New Time for Sunday Worship:

10:00 am

During the winter this will
give us a little more time to
clear snow and get to
Church.

Annual Meeting – January 24, 2021 Zoom Meeting at 11:00 am

We are required to have a meeting each January to conduct the business of the organization and elect people to fill open offices. But, COVID is challenging us to find new ways to meet these requirements. The Diocese has provided guidelines on how we need to conduct the meeting to ensure it meets the legal requirements.

Our meeting will be on January 24th at 11:00 am. You will need to join the meeting on Zoom – call on your phone or join on your computer – see the back page for details. All the details of the annual meeting (the Zoom connection information, the agenda, the ballot, and the annual reports) will be available [here](#).

The meeting will be conducted much as annual meetings always are. Reports will be presented, there will be discussion, and whatever votes are needed will be done by a show of hands.

The critical thing to remember is to get your ballot back to Christ Church by Friday, January 22nd. (see the side-bar and our [Annual Meeting webpage](#)).

If you have questions, don't hesitate to call the office at (716) 433-9229 or email office@ChristLockport.info. If you receive the Harvest by USPS mail, you will also receive a copy of the reports by mail (they will be mailed by 1/17/2020).

Thank You to All Who Kept Christ Church Going in 2020

To Fr. Thomas Mitchell for his steadfast leadership

To our retiring Wardens, Ron Steen and Jack Taylor

To our retiring Vestry members, Patti Dickinson, Jim Glaser and Cindy Theurer

To continuing Vestry members: Debbie Bronschidle, Gloria Bryant, Ken Miller and Cheryl Urtel

To our Music Director and Organist, Tim McQueen for always helping out and for finding ways to add his wonderful music to our evolving worship.

December at Christ Church

December was a good month at Christ Church:

- The food drive on December 12th was a huge success – much more food than we usually gather, and it was needed for the Blessing Boxes, the AgriCenter and the migrant farm workers they help, and some in our parish who are food challenged. There were also gifts to make Christmas merrier for those struggling. Thanks to all the workers and those who donated.
- Christmas Eve and Christmas services were available drive-in style, live on Zoom, and on YouTube.
- Drive-in Church is working well – we have figured out the FM transmitter. It is wonderful to worship with our Church family.
- Live Zoom worship and YouTube – the technology is now working well. Hopefully we can all worship at Christ Church now.





Christ Episcopal Church

7145 Fieldcrest Drive
Lockport, NY 14094

(716) 433-9229

office@ChristLockport.info

<https://www.christlockport.org/>

www.facebook.com/CECLockportNY

Annual Meeting via Zoom

Sunday, January 24, 2021 11:00 am

Ballots Must Be Received by Friday 1/22/2021

Reports Are Due by January 10th

Zoom Information, Ballots, Agenda & Reports
Available [Here](#)

Questions: (716) 433-9229 or
office@ChristLockport.info

To call (any phone) into Zoom for the Meeting:

1. dial 1-929-205-6099
2. enter the meeting ID: 5395 7358 49
3. if requested the password is 317569



Christ Episcopal Church

7145 Fieldcrest Drive
Lockport, NY 14094C