

DECEMBER 2022 HOLY HIGHLIGHTS-ANNOUNCEMENTS OF INTEREST

ADVENT MESSAGE- This is a season of waiting in darkness for the Light of the World to come. Christ Church offers worship and meditations and discussion and music to facilitate a stillness which can be uncomfortable but offers the most amazing grace! May we practice waiting in stillness in all we do this season. Practice pausing and praying. Practice refraining from busyness which is not furthering the reception of love. Practice being silent in our beautiful sanctuary whenever you enter. Practice preparing a way for the dear child to enter in.

This newsletter offers Advent prayers to facilitate this stillness and anticipation. Designed to accompany the lighting of an advent wreath candle they are really helpful whenever we choose to center on hope and peace and joy and love.

May yours be a holy advent!

Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker-Priest in Charge

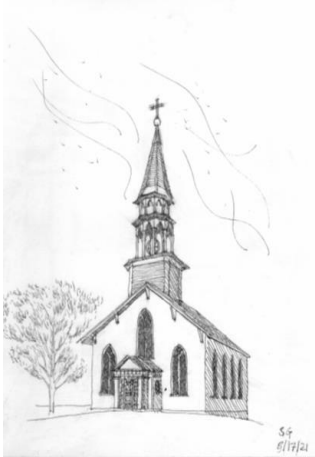
HOSPITALITY- We continue with Fellowship in the Parish Hall after the service. A 2023 calendar is on the coffee bar if you wish to sign up for a Sunday to bring a snack for the table. We get the coffee going, but we do ask whoever is signing up for that day to do clean up as well. It has been working quite well and we hope to continue in this way for the year.

CRAZY CRAFTERS meets on the first and third Tuesdays every month at 3:00 PM in the Parish Hall. The next dates: December 6 and 20th.

REV. TUCKER'S BIBLE STUDY continues on Thursdays. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7958556374?pwd=TDRodVZ2ZjZLS25lSFN3ZTU3Qkt3dz09> Meeting ID: 795 855 6374 Passcode: church

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY- December 4 & 11 10:30 AM Copies of "A Surprising God: Advent Devotions for an Uncertain Time" are available in the back of the sanctuary for your Advent practice and prayer. We will gather in the parish hall to discuss and to prepare for the coming of Emmanuel!

THE MITTEN TREE. Mittens and Hats are given to Sharon Families at Christmas time. Please consider contributing to the tree during Advent. Deadline is December 15th



CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL, SHARON
PO BOX 1778,
9 South Main Street
Sharon, CT 06069

Worship at
9:00 AM Sundays

Priest In Charge:
Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker
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Parish Clerk: email
officeadmin@christchurchsharon.org
Office Hours:
Wed & Fri. 9-3
860-364-5260

www.christchurchsharon.org

Advent Wreath Lighting Prayers



WEEK ONE:

The first blue candle is lit. The candle stands for hope. Hope in the Christ Child to be born. Hope for salvation. Hope that we will be prepared and ready to receive Him.

PRAYER: Holy and Gracious God we pray that as we light this candle so too will a fire of hope be kindled in our hearts. May we hold this hope gently as we are urged to stay awake and be ready for a most amazing event! As we prepare to receive the Christ Child may we be ever mindful of our love of You and Yours for us. This will keep the flames of hope burning in this Advent season. We pray all this in the name of Emmanuel. Amen.

WEEK TWO:

The second blue candle is lit this week as well. This candle stands for peace. This is the Peace which is being born into the world in the form of a humble child, meek and mild. This is the Peace of which He will preach and teach. This is the Peace which passes all understanding.

PRAYER: Holy and Gracious God we pray that this new candle alongside the first will kindle the hope of Peace. May we reflect this season on moments when we have known peace, however light, however brief. May we prepare to receive new visions of peace. And may the Peace which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of the coming of the Prince of Peace in unexpected form and ways. Amen.

WEEK THREE:

The third candle is lit with the other two and the third candle is pink. This "rose" candle represents Joy. Joy is coming into the world. Joy to the world. Joyful living is the ultimate life to which we are called and about which we learn in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Holy and Gracious God we give you thanks for the promise of Joy. As we anticipate and prepare for Joy being born in the world may we be ever mindful of all the places in our lives and those of others where there seems to be little joy and thus, may its presence be especially felt. Joyful, joyful we adore Thee today and evermore, Amen.



WEEK FOUR:

The fourth candle, which is blue, is lit on this final week of Advent. This candle represents Love. With eager anticipation and after much preparation we are about to meet Love itself. Love comes down to earth and will forever dwell among us.

PRAYER: Holy and Gracious God we light this candle to Love. Love which endures all things, Love which saves all things. Love which sustains Hope, Peace and Joy. Love immeasurable is coming to us in humility but with great clarity. How silently how silently it may enter in. How peacefully it will abide. Amen.

"How silently How silently the dear Christ enters in"

"O come O come Emmanuel"

May these refrains invite you and guide you as you wait, expectantly, eagerly, prayerfully, for the Dearest to come among us. May we be ready, May we be joyful, May we be compassionate and may we be eternally grateful. Wishing you and your family the most blessed Christmas.

STEWARDSHIP CONTINUES—pledge forms are still accepted. Please be sure to submit so we may plan the 2023 budget. Forms follow.

THE KENT SINGERS 50TH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday December 10 at 3, Sunday December 11 at 3

St. Andrew's Church, Kent

Welcome Yule-A Holiday Respective

Tickets-\$20 online at Kentsingers.com, At the door if any remain.

The group was founded by Jon Lafleur, our Organist, who conducted it for twenty years.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS- The Altar Guild is accepting requests for Christmas Flower Memorials. Memorials are included in our Christmas service worship. Should you wish to include departed family or friends, please fill out a form completely and return with your check, payable to Christ Church Episcopal, **Memo Line:** Flower Fund, and return to church office, by email or mail it to Christ Church Episcopal, P.O. Box 1778, Sharon, CT 06069

(Memorials must be submitted by Sunday, December 18th.) (Form follows)

Christmas Services:

December 4th-9:00 AM Advent II-Holy Eucharist

December 11th- 9:00 AM Advent III-Holy Eucharist

December 18th-9:00 AM Advent IV-Holy Eucharist

December 24th-5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service

December 25th-9:00 AM Christmas Day Morning Prayer



Paul Mailhot-Singer (HVA) and Maria Grace (SLT)

This past Wednesday we had a Potluck dinner with a presentation by Sharon Land Trust and Housatonic Valley Authority. It was a very interesting discussion, and our small crowd was totally absorbed in their project. Their goal, working together, is yes to still preserve land from development but also, now, through a grant, they are working together to access pathways for wildlife. Participants are needed for monitoring of areas through the Housatonic Watershed area. We were the first group they described the project to, and the goal is to get community people involved. We will have them back for further the discussion.

**CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND
APPEAL 2022**

Please return this completed form with your check, payable to Christ Church Episcopal, Memo Line: Flower Fund, and return to church office, or by email or mail it to

**Christ Church Episcopal, P.O. Box 1778, Sharon, CT 06069
(Memorials must be submitted by Sunday, December 18th.)**

\$ _____ **Flower donation (\$25 to \$30).**

\$ _____ **Additional donation:**

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Person or Family member to be remembered (Please print):

(Please document the names, no same as last time)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Your Name, Address, Phone and Email

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

Pledge Card 2023

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Name _____

Address _____

**City, State,
Zip** _____

Email _____

Date _____

**In thanksgiving for all God's gifts and as trustworthy stewards of our Lord's resources entrusted into our care, I/we pledge to Christ Church Episcopal for the spiritual nourishment and operation of this parish.
52 Weekly Payments of _____**

12 Monthly Payments of _____

4 Quarterly Payments of _____

1 Annual Payment of _____

Method of Payment:

Cash or Check _____

Stock transfers or other arrangements _____

Please contact The Church Office 860-364-5260 for instructions

To the Glory of God and my Church I have provided for Christ Church Episcopal in my:

Will _____ **Trust** _____ **Life Insurance** _____

Other _____

