



THE BELLRINGER

Christ Episcopal Church
66 Middle Haddam Road/P.O. Box 81
Middle Haddam CT 06456-0081
(860) 267-0287



October 2025

A welcoming community committed to worship, mission and Christian formation in today's world

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ Church is back in the swing of the academic year. Both the choir and the Sunday School have started up again with great success—thank you to Linda Napoletano, Ted Williams, and Rev Joanne!

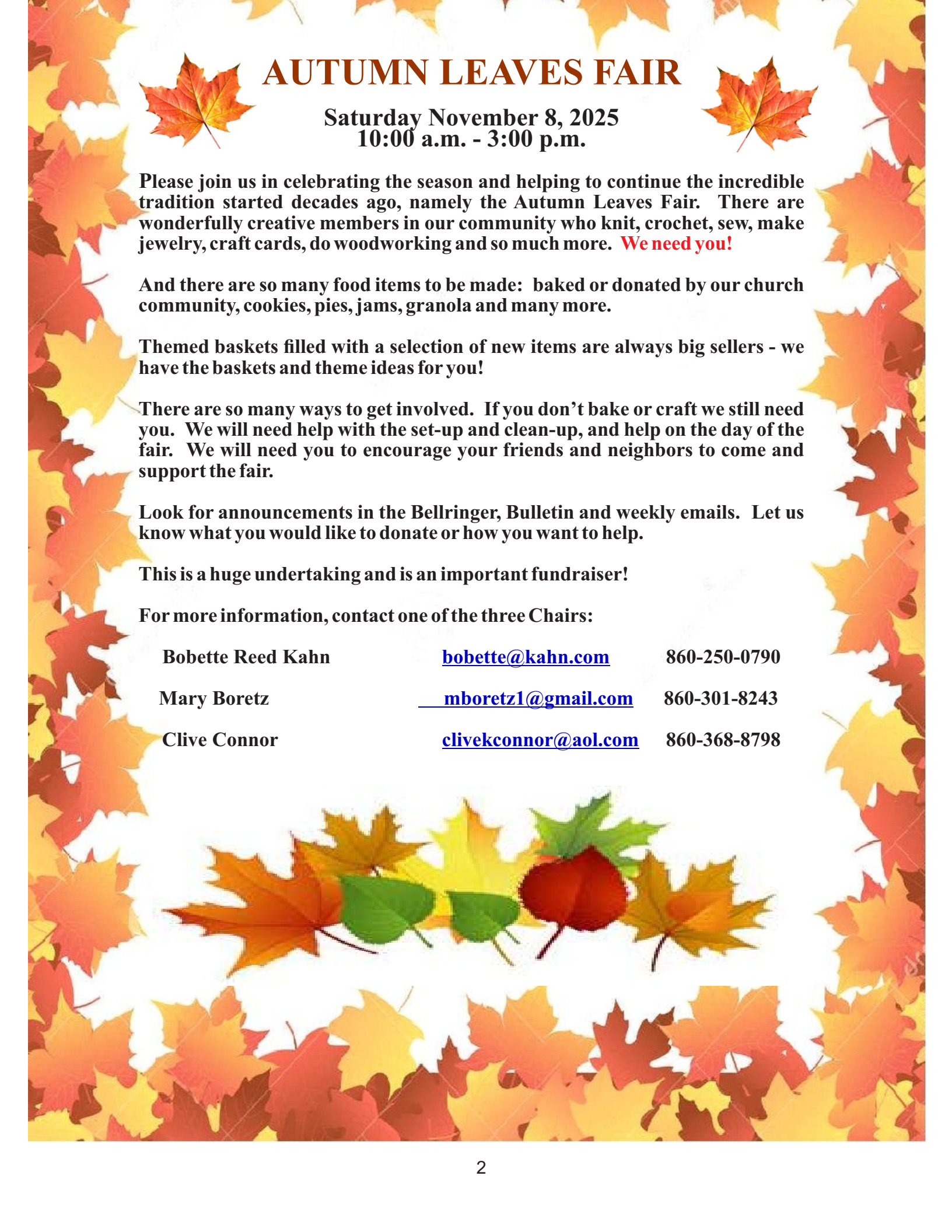
Bishop Jeff Mello will be visiting Christ Church on Sunday, January 11th, so save the date and be sure to attend so that you can meet him on his first visit to us. Bishop's visitation usually includes confirmations and receptions into the Episcopal Church. If you or your teen-aged child would like to be confirmed or received please speak with me. If you would like to renew your baptismal vows, the bishop's visit is also available for that. Again, speak with me.

This past Sunday I preached using a quote from remarks made by Senator Robert F. Kennedy on the day following the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Senator Kennedy call upon Americans to “bind up the wounds” of each other so that we could come closer to the goal of living together again in civility and peace. In my homily I called upon all of us, today, to seek out those who are hurting and persistently offer the hand of friendship, to bind up the wounds, so that the violence that stains our nation can be addressed with the love that God commands us to give to each other. No charitable donation, no program, no congressional resolution can do this work. Only we in our daily lives can do it—face to face, hand to hand. You'll find the quote that I used from the senator's remarks on page 7 with a link to the full citation.

See you in church!

Blessings,

Diana 



AUTUMN LEAVES FAIR

**Saturday November 8, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Please join us in celebrating the season and helping to continue the incredible tradition started decades ago, namely the Autumn Leaves Fair. There are wonderfully creative members in our community who knit, crochet, sew, make jewelry, craft cards, do woodworking and so much more. **We need you!**

And there are so many food items to be made: baked or donated by our church community, cookies, pies, jams, granola and many more.

Themed baskets filled with a selection of new items are always big sellers - we have the baskets and theme ideas for you!

There are so many ways to get involved. If you don't bake or craft we still need you. We will need help with the set-up and clean-up, and help on the day of the fair. We will need you to encourage your friends and neighbors to come and support the fair.

Look for announcements in the Bellringer, Bulletin and weekly emails. Let us know what you would like to donate or how you want to help.

This is a huge undertaking and is an important fundraiser!

For more information, contact one of the three Chairs:

Bobette Reed Kahn

bobette@kahn.com

860-250-0790

Mary Boretz

mboretz1@gmail.com

860-301-8243

Clive Connor

clivekconnor@aol.com

860-368-8798

COMBINED WORSHIP

On Sunday, September 24th we celebrated, at Christ Church, a combined service with St. Stephens in East Haddam and Trinity in Portland. The purpose of the service was to celebrate our Maggie being ordained into the Diaconate. Here are some photos of that service:





Many, many thanks to everyone who played a role in our joint worship service with Trinity Portland and St Stephen's East Haddam on August 10th to celebrate the ordination to the transitional diaconate of Maggie Labinsky. Particular thanks to our Altar Guild; to Linda Napoletano, Ted Williams, and choir members from the three churches; our Zoom team, ushers, readers, acolytes, and chalice bearers. And special thanks to everyone who provided salads and tea sandwiches at the reception. We were blessed with many folks from Trinity and St Stephen's who read lessons, served as chalice bearers and oblation bearers, sang in the choir, and provided starters and desserts for our celebratory feast. So many attended that we ran out of chairs in the parish hall! Collegial gratitude for the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard, the Rev. Erin Flinn, the Rev. Mary Anne Osborn, and the Rev. Deacon Maggie Labinsky. What a glorious morning it was!

What is a Transitional Deacon?

A transitional deacon is an Episcopal man or woman ordained as a deacon a step toward becoming a priest, typically serving in a parish for a period of several months to a year before priestly ordination. This sacred order is considered a preparatory phase, imbuing future priests with a deep understanding of service and configuring them to Christ the Servant, a dimension of their ministry that continues into the priesthood. Transitional deacons perform liturgical duties, such as proclaiming the Gospel and assisting at Mass, and carry out pastoral acts of service.

Key Characteristics:

- **Preparatory Stage:** The primary purpose of the transitional diaconate is to serve as a final step in preparation for the priesthood.
- **Ontological Change:** Upon ordination, a transitional deacon receives a permanent configuration to Christ the Servant, which permanently shapes their identity as a minister.
- **Parish Assignment:** After ordination, a transitional deacon is typically assigned to a parish for practical experience under the guidance of a priest.

Roles and Responsibilities

Transitional deacons assist the presiding priest, proclaim the Gospel, deliver the homily, and prepare the Eucharist. They are involved in acts of charity and serve the community, embodying the servant model of Christ. They have pastoral duties and help connect people to the church and the wider world. The main difference is the vocational path. Transitional deacons are on their way to the priesthood. Permanent deacons, in contrast, are ordained to the diaconate as their final calling and do not typically go on to become priests.



In conjunction with the Autumn Leaves Fair, the church will be conducting a Bake Sale and a Fall Harvest Sale on Saturday, November 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In addition to baked items we would like to include canned items like pickled beets, jams, jellies, tomatoes, tomato sauce, pickles and any other items you have canned from your gardens. Now that canning season is in full swing please put aside a few jars for the church's sale.

Winnie Edmonds has volunteered to take charge of the sale and will be contacting individuals to solicit items for the sale.

More information on the bake sale will appear in the weekly Constant Contact and monthly Bellringer.





*Sunday***SCHOOL**

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD

Growing in Faith Together

It was great fun to welcome our Sunday School class to the Sundaes for Sunday School celebration during Coffee Hour. We are grateful for those who contributed ice cream, syrups, sprinkles and whipped cream.

This September our first Sunday School class made Fall wreaths to bring to our neighbors at Cobalt Lodge. This became an intergenerational project when a few of our parishioners offered to make some additional Fall Wreaths as well.

Most of our children have gone back to school. They are active in sports and in after school and weekend programs. This means that they often participate in scheduled week-day practices and in competitive games that are often played on weekends. This also means the attendance at Sunday School fluctuates from week to week. I celebrate our parents and grandparents who make it possible for our Sunday School children to come to church to learn the stories from the Bible and to hear the words that Jesus spoke and to learn the traditions of the Episcopal Church. You make it possible to spiritually enrich the lives of the children in a faith community and to bring us all joy as we witness their growth.

It will be a marvelous Fall season in Sunday School. We'll be making our way into the gospel of Luke. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, each child will create a Prayer Journal and learn about the traditions of our worship. Old or young, we are so blessed to have one another with whom to share our burdens and celebrate our joys.

Faithfully, Rev. Joanne 





From remarks made by Robert F. Kennedy at the Cleveland City Club on April 5, 1968, the day following the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Our lives on this planet are too short and the work to be done too great to let this spirit [of hatred and revenge] flourish any longer in our land. Of course we cannot banish it with a program, nor with a resolution.

“But we can perhaps remember - even if only for a time - that those who live with us are our brothers, that they share with us the same short moment of life, that they seek - as we do - nothing but the chance to live out their lives in purpose and happiness, winning what satisfaction and fulfillment they can.

“Surely this bond of common faith, this bond of common goals, can begin to teach us something. Surely, we can learn, at least, to look at those around us as fellow men and surely, we can begin to work a little harder to bind up the wounds among us and to become in our hearts brothers and countrymen once again.”

A link to the full text: <https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/the-kennedy-family/robert-f-kennedy/robert-f-kennedy-speeches/remarks-to-the-cleveland-city-club-april-5-1968>

Have a
Safe
Halloween



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Monday, October 13th, 2025



THE TREASURER'S REPORT



As of August 2025

Pledges for August were \$8,583.00, over budget by \$226.42. Year to date pledges stand at \$68,845.00, over budget by \$1,992.36.

August income was \$9,809.56, under budget by \$4,834.52. Year to date income is \$95,025.59, over budget by \$2,372.95.

August expenses were \$16,484.98, over budget by \$5,968.57. Year to date expenses are \$87,476.60, under budget by \$8,508.68.

Barry Edmonds, Treasurer



BIBLE
STUDY

Every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm.
This will be led by Rev. Bobette.

If you are interested in joining, please
c o n t a c t B o b e t t e a t
bobette@kahn.com. She will send you
instructions on the readings and the
zoom information.



The fruition of all the hard work, watering, weeding and gentle care of our pollinator garden. As you can see in the center top photo, one of our visitors seems to enjoy the results of all that work.

Bird, butterfly and bee
Fluttering from tree to tree
Whispering to you and me
About how good it is to be free

Flapping gentle wing
They almost seem to sing
Laughing through the spring
Lighting up hearts with a zing

Bird, butterfly and bee
Coloring the air full of glee
Happy friends, all the three
Loving and kind, they will be

Waving joyfully, they soar
Bright coats they all adore
Flying from shore to shore
With bliss you cannot ignore

Bird, butterfly and bee
Some a him and some a she
Going on a fun, jolly spree
Captivating from sea to sea

Beautiful beyond all thought
Awakening hearts as they ought
With flowers they have bought
Through pollinating seeds
caught

Bird, butterfly and bee
As gentle as the sweet pea
Charming and so very carefree
They bring joy I'm sure you'll
agree

Nursery Rhyme 4 Poetry
Contest

Sponsored by Eve Roper
April 10, 2021



SEEKING MEMBERS

by Sharon Porven

Bobette Reed Kahn and I are planning on starting a study session for anyone interested in learning more about The Daughters of the King. I have copied a few paragraphs from the handbook and study guide (permission is on the title pages of both) to give you a little more background.

Several years ago there was a Chapter formed here at Christ Church, and we would like to restart it and make it active again.

From *The National Handbook and Bylaws, 2024, The Order of the Daughters of the King*:

The Order of the Daughters of the King is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it.

Today The Order's membership includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA), and Roman Catholic churches. The Order was founded in 1885 by Margaret J. Franklin at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in New York City (now the Church of the Resurrection). The Anglican tradition of The Order includes episcopal (bishop's) oversight, recognizes that Holy Scripture contains all things necessary to salvation, acknowledges the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, the real presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, and worship according to *The Book of Common Prayer* or the standard liturgies of Lutheran, Roman Catholic, or other Anglican churches that sponsor chapters.

Members undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating The Rule of Prayer and The Rule of Service. By reaffirmation of the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service, and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish.

From *The National Study Guide of The Daughters of the King*:

The National Study Guide, consisting of twelve sessions, will help you explore your faith and learn about The Order of the Daughters of the King®. Each session asks challenging questions and leads to an understanding of The Order. Meeting regularly for study and prayer offers the best opportunity for deepening spiritual growth and building community among current and future members.

Please let Bobette, bobette@kahn.com or me, slp1987@me.com, know if you are interested in joining us for the study sessions, we are currently planning on doing most of the sessions via zoom, similar to the Bible studies

Otis Spunkmeyer



We have a couple of bags of chocolate chip cookie dough left over from the cookie booth. Each bag contains 50 cookies. If you're interested in buying some cookie dough they are on sale for:

50 cookies for \$10.00

All you need do is to take them out of the freezer place on a baking tray and place them in a 350 degree preheated oven. In 20 to 23 minutes, depending on your oven, you will have "Sinfully Delicious Cookies". If interested contact Dawn at mgingras39@comcast.net or Barry at Bwedmonds1214@gmail.com.



Cookie Booth

Our church cookie booth had another successful weekend at the 113th Haddam Neck Fair! The net profit was \$4,203.27 and counting. We had many glorious sunny days (except for Friday Evening) with comfortable temperatures and low humidity that helped us sell our cookies.

Thanks to Roberta, Winnie and Barry Edmonds for ordering and delivering all the boxes of cookie dough; to Dawn Gingras for all her hard work before, during and after the fair. A big thank you to all our parishioners for generously donating funds to purchase cookie dough. And a special thank you to all the volunteers for steadily baking cookies and waiting on all our eager customers.



As you enter the church from the parking lot and step down into the church, the first stained glass window on your left was dedicated to the memory of John Stewart. He was born on February 10, 1795 and died on September 16, 1860. He was 65 when he joined his maker. He's buried at Union Hill Cemetery in East Hampton.

John was an American merchant and politician who served one term as a U.S. Representative from Connecticut from 1843 to 1845.

Biography: Born in Chatham, Connecticut, Stewart completed preparatory studies. He became engaged in shipbuilding and in the mercantile business in Middle Haddam.

Early political career: He served as member of the Connecticut House of Representatives in 1830, and in the Connecticut State Senate from 1832 to 1837.

He served as judge of the county court of Middletown, in Middlesex County, Connecticut.

Congress: Stewart was elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-eighth Congress, serving from March 4, 1843 to March 3, 1845. He was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1844, to the Twenty-ninth Congress.

Later career: He thereafter resumed shipbuilding pursuits, serving in the state senate again in 1846, and in the state house of representatives again in 1854.

NOW YOU KNOW



George Seitzer	10/02
Ellen Little	10/09
Gavin O'Connell	10/09
Emily Moore	10/11
Brennan Van Cott	10/11
Karen Wanat	10/11
Trevor Grant	10/15
Donna Dube Hryb	10/17
Susan Pugatch	10/18
Barry Edmonds	10/25



Emily Moore & Jerry Graham 10/03

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday

it's time to CELEBRATE



The deadline for the submission of all articles and/or items of interest for the November 2025 issue of the Bellringer is October 15, 2025.

Send all submissions to:

christchurchbellringer@gmail.com

DEADLINE

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 - Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn
(This will be a Zoom.com celebration.)



Sunday, October 5, 2025 - The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers
Blessing of the Animals
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Wednesday, October 8, 2025 - Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn
This will be a Zoom.com celebration)



Sunday, October 12, 2025 - The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers



Wednesday, October 15, 2025 - Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn
This will be a Zoom.com celebration)



Sunday, October 19, 2025 - The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers
Senior Adult Ministry - Cobalt Lodge immediately after the service
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Tuesday, October 21, 2025 - Vestry Meeting

6:00 p.m. - Parish Hall
All are welcome to attend



Wednesday, October 22, 2025 - Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn
This will be a Zoom.com celebration)



Sunday, October 26, 2025 - The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Wednesday, October 29, 2025 - Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn
This will be a Zoom.com celebration)



Practice Random Kindness
& Senseless Acts of Beauty

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Prayers of the People



In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer

The Anglican Church of South America

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

L'Eglise de L'Epiphanie, Stamford; St. Andrew's, Stamford; St. Francis', Stamford The Province of New England: the Dioceses of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont & Western Massachusetts. For their bishops, clergy, congregations, parish & diocesan staff. For Provincial Synod & all Provincial Networks

Parish Prayers are requested for:

The St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Haiti; the residents and staff of Cobalt Lodge; Julie; Jim Turner; John Turner; Marge Turner; Daniel Hastings; Brian Correll; Catherine Chialastuy; Bridget; Janet; Eulalia Bermejo; Bud Briere; Susan Castellan; Betty Balesano; Linda; Donna Long; Evelyn King and Mary Armitage.

We pray for:

For all suffering from Covid-19 and other infectious diseases.

For the hungry and the homeless.

For all who mourn, bearing in mind the continuing deaths by gun violence.

We pray for all who have died: That they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

And for Ukraine:

Lord, We thank you that in every situation, every dark moment, you are active and working among us. Even when things seem at their bleakest, we trust in your sovereignty and strength. In John's gospel, you said, "in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." We embrace the fact that this world and the troubles we face in it have been overcome, and rest in the knowledge that you have the power to move in any and every situation. As we watch war unfold in Ukraine, we ask for your grace and peace to rule in the hearts and minds of all involved. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Christ Episcopal Church

66 Middle Haddam Road

PO Box 81

Middle Haddam, CT 06456-0081

860-267-0287

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH INFORMATION:

Officers:

Donna Dube Hryb, Sr. Warden
Clive Connor, Jr. Warden
Barry Edmonds, Treasurer
James Van Cott, Parish Clerk

Church Office Hours:

Friday 8:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Church Website:

christchurchmiddelhaddam.com

Church e-mail:

ccmhadmin@gmail.com

Sexton:

Brian Donaldson

Vestry:

Patty Kloo
Jerry Graham
Linda Napolitano
Scott Konior
Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard

Organist:

Ted Williams

Parish Administrator:

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