THE BELLRINGER

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

November 2026

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Monday, October 12th, Indigenous Peoples Day, I, along with others from all over New England, traveled to St Augustine's Episcopal Church on the campus of the University of Rhode Island. There we were greeted by the Rt Rev Nicholas Knisely, bishop of the diocese, and the Rev Drake Douglas, priest in charge. Delegations from the dioceses of New Hampshire, Vermont, Western Massachusetts, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut (including our bishops +Jeff Mello and +Laura Ahrens) gathered to hear presentations about the Great Swamp Massacre that occurred in December 1675, a significant event in the history of King Philip's War.

The Great Swamp Massacre has been described by historians as "one of the most brutal and lopsided military encounters in all of New England's history." ("King Philip's War: Civil War in New England 1675-1676," by James D Drake). Colonial militias from Rhode Island, Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth Colony, Connecticut Colony, along with a force of Pequot and Mohegan warriors surrounded and attacked a fortified area of Narragansetts in the swamp, taking the lives of 300-1000 warriors, women and children.

The land on which the massacre occurred has moved over the centuries from Narragansett, to private, to state of Rhode Island, to Narragansett hands. A memorial marker was placed on the site in 1906 by the Rhode Island Society of Colonial Wars to commemorate the battle and to act as a cemetery marker for the colonists who died there. Four smaller markers form a square around the central marker memorializing the colonial militias who fought there.

With the land now returned to Narragansett control, making a journey to the site reminded us of the complicated history of the founding of our nation. The bravery of those who crossed the seas in small wooden boats as they sought freedom, and the bravery of those Native Peoples who defended their land even as it was taken, often by force and with bloodshed, by those same freedom seekers. How do we hold and honor both of those stories? How do we see the humanity in both? How do we acknowledge the brutality and horror of both. There are no easy answers. What we can't do is ignore one story in favor of the other. What we must do is recognize the truth of both and live in the tension that that truth represents. Only then can we work towards a better, more just, life for the descendants of both.

November is Native American Heritage month. I hope that you will find ways of learning the truth of our history on this land and reach out in love to repair the breach between us and our Native American neighbors. Scripture teaches us that Jesus opened the way of love to all who sought it, may we be steadfast disciples in his ministry of love.

See you in church.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

In peace,

Diana †



MISSIONS



Our Covenant to Care Social Worker, Kelsey Brewer, has given us 5 families who are in need of a Thanksgiving dinner. These are not foster families who receive state aid but are local families who are working with DCF as they struggle to remain an intact family.

Each of the families will receive a $50 Stop & Shop card with which to buy a turkey and other grocery items and then **we will, with your help, provide the rest of the meal.**

Family 1: Mom, Child (age 4), Child (age 7), Child (age 12)

Family 2: Mom, Dad, Child (age 8), Child (age 10)

Family 3: Dad, Child (age 5). Child (age 10)

Family 4: Mom, Child (age 11), Child (age 13), Child (age 15), Child (age 16) - we will be listing this family twice due to its size

Family 5: Mom, Dad, Child (age 10)

In order to provide the families with a traditional Thanksgiving meal, we will collect donations of boxed stuffing, canned vegetables, regular potatoes for mashing, jars of gravy, canned cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes or yams, rolls and a pie for dessert. **Everything should not need refrigeration and the rolls and pies should be purchased shortly before the November 22 collection date.**

You can sign-up to provide an entire meal for one family or for multiples of a particular item - for example, you can provide all the boxes of stuffing or all the bags of potatoes or 2 or more of certain items. We will want to provide more for the families with older children.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board just inside the Parish Hall. If you are unable to access that sheet, please call Mary Boretz at 860-267-0365; or email her at mboretz1@gmail.com to sign up.

If you wish to **donate money** (check or cash) towards the Gift Cards, please indicate on your check made out to Christ Church, that the donation is for "Missions - Thanksgiving" and mail in your check to the church or place it in the Sunday plate. We are purchasing the gift cards through our church program so please donate money not cards.

We will be collecting the non-perishable food on Sundays **beginning on November 8.**
Place it in a bag marked "Thanksgiving" along with your name, and place it on the bench inside the parking lot door (please do not place in the Food Bank Black Bins) or on the bench in the Parish Hall. All food, including the rolls and pies, needs to be in by **Sunday November 22** - we will be delivering the food to Kelsey on November 23.

Feel free to contact Clive Connor (860-368-8798); (clivekconnor@aol.com) if you need to have your items picked up.





2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Our Stewardship Campaign is underway. You should have received a pledge card in the mail. Please mail in or bring in your pledge cards by Sunday, November 1st so that we can know the total pledge income upon which to base our 2027 budget.

You may also email Clive Connor, Stewardship Chair (clivekconnor@aol.com) or Geri Cecilio, Treasurer (gcecilo09222gmail) with your pledge amount if that's easier.

If you need a new pledge card, please don't hesitate to let us know. Some cards are also available on the table at the front entrance to the church.

Be sure to attend services on Sunday, October 18 when Susie Karl will speak. In addition, the Stewardship Committee is planning a Celebration Coffee Hour provided by your vestry for November 22nd after our service where we will announce the results of this year's campaign. Mark your calendars!

Thanks in advance for your thoughtful consideration of your role as a steward of Christ Church

Sunday, November 1st, brings the 2026 Stewardship Campaign to a close. If you are a bit behind on things, no worries! If you intend to pledge but can't get it in by Sunday, November 1st, we will gratefully accept your pledge whenever it comes in.





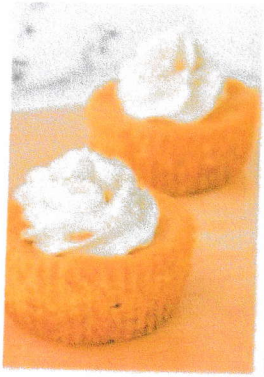
In conjunction with the Autumn Leaves Fair, the church will be conducting a Bake Sale and a Fall Harvest Sale on Saturday, November 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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.

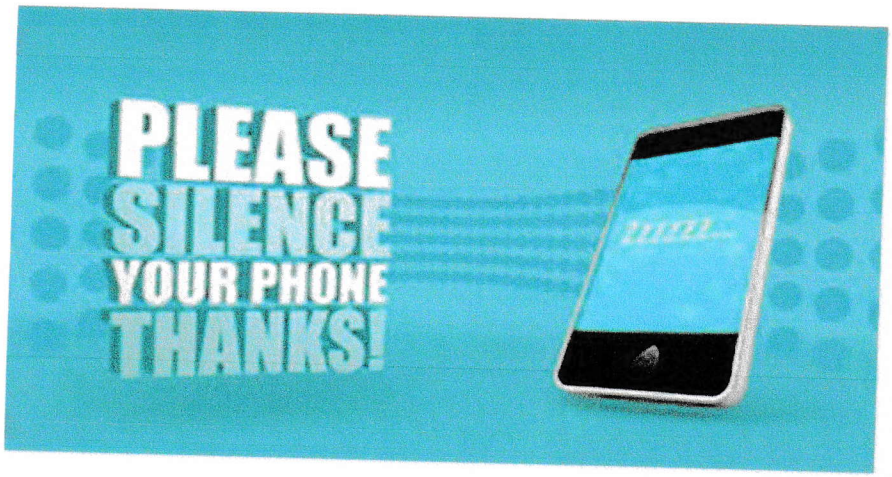
Winnie Edmonds has volunteered to take charge of the sale and will be contacting individuals to solicit items.

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











We are in need of volunteers to host our coffee hour after church services on Sundays. Never hosted before? Don't worry you can pair up with an experienced individual who will walk you through setting up, making the coffee and all the other procedures to be followed. It's not difficult and can be lots of fun.

Won't you consider hosting this worthwhile calling? If so, contact Dick Napoletano at rnap1137@gmail.com or 860-490-8006 and he will let you know what slots are available. Thank you for volunteering.



FUNNY PUNS

SINGING IN THE SHOWER IS ALL FUN AND GAMES UNTIL YOU GET SHAMPOO IN YOUR MOUTH, THEN IT BECOMES A SOAP OPERA.

SO WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT APOCALYPSE MEANS? IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.

I USED TO BE A SHOE SALESMAN UNTIL THEY GAVE ME THE BOOT.

TIME FLIES LIKE AN ARROW. FRUIT FLIES LIKE A BANANA.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE GUY WHO WENT TO THE SEAFOOD YOGA CLASS? HE PULLED A MUSSEL.

LADIES, IF HE CAN'T APPRECIATE YOUR FRUIT JOKES, YOU NEED TO LET THAT MANGO.

TEQUILA MAY NOT FIX YOUR LIFE BUT ITS WORTH A SHOT.

I USED TO BE A BANKER, BUT I LOST INTEREST.

CAN FEBRUARY MARCH? NO, BUT APRIL MAY.

WHAT DID THE GRAPE SAY WHEN IT WAS CRUSHED? NOTHING, IT JUST LET OUT A LITTLE WINE.

GEOLOGY ROCKS, BUT GEOGRAPHY IS WHERE IT'S AT.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE RESTAURANT ON THE MOON? I HEARD THE FOOD WAS GOOD, BUT IT HAD NO ATMOSPHERE.

A CRAZY WIFE SAYS TO HER HUSBAND THAT MOOSE ARE FALLING FROM THE SKY. THE HUSBAND SAYS IT'S REINDEER.

TO THE GUY WHO INVESTED ZERO, THANKS FOR NOTHING.

YESTERDAY I ACCIDENTALLY SWALLOWED SOME FOOD COLORING. THE DOCTOR SAYS I'M OKAY, BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE DYED A LITTLE INSIDE.

NEED AN ARK TO SAVE TWO OF EVERY ANIMAL? I NOAH GUY.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

As of September 2026

Pledges for September were $8,152.00, under budget by $317.50. Year to date pledges stand at $84,558.00 over budget by $8,332.50.

September income was $21,696.75 over budget by $5,106.41. Year to date income is $124,801.25 over budget by $15,238.19.

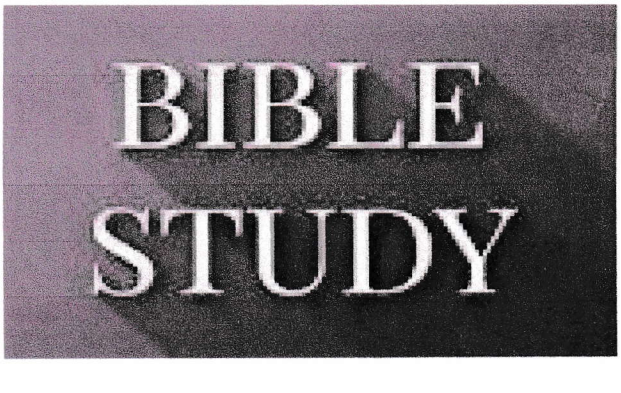
September expenses were $12,431.35 over budget by $1,024.36. Year to date expenses are $97,133.65 under budget by $12,729.26.

Geri Cecilio, **Treasurer**





Flower envelopes are on the front and back entrance tables for anyone wishing to donate towards our Christmas flowers. Checks should be made out to "Christ Church" with "Flowers" in the memo line. Please include a note with the names of those you wish to be acknowledged. Place the envelope in the collection plate. For those attending on-line services, you can mail a check including a note with the names of those you wish to be acknowledged. Mail to Christ Church, PO Box 81, Middle Haddam, CT 06456-0081. Please have your donation in by Sunday, November 29th.

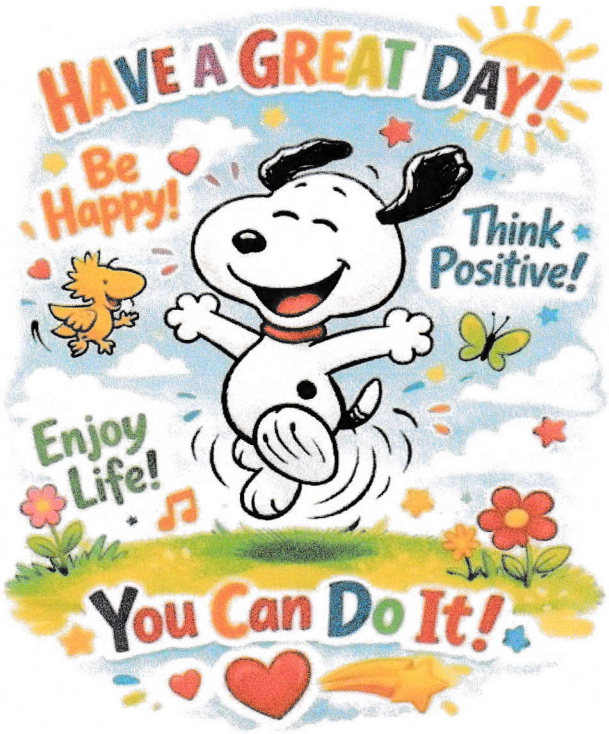


Every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm, led by Reverent Bobette.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Bobette at bobette@kahn.com.She will send you instructions on the readings and the zoom information.

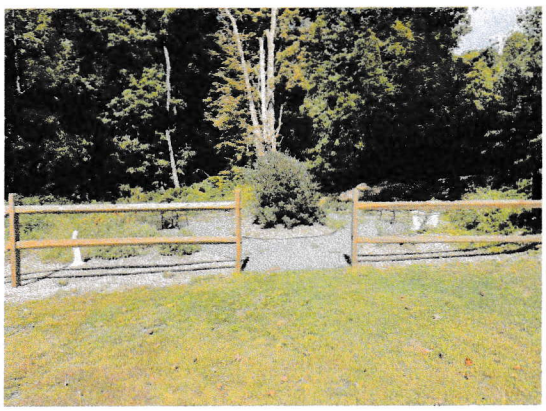


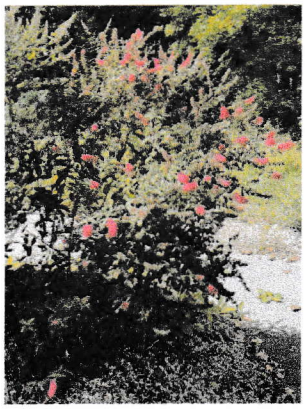




LET A SMILE BE YOUR UMBRELLA







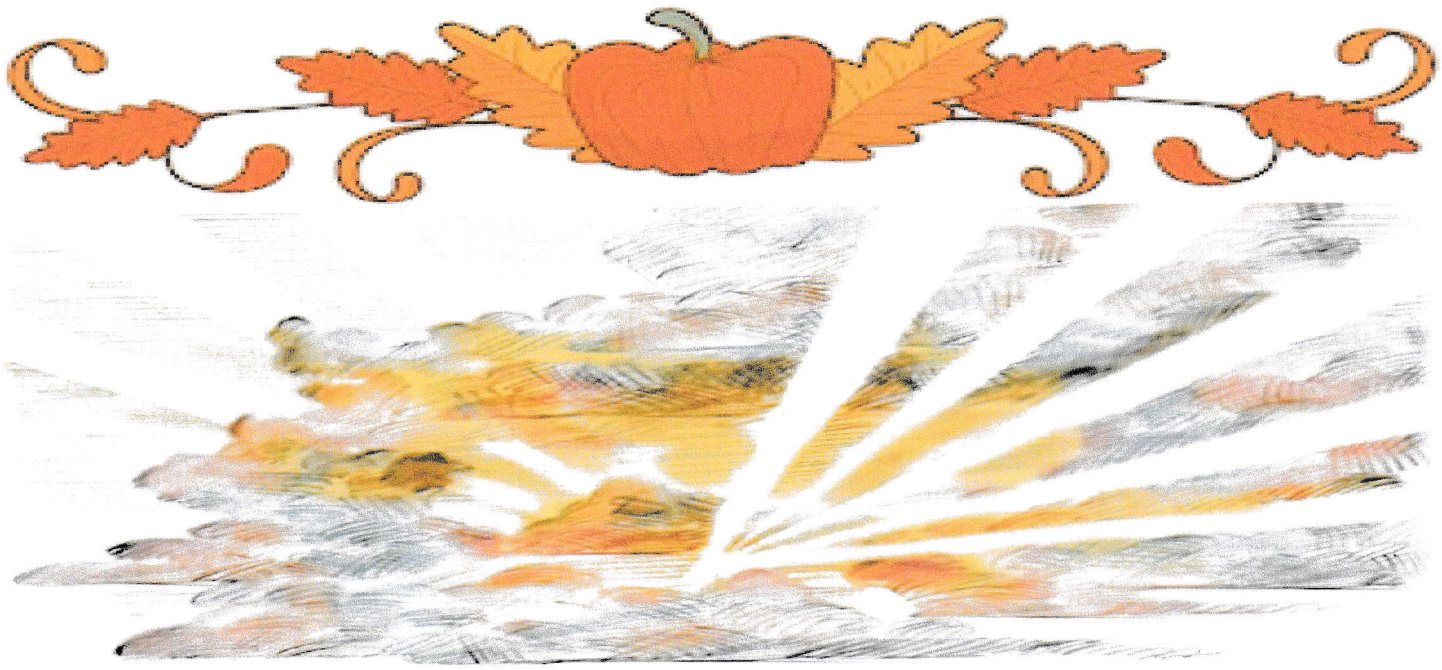






Our pollinator garden is preparing to go into hibernation for the winter, to appear again next Spring in all it's glory. As you can see by the photos the butterfly bushes have blossomed into large specimens and are on their way to dormancy. Some of the Fall flowers are still in bloom. When I was there, there were several butterflies taking advantage of the nectar that was still available. Our thanks go out to the many volunteers that water, weed and take loving care of our garden during the Spring, Summer and Fall. Without you our garden wouldn't look as fantastic as it does.





All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 1, 2026



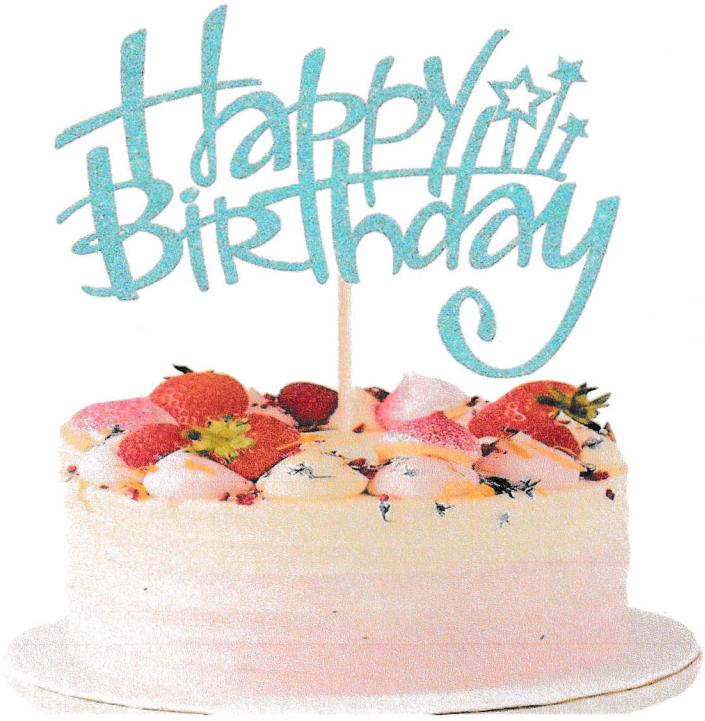


Looking for that special Christmas, wedding, anniversary or Birthday gift? We will be selling gift cards during the Autumn Leaves Fair. That will be the time for you to stock up on those special gift cards that you love giving to those special people in your lives. Most of the cards are for your favorite stores and websites. Just remember that every card you purchase automatically benefits Christ Church with a percentage of the sale. It cost you nothing but the actual amount of the gift card.

Check out our table at the Autumn Leaves Fair.

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Glenn Grant	11/01
Dan Sargeant	11/03
Kathleen O'Connell	11/06
Dick Napoletano	11/09
Howard Grant	11/11
Gregory Pugatch	11/12
Olivia Hyte	11/17
Christine Semenza	11/21
Jennifer Reed Kahn	11/24
Rebekah Reed kahn	11/24
Gordon Gingras	11/27
Emily Vick	11/29
Cora Gingras	11/30







BellRinger

The deadline for the submission of all articles and/or items of interest for the December 2026 issue of the Bellringer is November 15, 2026.

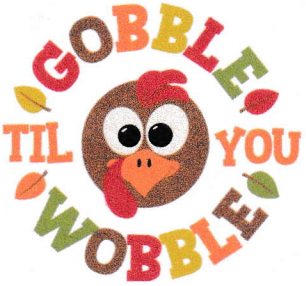
Send all submissions to:

christchurchbellringer@gmail.com

DEADLINE

Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 1, 2026 - All Saints Day
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Wednesday, November 4, 2026 - Bible Study
6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn
(This will be a Zoom.com celebration)

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 Youth Group Meeting
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Parish Hall

Sunday, November 8, 2026 - The Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Wednesday, November 11, 2026 - Bible Study
6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn
(This will be a Zoom.com celebration)

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 Youth Group Meeting
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Parish Hall

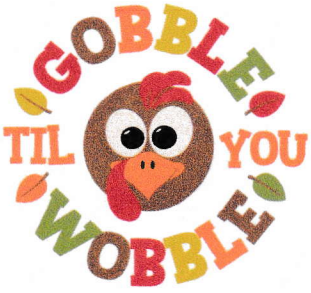
Sunday, November 15, 2026 - The Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers
(This will be a hybrid celebration)
Senior Adult Ministry - Cobalt Lodge immediately after the service

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 - Vestry Meeting
6:00 p.m. - Parish Hall
All are welcome to attend



Wednesday, November 18, 2026 - Bible Study
6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn
(This will be a Zoom.com celebration)

Sunday, November 22, 2026 - The Last Sunday After Pentecost
Christ The King Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Wednesday, November 25, 2026 - Bible Study
6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn
(This will be a Zoom.com celebration)

Sunday, November 29, 2026 - The First Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers
(This will be a hybrid celebration)

The Prayers of God's People



In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer

The Anglican Church of Canada

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. John's, Waterbury; Christ Church, Waterbury; All Saints Chapel, West Cornwall; Convention planning committee, Convention worship committee & all who participate in Annual Convention

Parish Prayers are requested for:

The St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Haiti; the residents and staff of Cobalt Lodge; Jim Turner; John Turner; Daniel Hastings; Brian Correll; Donna Long; Wayne Curry; Libby Clayton; John Edmiston; Maggie; Sandy Forman; Scott Williams; The Edmonds Family; Bud Briere; The Van Cott Family; Harold Van Cott; Rev. Matt Handi; Penny; Kyle; Clive Connor; Lloyd Miller; Pope Leo; Anna.

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. We pray for the repose of the soul of Barry Edmonds.

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 INFORMATION:

Vestry:
Patty Kloo
Jerry Graham
Linda Napoletano
Scott Konior
Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard

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

Organist:
Ted Williams

Church Office Hours:
Wednesday 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.

Parish Administrator:
Joal Lentz

Church Website:
christchurchmiddlehaddam.com

Bellringer Editor:
Bruce A. Dubay

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ccmhadmin@gmail.com

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christchurchbellringer@gmail.com

Sexton:
Brian Donaldson

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