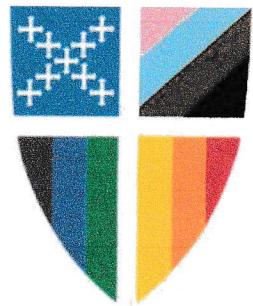


THE BELLRINGER
Christ Episcopal Church
66 Middle Haddam Road/P.O. Box 81
Middle Haddam CT 06456-0081
(860) 267-0287
ALL ARE WELCOME!
FEBRUARY 2026



To serve God and a growing community in worship, song and fellowship with spiritual guidance relevant to everyday life.

Dear Friends in Christ,

In about a month we will celebrate Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes to remind us of our mortality and the brokenness of our world. We will enter Lent this year in perhaps a sadder frame of mind than usual during the dark months of winter.

Many of you know that until I moved to Connecticut almost twelve years ago, I lived in Minnesota. Minnesota is where my children grew up, and my daughter lives there. Thirty years' worth of friends and relationships live there still. For six years I lived in Minneapolis near the Institute of Art just south of the city center, only a mile or so from where George Floyd, and now Renee Good, died. My neighborhood was a rich blend of immigrants from many countries, Native Americans, aging hippies, art students, LGBTQ, and middle-class white women like me going to jobs, loving our families, stopping at the grocery store, going to breakfast at Maria's for corn pancakes with queso fresco.

The Twin Cities are not a war zone of crime and their people are not a faceless morass of violent criminals. This is not to say that there is no crime, but all urban centers (even small ones) have that element. Instead, they are a place of art, music, neighborliness, respect, and many spiritual beliefs living together and wanting the best for each other. What my friends say they are seeing now is not the best for anyone. Every day I am praying for the city I once called home—for those who are courageous in the face of fear and risk; for those who wear their whistles and alert their neighbors; for the children who must witness the violence, who must breathe the stench of flash-bangs and pepper spray, who fear for themselves and their friends. I pray that this nightmare might end and that peace may return to this place that I still love. And I know that it will only be through God's unfailing love, acted out by those who love the city, too, that Minneapolis will survive and grow again, yet, be forever changed.

I ask you to pray for Minneapolis, our country, and the world.

In peace,

Diana

MISSIONS

Lent begins on Wednesday, Feb 18 along with our Lenten Vitamin Drive. When you give up something for Lent, or set aside money as a sacrifice, the Missions Team asks that you consider donating the money saved to help purchase a daily multi-vitamin for each child at St. Vincent's Center for Disabled Children in Haiti to help him/her fight off illnesses. This is especially important in an impoverished country like Haiti where the conditions give rise to many illnesses not found in our community.

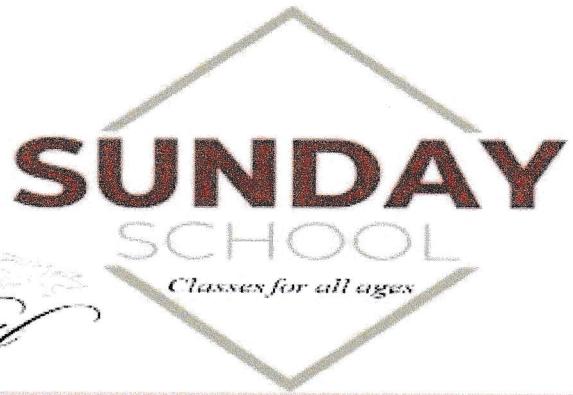
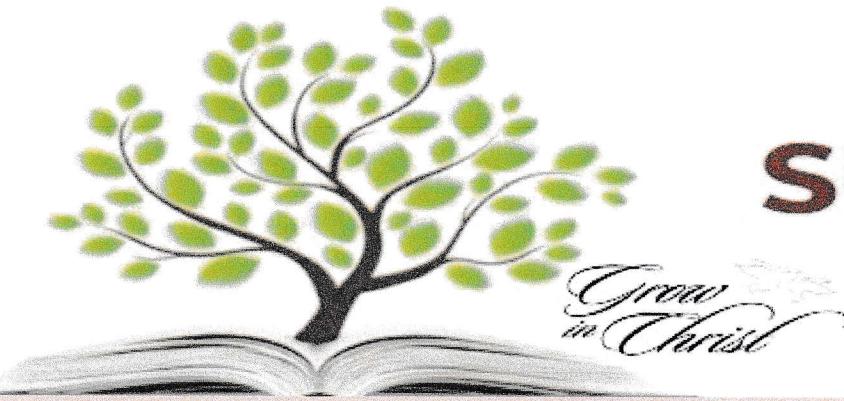
Please collect your pocket change at home. Then, at Easter on April 5, or before the end of April, drop off your change or, preferably, please send the amount in a check instead to Christ Church, with the word "Missions" or "Vitamins" on the **memo line**. We will then send the collected monies to the Friends of St. Vincent's who will provide the actual vitamins for the children at St. Vincent's Center. We have been a Friend of St. Vincent's Center for many, many years. During Lent, we try to raise enough money to provide a year's worth of a daily vitamin for each child.

St Vincent's Center in Haiti provides an education for about 100 deaf, 60 blind, and 40 physically-challenged children, many of whom are in wheelchairs. The students are also provided regular medical and dental care, including prostheses, braces, wheelchairs, and other medical equipment, and physical therapy. For more information about the wonderful work being done at the Center, check out their website at <https://stvincentshaiti.org>

Let's also not forget about our missions work here in East Hampton. Please continue to support our local Food Bank. There are large black bins by the church door in which you can place your items. You can also send checks directly to the Food Bank. You can find more information at <https://www.easthamptonct.gov/social-services/food-bank>

We will also be collecting new or nearly new warm clothes, coats, socks, gloves, and hats for those in need who participate in the Food4Lives program in Middletown. Patti Kloo, who is very involved with this program, is also looking for food donations or servers for the Sunday meals.

Please don't hesitate to ask questions, make suggestions, or join our team! Contact Clive Connor clivekconnor@aol.com; 860-368-8798, Mary Boretz (mboretz1@gmail.com; 860-267-0365) or Patti Kloo (smallmiracles23@sbcglobal.net, 860-510-3583).



The month of February holds the first 10 days of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18.

Whether you're an adult, a teen or a young child, Lent is a season of drawing nearer to our Lord Christ. The gifts of receiving and giving love can grow day by day drawing us closer to God and to our neighbor. Growing our life in Christ happens when we gradually nurture a habit of forgiveness and love. One way to walk this Lenten path is to walk it with Jesus and talk to Jesus every day. Tell him what's on your mind and heart, anywhere you are, and any time of day or night. Teach it to your children and to your grandchildren. Make it a habit.

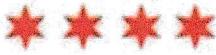
Children might enjoy making a small booklet for writing notes to Jesus each day. Perhaps each family member could lead a one sentence prayer of gratitude before a meal, when leaving the table or at bedtime. Try to make it a habit.

Perhaps one of the most important habits to develop is to ask for forgiveness. We are all children of God and we all need God's forgiveness. We all get bruised and hurt and need the healing of Christ's acceptance. We all need the strength of the Holy Spirit in order to forgive ourselves and reach out to our neighbor. For the sake of Jesus who understands our pain, Make it a habit. May February bring you many blessings of the Lenten season.

Rev. Joanne 



THE TREASURER'S REPORT



As of December 2025

Pledges for December were \$5,745.25, under budget by \$2,661.37. Year to date pledges stand at \$99,302.95, under budget by \$976.05.

December income was \$8,880.25 under budget by \$3,263.87. Year to date income is \$145,337.59 over budget by \$5,108.59.

December expenses were \$19,296.53 over budget by \$8,780.04. Year to date expenses are \$141,932.83 over budget by \$1,703.83.

Barry Edmonds, Treasurer

*Happy
Valentine's Day*



BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Us



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

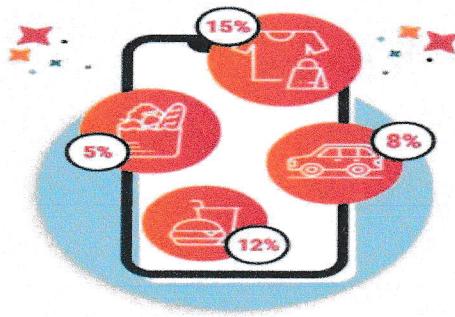
If you are interested in joining, please contact Bobette at bobette@kahn.com. She will send you instructions on the readings and the zoom information.



CHANGE OF OR ADDITION TO OUR EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you have recently or are planning on changing your email address or would like your email address added to our email list, please inform the Bellringer so that you can continue or begin to enjoy the news from your church. Send all changes to:

christchurchbellringer@gmail.com



THINK AHEAD FOR THOSE SPECIAL OCCASIONS

For a birthday, wedding, anniversary and all those other special or unexpected occasions, or just because, be prepared! Why worry? Have gift cards on hand!

You can purchase multiple gift cards from over 170 stores at one time - through our church. Not just for gifting, but for your personal use as well. Groceries, flowers, books, prescriptions, tools - there are a wide variety of cards available. Check out the website list of cards available at: <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>.

For each card you buy, Christ Church automatically receives a percentage of the sale. You only pay for the face value of the card. Have questions or ready to buy? Email Bobette at bobette@kahn.com to place your order.

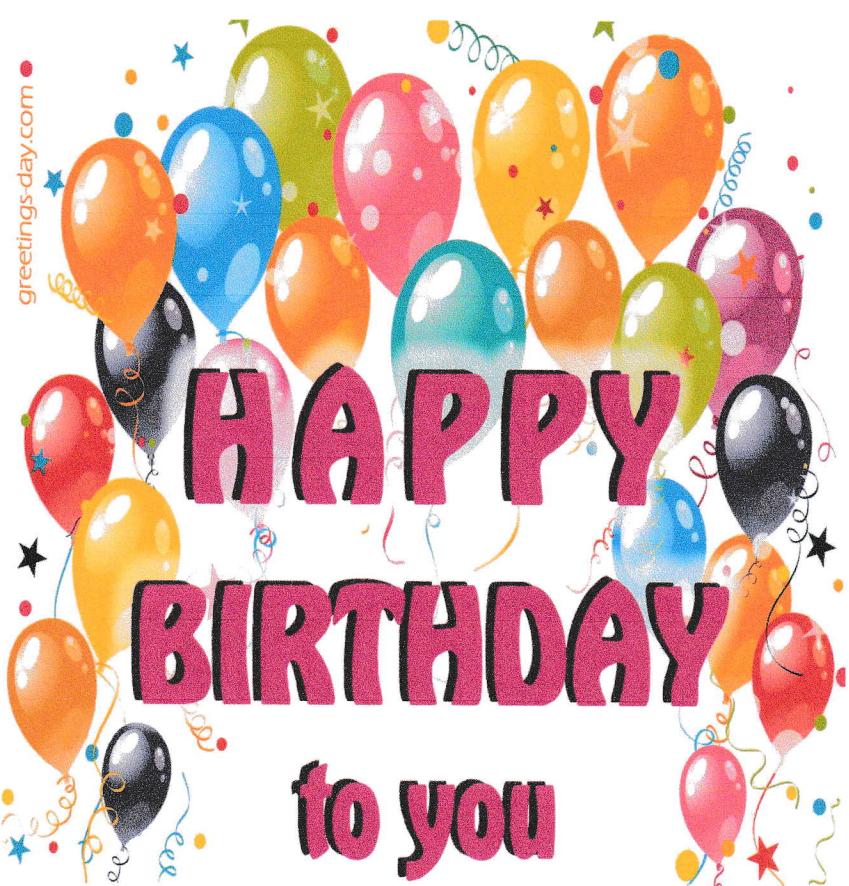
ANNUAL MEETING

The Parish Annual Meeting of the church is scheduled for Sunday, February 8th immediately following the service. Come join us for the election of new officers and Vestry and to go over a review of the past year. This is your opportunity to see your church in action and to participate in moving forward for the coming year. Refreshments will be provided by the Vestry. **All reports for the annual report are due into Joal no later than Thursday, January 23, 2026.**

Celebrating
FEBRUARY
Birthdays

Kate Grant
Maggie Labinski
Betsy Rich
Adam Boretz
Betty Fugua

02/10
02/10
02/17
02/26
02/28



**Time To
Celebrate**

The
BELLRINGER
DEADLINE

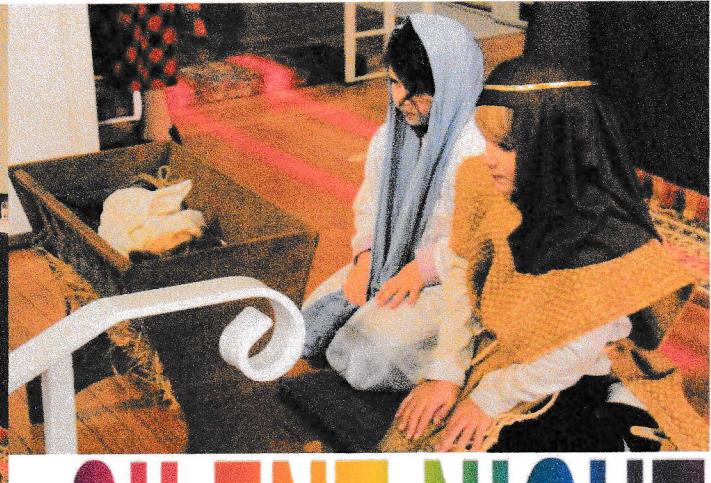
The deadline for the submission of all articles and/or items of interest for the March 2026 issue of the Bellringer is February 15, 2026.

Send all submissions to:

christchurchbellringer@gmail.com



THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER



SILENT NIGHT



WELCOME TO OUR

ASH WEDNESDAY

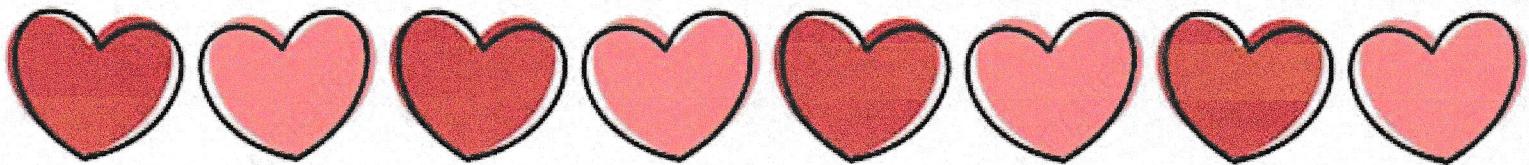
SERVICE

Please join us for the imposition of ashes on February 18th. There will be two opportunities for you to receive ashes.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Drive Thru Ashes. Drivers are asked to remain in their cars. Rev. Diana will come to you, administer a brief prayer and the imposition of ashes.

1:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist with the Rev. Diana Rogers. A traditional Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Rev. Diana will bring ashes to you if you are homebound. Please call the office at 860-267-0287 to make arrangements.



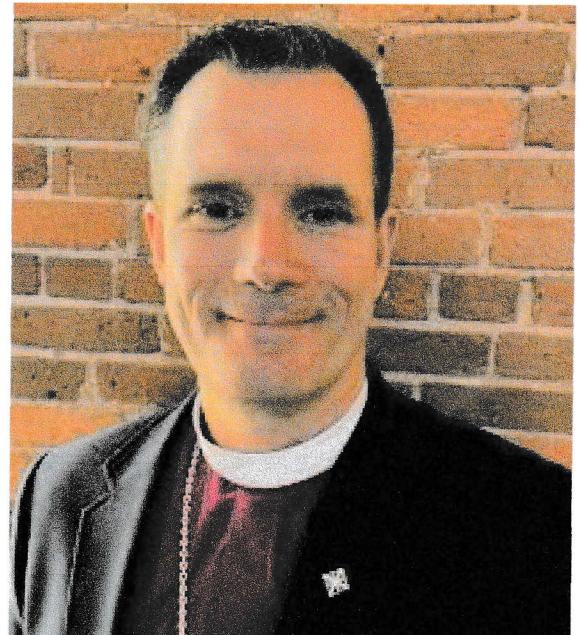
Pancake Breakfast



We are changing the way we celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Instead of having our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, we will instead be having a Pancake Breakfast to be held on Sunday, February 15, 2026 in the Parish Hall immediately following our Sunday service. Plan on bringing the whole family to enjoy delicious pancakes with real maple syrup, bacon and sausages. Suggested donation is \$5.00 a family. What a wonderful way to start off Lent.



THE BISHOP'S VISIT



On January 11, 2026, the Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Mello, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, visited Christ Church. The purpose of his visit was to get to know our congregation and to meet with us and the Vestry.

During his visit he conducted the liturgy, confirmed Chase Semenza, welcomed Dave Loranger into the Episcopal Church and led Bruce Dubay in the renewal of his baptismal vows. He also blessed and named our bell Page, in honor of the Rev. Page Rogers, a past rector of Christ Church.

After the service he met with us and the Vestry during a wonderful coffee hour.



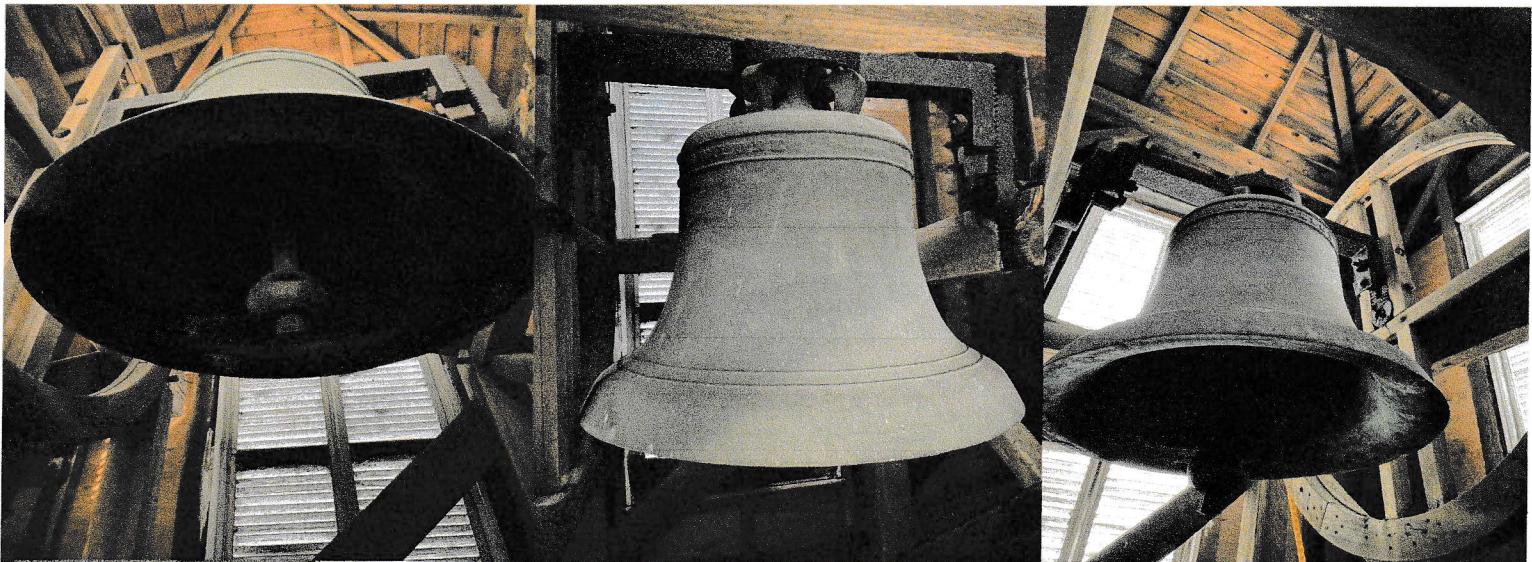
THE BLESSING OF OUR CHURCH BELL

On January 11, 2026, during Bishop Jeff's visit with us, he blessed our bell in the belfry tower and named it Page, in honor of the Reverend Page Rogers.

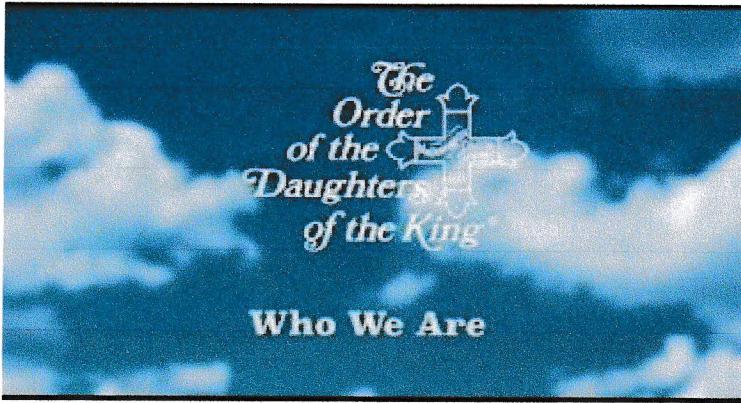
Page was the rector of Christ Church from December 1, 1985 to November 21, 1999. It was the Reverend Rogers who was instrumental in the restoration of Christ Church to its present day beauty and glory.

The name Page was the winning name as the result of a contest held to name our bell.

These photos are actual photos of our bell in the belfry. They are the result of Scott Konior climbing up into the belfry to take the photos. Not a small feat.



If you are interested in ringing our bell, join us in the back (actually it's the front) of the church, either before the professional hymn or after the postlude. All you need do is grab hold of the bell pull cord and pull. It's not as easy as it looks.



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

FEBRUARY'S GIFTS

February, you're sometimes cold,
And sometimes quite unsettled.
If one is making plans indeed,
One often feels quite nettled.
You upset everything, it seems,
With all your rain and snow,
With all your sleet and all your ice,
A person cannot know.

But one thing we are certain of,
Dear month of oddest mood,
You bring us lovely holidays,
So we will not be rude,
You bring us Washington's birthday,
You bring us Lincoln's too,
You give us good St. Valentine's -
What more could one month do?

So we will smile when you get mixed
With snow and rain together.
We'll simply wink and laugh and say,
"It's February weather!"
And when the cold sleet turns to ice -
And down we slip and fall!
We'll laugh again and shout we're glad
You've come to make a call!

by Lenore Hetrick

February

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28						





SOMETHING TO BRING A SMILE TO YOUR FACE

Winston Churchill loved paraprosdokians, figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agree with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. War does not determine who is right – only who is left.
6. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
7. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening', then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out, I just wanted pay checks.
10. In filling out an application, where it says 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put "DOCTOR".
11. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
12. Woman will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street...with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
13. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
14. A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
15. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
16. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
17. There's a fine line between cuddling and...holding someone down so they can't get away.
18. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
19. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
20. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
21. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
22. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
23. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
24. I'm suppose to respect my elders, but now it's getting harder and harder for me to find one.

Laugh and the world laughs with you!



Calendar of Events



Sunday, February 1, 2026 - The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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



Wednesday, February 4, 2026 - Bible Study

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



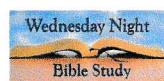
Sunday, February 8, 2026 - The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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



Wednesday, February 11, 2026 - Bible Study

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



Sunday, February 15, 2026 - The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

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)



Pancake Breakfast immediately following the service in the Parish Hall

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 - Vestry Meeting

6:00 p.m. - This will be a Zoom.com meeting
All are welcome to attend
Should you wish to attend please contact Rev. Diana for the link



Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - Ash Wednesday

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



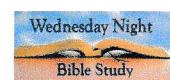
Sunday, February 22, 2026 - The First Sunday in Lent

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



Wednesday, February 25, 2026 - Bible Study

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



Poster found in a Church in France (translated):

“When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear “the call of God”. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving.”

prayers of the people



In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America
In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Trinity, Collinsville; St. James', Danbury; St. Luke's, Darien; The Journey of Discovery with Indigenous Peoples Ministry Network. For Prayer & Healing Ministry 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; Daniel Hastings; Brian Correll; Andrea; Donna Long; Susan Castellan; Wayne Curry; Evelyn King; Carl Day; Tracy Becker; Stacey, and Charlie

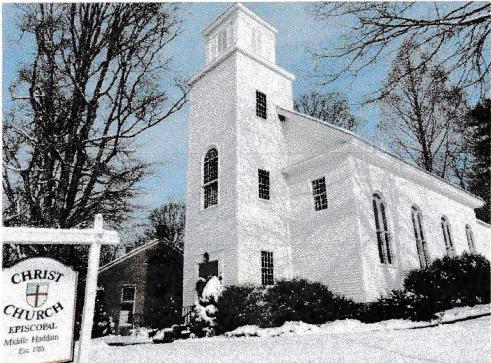
We pray for:

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

Vestry:	Patty Kilo Jerry Graham Linda Napolitano Scott Konior Rev. Joannne Neel-Richard
Officers:	Donna Dubé Hyb, Sr. Warden Clive Connor, Jr. Warden Geri Cecilio, Treasurer James Van Cott, Parish Clerk
Church Office Hours:	Friday 8:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Church Website:	christchurchmiddlehaddam.com
Church e-mail:	cmhadmin@gmail.com
Sexton:	Brian Donaldson
Bellringer Editor:	Bruce A. Dubay
Bellringer e-mail:	christchurchbellringer@gmail.com