

THE BELLRINGER

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



ALL ARE WELCOME!



JANUARY 2026

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we journey towards the celebration of Christmas and the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus, we feel the cold of winter and the briefer appearances of the sun. In these darker days, Christmas gives us a welter of feelings—joy, warmth, sadness, depression. We reach out for those we love, and we grieve the loss of those who have left this earthly life for the life eternal. All of this is normal for we humans. God made us to feel both the joy and the sadness, and stays with us through it all. If you are feeling down, don't keep it to yourself. Please contact Rev Diana or someone you can trust to be a companion during the stress of the holidays.



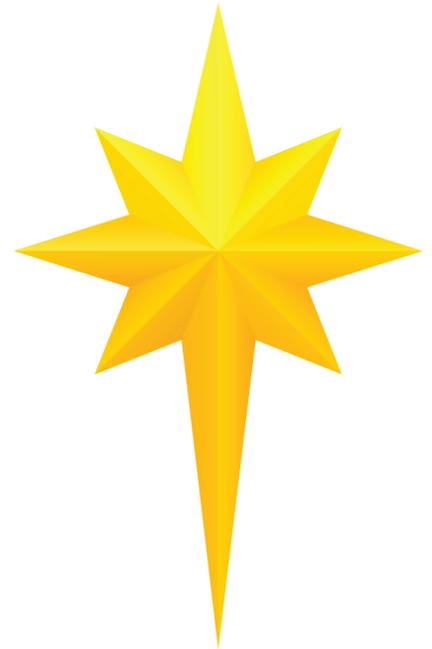
Christmastide

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rosetti (1830-1894)



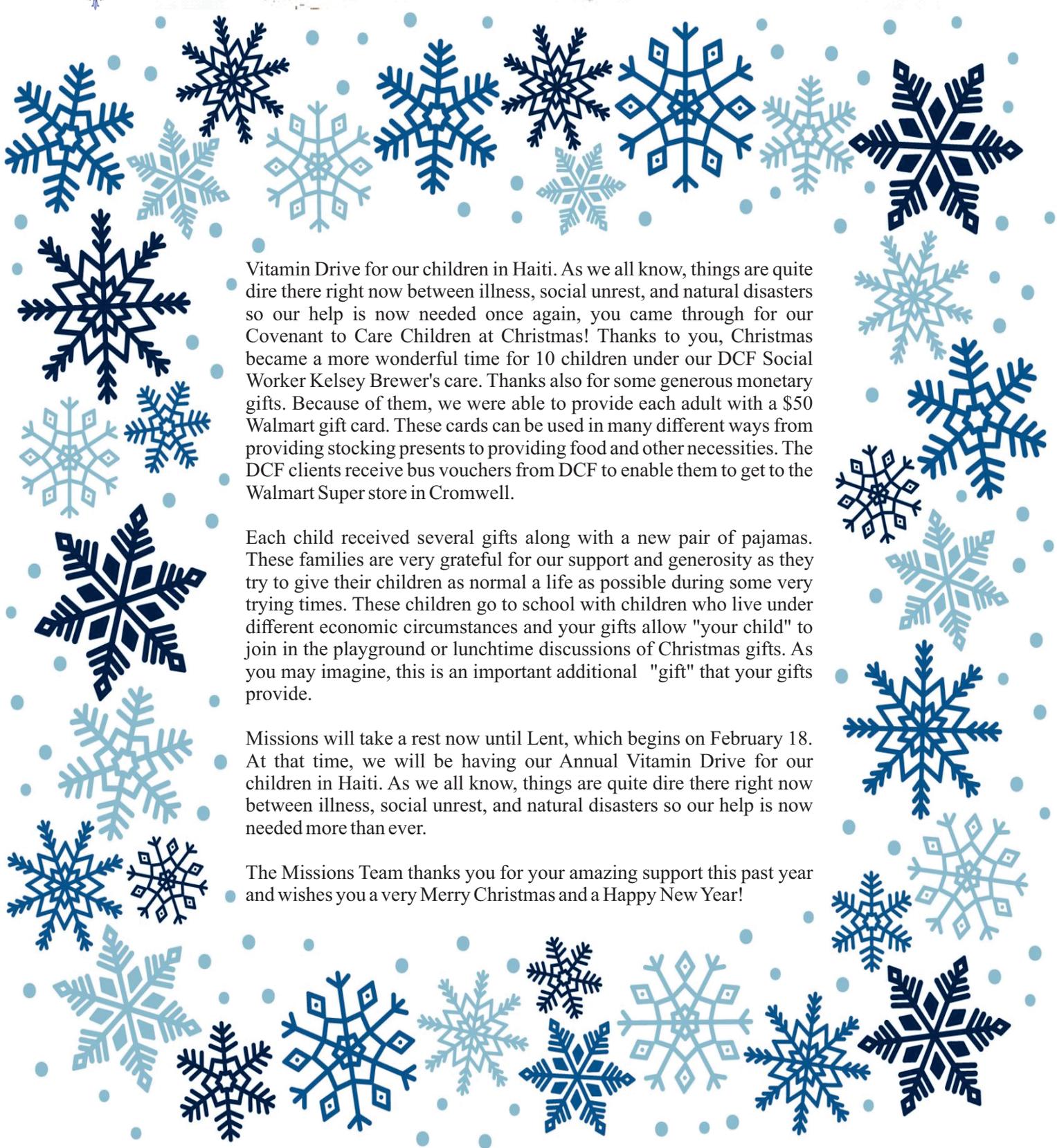
Let love be our token this Christmastide. May we give it, receive it, feel it, show it every day of our lives in Christ.

Blessings,

Diana †



MISSIONS



Vitamin Drive for our children in Haiti. As we all know, things are quite dire there right now between illness, social unrest, and natural disasters so our help is now needed once again, you came through for our Covenant to Care Children at Christmas! Thanks to you, Christmas became a more wonderful time for 10 children under our DCF Social Worker Kelsey Brewer's care. Thanks also for some generous monetary gifts. Because of them, we were able to provide each adult with a \$50 Walmart gift card. These cards can be used in many different ways from providing stocking presents to providing food and other necessities. The DCF clients receive bus vouchers from DCF to enable them to get to the Walmart Super store in Cromwell.

Each child received several gifts along with a new pair of pajamas. These families are very grateful for our support and generosity as they try to give their children as normal a life as possible during some very trying times. These children go to school with children who live under different economic circumstances and your gifts allow "your child" to join in the playground or lunchtime discussions of Christmas gifts. As you may imagine, this is an important additional "gift" that your gifts provide.

Missions will take a rest now until Lent, which begins on February 18. At that time, we will be having our Annual Vitamin Drive for our children in Haiti. As we all know, things are quite dire there right now between illness, social unrest, and natural disasters so our help is now needed more than ever.

The Missions Team thanks you for your amazing support this past year and wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



*Grow
in Christ*

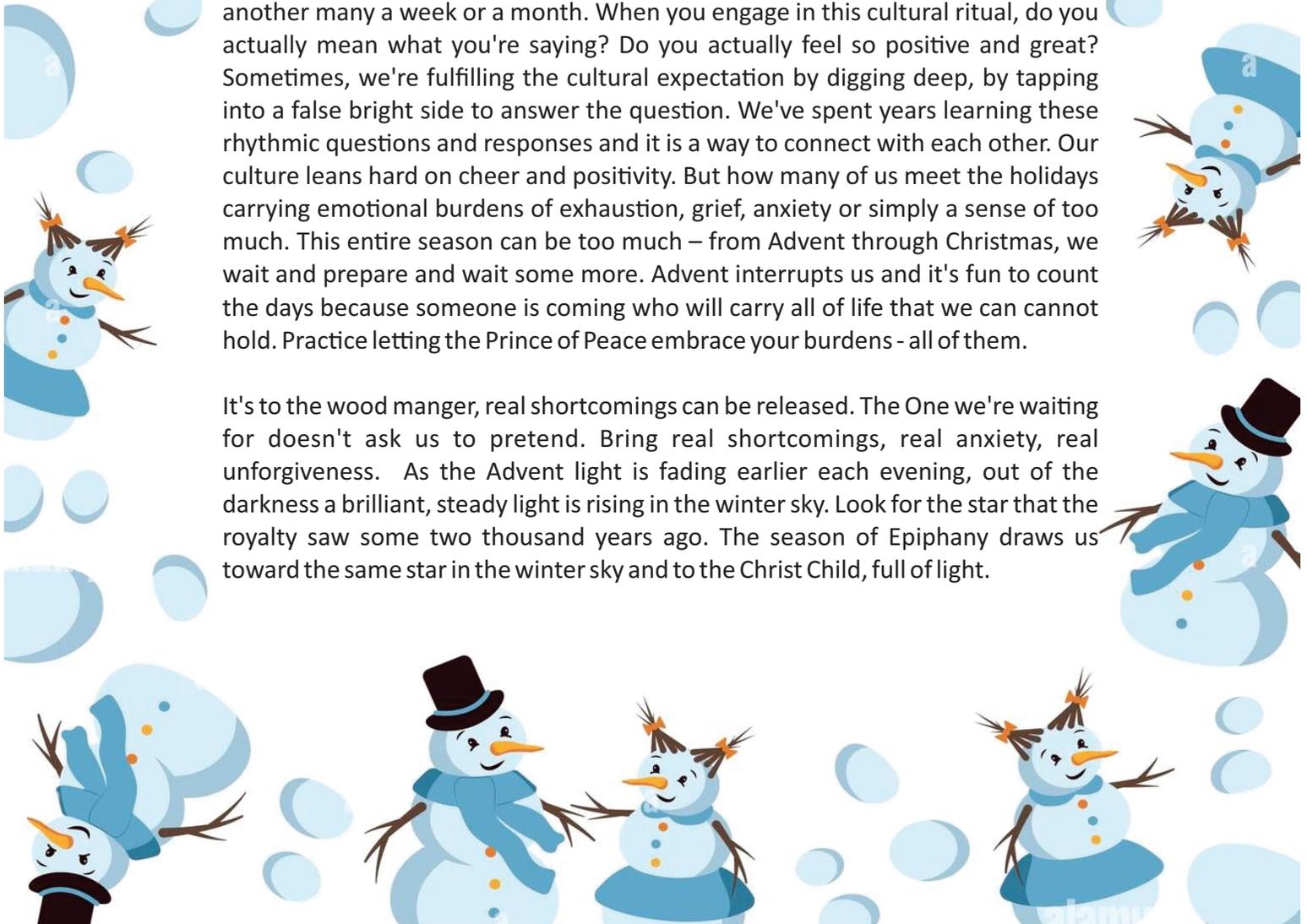
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes for all ages



“Hi! How are you?” “I'm good. How about you?” We repeat these words to one another many a week or a month. When you engage in this cultural ritual, do you actually mean what you're saying? Do you actually feel so positive and great? Sometimes, we're fulfilling the cultural expectation by digging deep, by tapping into a false bright side to answer the question. We've spent years learning these rhythmic questions and responses and it is a way to connect with each other. Our culture leans hard on cheer and positivity. But how many of us meet the holidays carrying emotional burdens of exhaustion, grief, anxiety or simply a sense of too much. This entire season can be too much – from Advent through Christmas, we wait and prepare and wait some more. Advent interrupts us and it's fun to count the days because someone is coming who will carry all of life that we can cannot hold. Practice letting the Prince of Peace embrace your burdens - all of them.

It's to the wood manger, real shortcomings can be released. The One we're waiting for doesn't ask us to pretend. Bring real shortcomings, real anxiety, real unforgiveness. As the Advent light is fading earlier each evening, out of the darkness a brilliant, steady light is rising in the winter sky. Look for the star that the royalty saw some two thousand years ago. The season of Epiphany draws us toward the same star in the winter sky and to the Christ Child, full of light.





THE TREASURER'S REPORT



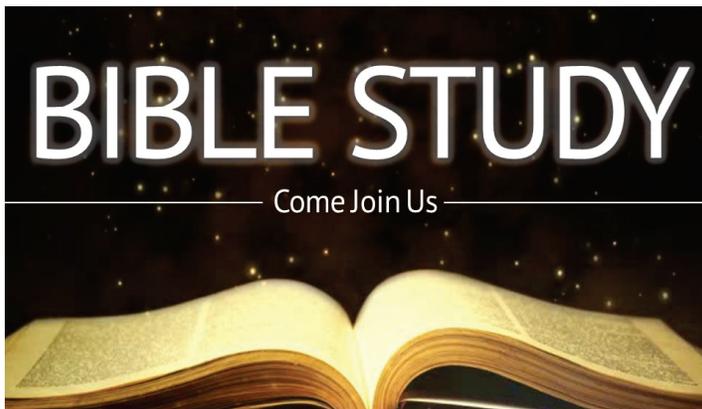
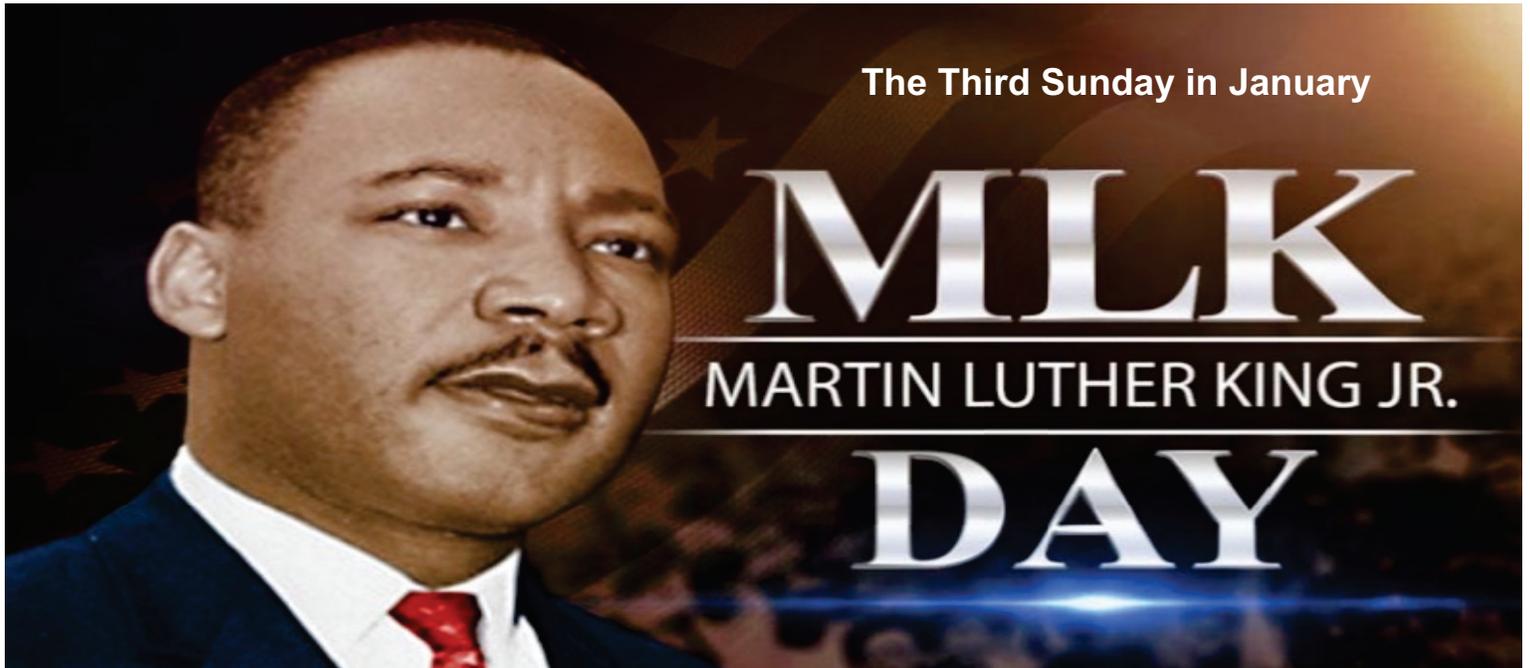
As of November 2025

Pledges for November were \$11,365.25, over budget by \$3,008.67. Year to date pledges stand at \$93,557.70, over budget by \$1,635.32.

November income was \$18,046.25, over budget by \$4,902.17. Year to date income is \$136,457.34, over budget by \$8,372.46.

November expenses were \$10,643.77, over budget by \$127.36. Year to date expenses are \$124,136.30 under budget by \$5,576.21.

Barry Edmonds, Treasurer



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

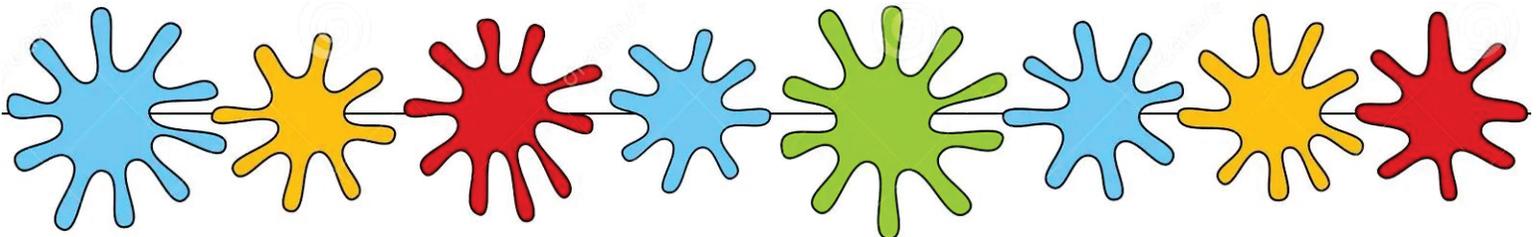
If you are interested in joining, please contact Bobette at bobette@kahn.com. She will send you instructions on the readings and the zoom information.



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



RESULTS

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee and the Vestry, we would like to thank everyone who submitted a pledge for the upcoming 2026 year. We are very happy to announce that the pledges totaled \$102,674.00 from 37 pledging units! This was a 7.8% monetary increase over our 2025 pledges and an overall average of \$2,775.00 a year per pledging unit. Your pledges help to fund so many things here at Christ Church as well as in our local community and in the world. Your answering support is greatly appreciated.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Courtney Hye	01/04
Luke Noll	01/04
Dottie Seitzer	01/10
Rick Wanat	01/13
Patti Stannard	01/15
Mckayla Wanat	01/18
Emily Williamson	01/19

Paul Strickett	01/19
Bud Briere	01/22
Dawn Gingras	01/25
Nancy Briere	01/26
Jeffrey Pugatch	01/26
Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard	01/28



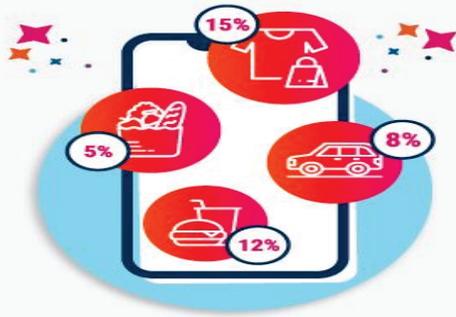
Time To Celebrate

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

Send all submissions to:

christchurchbellringer@gmail.com

The
BELLRINGER
DEADLINE



Turn everyday shopping
into fundraising dollars



RaiseRight™

Simply the right way to fundraise

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.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN CONNECTICUT

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

BISHOP'S VISIT
January 11, 2026



Bishop Jeff Mello will be visiting Christ Church on Sunday, January 11, 2026, 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 include confirmation and receptions into the Episcopal Church. If you or your teen-aged child would like to be confirmed or received please speak to Rev. Diana. If you would like to renew your baptismal vows, the bishop's visit is also available for that. Again, please speak to Rev. Diana.

In addition to the above, the bishop has agreed to bless our church bell and to name it in honor of the Reverend Page Rogers.



For many, many years Christ Church has been supporting the work accomplished at The Saint Vincent's Center for Children With Disabilities in Haiti.

We recently received a pamphlet outlining exactly what our contributions have been accomplishing. What your gift does among other things:

- You educate 200 children each year
- You instill confidence, self-esteem, discipline, hope, and ambition
- You pay 110 salaries of skilled teachers, doctors, and nurses
- You enable the lame to walk
- You provide 100,000 nourishing meals annually
- You make the difference

Thanksgiving doesn't
have to end.



Let's be thankful
all year long.



January's Fun Twist
Poet: Catherine Pulsifer



**January's here with snow and ice,
The coldest month, but that's alright!
We bundle up, we wear our hats,
And try to avoid the chilly spats.**



**The New Year's resolutions are in full swing,
But let's be honest, how long will they cling?
We vow to change, to eat less pie,
Then January's donuts catch our eye.**



**The days are short, the nights are long,
But cozy moments still feel so strong.
So here's to January, the month so bright,
Full of chilly mornings and New Year's might!**





ORDINATION

Service

of

MAGGIE LABINSKI

Please join us at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford, CT at 11:00 am on January 10, 2026 to celebrate the ordination of our own Maggie Labinski into the priesthood of the Episcopal Church. This has been a long journey for Maggie culminating in her ordination. We are her sponsoring church and have been following her as she prepares for this next phase of her life's journey.

Becoming an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church involves a multi-year process of discernment, seminary education, and final steps, culminating in a ritual presided over by a bishop. The discernment process includes initial exploration in one's local congregation and meets with diocesan leadership, followed by theological studies at an accredited seminary. After preparing for the General Ordination Exam and being approved as a candidate, the individual is ordained as a deacon first, and then as a priest, in a ceremony that confers authority to preach, administer Sacraments, and serve the people.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Parish Annual Meeting of the church is scheduled for Sunday, February 8th, 2026 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 in to Joal no later than Thursday, January 15, 2026.**



The church directory has been updated for 2026-2027. A copy was sent to all parishioners by email on December 12th. If there are any changes to your information, please email them to christchurchbellringer@gmail.com.

If you would like a printed copy of the directory you can pick one up at both entrances to the church.



KINDNESS COST NOTHING
BUT IT'S ABSENCE COST EVERYTHING

UNKNOWN



Calendar of Events



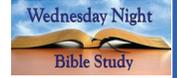
Sunday, January 4, 2026 - The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

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



Wednesday, January 7, 2026 - Bible Study

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



Saturday, January 10, 2026 - Ordination of Maggie Labinski

11:00 a.m. - Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT
Parking in the lot adjacent to The Hartford Stage, parking tickets available from and usher when entering the church.



Sunday, January 11, 2026 - The First Sunday after the Epiphany

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



Wednesday, January 14, 2026 - Bible Study

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



Thursday, January 15, 2026 - Report Due

All reports for the Annual Report are due in to Joal by 5:00 p.m.



Sunday, January 18, 2026 - The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer with Susie Cordon Karl
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Tuesday, January 20, 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, January 21, 2026 - Bible Study

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



Sunday, January 25, 2026 - The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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



Wednesday, January 28, 2026 - Bible Study

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





In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brazil

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely & the oppressed. For Swords to Plowshares.

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; Mary Armitage; Brian Correll; Andrea; Donna Long; Susan Castellan; Wayne Curry; Evelyn King; Carl Day; Tracy Becker; Ben; 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
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:
christchurchmiddlehaddam.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:
Joal Lentz

Bellinger Editor:
Bruce A. Dubay

Bellinger e-mail:
christchurchbellinger@gmail.com