

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



**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
**APRIL 2026**

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

On March 15<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Lent IV and Mothering Sunday. Mothering Sunday is an English tradition that originated in the Middle Ages, first, as an occasion to return to worship at the church in which one was baptized, and later evolving into a recognition of the importance of mothers in our lives. When Christ Church celebrated Mothering Sunday many of our children took part in the worship, serving as acolytes, intercessors, oblation bearers, and Eucharistic Ministers. We will celebrate again on May 10<sup>th</sup>, our American Mothers' Day, with children in significant liturgical roles. Please mark your calendars now so that you can be sure to be in church supporting them in their life in Christ.

During the intercessions, this prayer for children was read by one of our teens:

Let us pray.

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show us (them) that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help us (them) to take failure, not as a measure of our (their) worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give us (them) strength to hold our (their) faith in you, and to keep alive our (their) joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen. (BCP p. 849, prayer 47)*

I invite you to add this prayer to your own private intercessions, to remember that our young people live in a time of great stress and upheaval societally and spiritually. They need all our prayers, respect, and love.

In peace,

Diana †



# MISSIONS

Easter is on April 5 and thus we will end our annual Lenten Vitamin Drive. Each Lenten Season we try to raise enough money to provide a year's worth of a daily vitamin for each of the almost 200 children who participate in the St Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities school and programs. Any extra monies are used by the Center for their greatest need, probably food, during this time of turmoil in Haiti. So, when you give up something for Lent, or set aside money as a sacrifice, the Missions Team asks that you consider donating that money to our Annual Vitamin Drive.

A wonderful video about the Center is available on You Tube:  
<https://youtu.be/zNKKjAvMQ2c?si=cnQQUVGr1qO3hMZG>

Then, on Easter on April 5, or before April 26, please put your cash or check in an envelope and place it in the Offering plate. Please identify your donation as being for the Vitamin Drive of Haiti. You could also send the amount in a check to Christ Church, with the word "Missions", "Haiti", or "Vitamins" on the **memo line**.

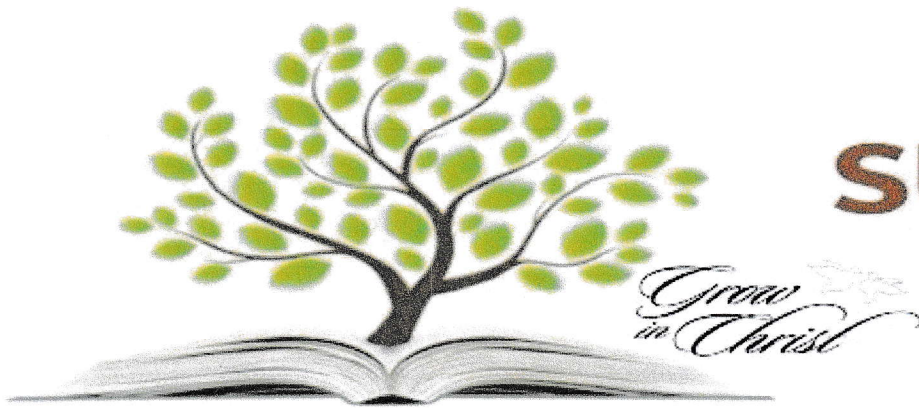
Please continue to support our local Food Bank right here in East Hampton with donations of food and/or money for the Fuel Bank. There are large black bins by the church office door in which you can place your non-perishable, unexpired food and other grocery items. You can also send checks directly to the Food Bank. In addition, they accept food drop-offs at their location on 43 West High Street, East Hampton, CT 06424. You can find more information and a list of their current needs at <https://www.easthamptonct.gov/social-services/food-bank>.

Remember that your bottles and cans also support our Missions work. And, finally, we are having another Mother's Day Diaper Drive in May. Please don't hesitate to ask questions, make suggestions, or join our team! Our next Missions Team meeting will be on April 20. We'd love to welcome new members to our team!

Contact Clive Connor [clivekconnor@aol.com](mailto:clivekconnor@aol.com); 860-267-7813 or Mary Boretz ([mboretz1@gmail.com](mailto:mboretz1@gmail.com); 860-267-0365) for more information.



LENTEN  
VITAMIN  
DRIVE



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes for all ages

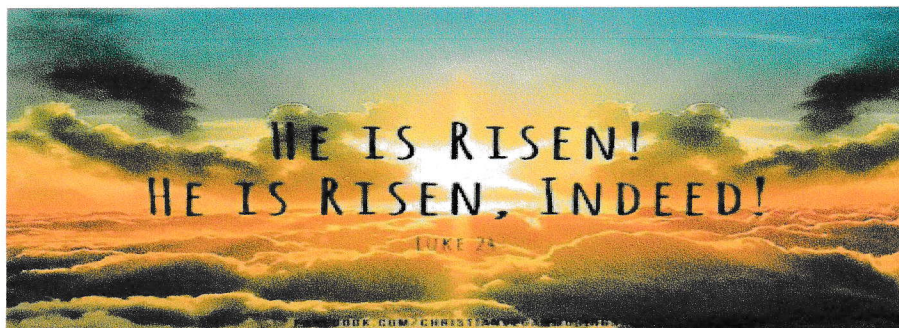
"For I know that my Redeemer lives and at the last he will stand upon the earth." (Job 19:25-27)

"He is not here. He has risen." "He has risen from death as he said he would." (Matthew 28:6)

We Christians need to challenge ourselves to believe the Easter message. In spite of wars that destroy and fear that the world is out of control, Jesus has risen! And so we shout again "Alleluia!". This gospel message assures us that God is always at work making things new - even now. The plants are bursting with buds and tiny new leaves are unfolding. The shoots and blossoms are God's message of hope. We can look at them and believe anew. Challenge yourself. Approaching the Easter season, we are invited to see the world differently. We are called upon to hear the good news in a fresh new way. These weeks of winter cold are giving way to a warmer, enduring message of resurrection, one that proclaims hope and possibility. Look for it. Listen for it. Be changed as Jesus was. Jesus has risen! Alleluia!

With prayers that the risen Christ will bless you with joy.

Reverend Joanne †





# THE TREASURER'S REPORT



## As of February 2026

Pledges for February were \$10,812.00, over budget by \$2,342.50. Year to date pledges stand at \$19,683.75, over budget by \$2,744.75.

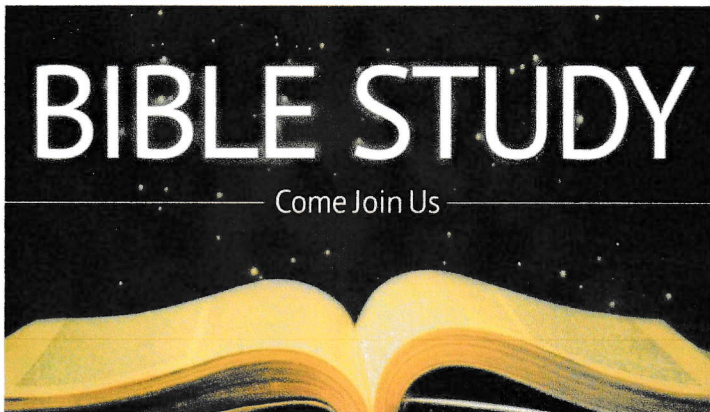
February income was \$13,279.50, over budget by \$1,689.16. Year to date income is \$24,859.25, over budget by \$1,678.57.

February expenses were \$11,530.22, under budget by \$376.77. Year to date expenses are \$20,495.15, under budget by \$5,268.83.

*Geri Cecilio*, Treasurer



In conjunction with Easter we will be having a bake sale on Saturday, April 19, 2025 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Parish Hall. We need your baked goods to make this a success. So fire up those ovens and get to baking those cookies, cakes, pies, breads and anything else you can think of. More information on this will appear in the weekly bulletins. If you have any questions contact Linda Napoletano at 860-490-8026, [lindanapoletano@me.com](mailto:lindanapoletano@me.com) or Emily Moore at 860-267-6736, [emoore393@yahoo.com](mailto:emoore393@yahoo.com).



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](mailto:bobette@kahn.com). She will send you instructions on the readings and the zoom information.

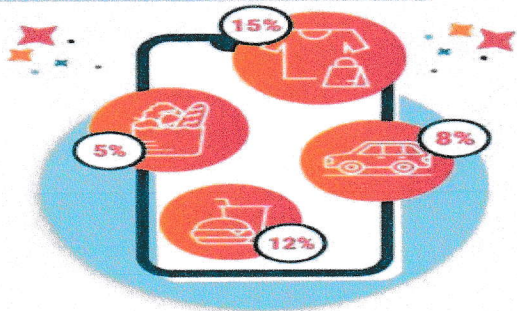


## **CHANGE OF OR ADDITION TO OUR EMAIL ADDRESSES**

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](mailto:christchurchbellringer@gmail.com)

HAS YOUR ADDRESS  
**CHANGED?**



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 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](mailto:bobette@kahn.com) to place your order.



**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
THE SERVICE  
ON EASTER SUNDAY**

# April and spring



By Maya Anthony

As April tiptoes in with grace,  
The world stirs from its wintered face.  
Bare trees wear their green attire,  
And flowers bloom, never to tire.

Birds return with melodies sweet,  
Their songs of joy, a rhythmic beat.  
The sun caresses the earth's broad span,  
Whispering life, as only it can.

The air, fragrant with blooms anew,  
Every breeze feels fresh and true.  
April heralds spring's embrace tight,  
Chasing away the cold, stark night.

©Engdic.org

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

# April Anniversaries!

Kevin Godwin	04/04
Dana Vick	04/05
Sarah Stannard	04/11
Bruce A. Dubay	04/12
Sara Boretz	04/13
Hal Boretz	04/13
Clive Connor	04/20
Carl Gingras	04/20
Don Briere	04/27
Angela Risigo	04/27
Sharon Porven	04/28

Kate & Howard Grant	04/04
Nancy & Bud Briere	04/17

**Congratulations!**



# Time To Celebrate

*The*  
**BELLRINGER**  
**DEADLINE**

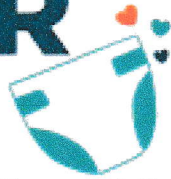
The deadline for the submission of all articles and/or items of interest for the May 2026 issue of the Bellringer is April 15, 2026.

Send all submissions to:

[christchurchbellringer@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbellringer@gmail.com)

MOTHER'S DAY

# DIAPER DRIVE



# WON'T YOU HELP?



May 10, 2026 is Mother's Day and the Missions Team wants to honor all mothers with a Covenant to Care Diaper Drive. Please consider honoring your own mother or other mothers in your life by donating some packages of diapers.

Diapers are incredibly expensive for such a necessary item - costing approximately \$.50-\$.70 each, depending on the size and brand. The children under the care of our Social Worker, Kelsey Brewer, need Pull-ups (all sizes) or diapers in size 3-4. Children this age typically go through 4 diapers/pull-ups a day so they cost approximately \$2-3/day or \$14-21 a week! When parents are struggling to make ends meet, they often resort to changing their child less often than necessary which results in a whole host of other problems such as diaper rash.

If you agree that no child should have to remain in a wet diaper any longer than necessary, then please help us in our Diaper Drive!

The diapers needed, according to Kelsey, are **sizes 3 and 4 in regular diapers** and **all sizes in Pull-Ups** (for those transitioning out of diapers). Please drop off your donation in the Parish Hall or call Mary Boretz (860-267-0365) or Patti Kloo (860-510-3585) to make other arrangements. We would like all diaper donations dropped off by Sunday, May 10.

## THE LITTLE THINGS WE TAKE FOR GRANTED

**WHILE YOU WOKE UP TIRED TODAY,  
SOMEONE ELSE DIDN'T WAKE UP AT ALL.**

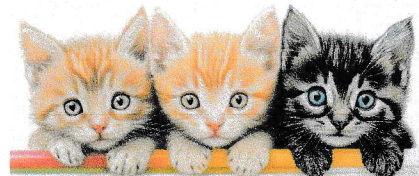
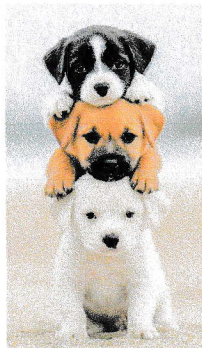
**WHILE YOU HURRIED THROUGH YOUR MORNING,  
SOMEONE ELSE IS PRAYING FOR A REASON TO START THEIRS.**

**WHILE YOU COMPLAINED ABOUT WALKING TO WORK,  
SOMEONE ELSE WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO JUST STAND AGAIN.**

**WHILE YOU WISHED FOR THE WEEKEND TO COME FASTER,  
SOMEONE ELSE IS WISHING FOR JUST ONE MORE DAY.**

**SO PAUSE,  
TAKE A BREATH.  
LOOK AROUND.**

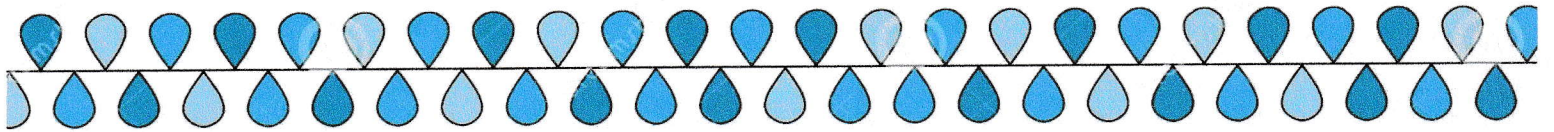
**YOU ALREADY HAVE MORE THAN YOU THINK.**



# HAPPY APRIL



# FOOLS' DAY!



“ ”

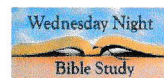
**IF APRIL SHOWERS SHOULD  
COME YOUR WAY, THEY  
BRING THE FLOWERS THAT  
BLOOM IN MAY.**

– BUDDY DE SYLVA

# Calendar of Events

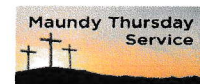
## Wednesday, April 1, 2026 - Bible Study

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



## Thursday, April 2, 2026 - Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers



## Friday, April 3, 2026 - Stations of the Cross

5:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross with Rev. Diana Rogers



## Friday, April 3, 2026 - Good Friday

6:00 p.m. - Communion from reserve sacrament with Rev. Diana Rogers



## Saturday, April 4, 2026 - Easter Bake Sale

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Parish Hall



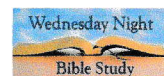
## Sunday, April 5, 2026 - Easter Sunday

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



## Wednesday, April 8, 2026 - Bible Study

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



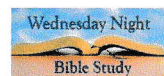
## Sunday, April 12, 2026 - The Second Sunday of Easter

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



## Wednesday, April 15, 2026 - Bible Study

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



## Sunday, April 19, 2026 - The Third Sunday of Easter

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)



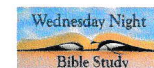
## Tuesday, April 21, 2026 - Vestry Meeting

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



## Wednesday, April 22, 2026 - Bible Study

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



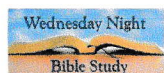
## Sunday, April 26, 2026 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

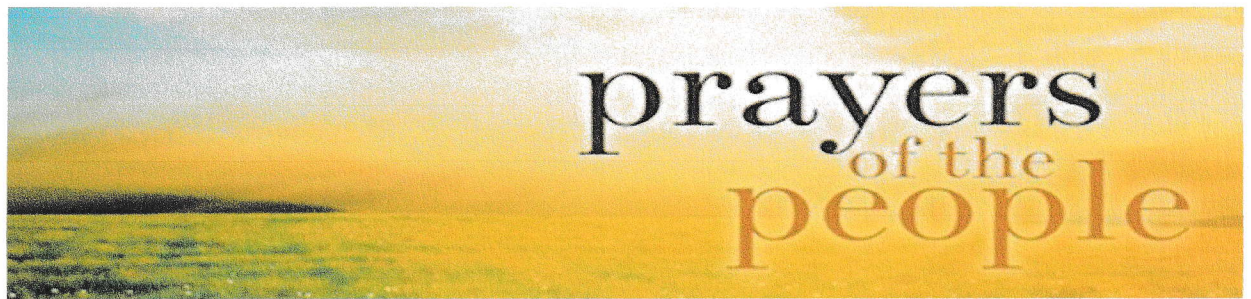
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers  
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



## Wednesday, April 29, 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**

The Anglican Church of Kenya

### **In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

St. Peter's, Hebron; St. James', Higganum; All Saints', Ivoryton; Bishops, The Commons staff & parish employees

### **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; Donna Long; Susan Castellan; Wayne Curry; Carl Day; Stacey; Susan Ehringhaus; Lee; Paul; Kym Stohl; and Ralph Tacey.

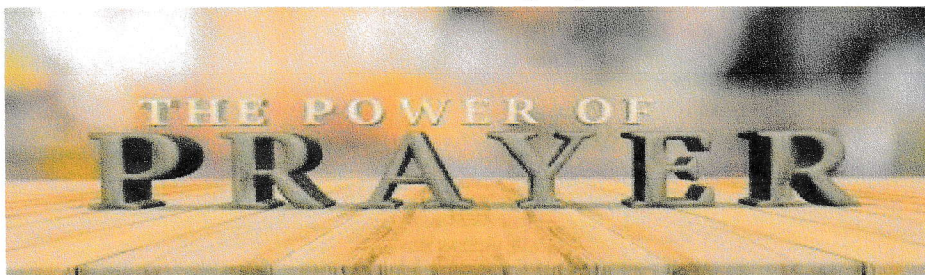
### **We pray for:**

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 INFORMATION:*****Vestry:***

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

***Organist:***

Ted Williams

***Parish Administrator:***

Joal Lentz

***Bellringer Editor:***

Bruce A. Dubay

***Bellringer e-mail:***

[christchurchbellringer@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbellringer@gmail.com)

***Officers:***

Donna Dube Hryb, 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](http://christchurchmiddlehaddam.com)

***Church e-mail:***

[ccmhadmin@gmail.com](mailto:ccmhadmin@gmail.com)

***Sexton:***

Brian Donaldson

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