

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



ALL ARE WELCOME!

JUNE 2026

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Can you believe it—it's almost Memorial Day and Summer! It seems like we were shoveling snow just a couple of weeks ago. Summer is always an exciting time when we hope to be able to kick back, enjoy the lakes, the rivers, and the shorelines, read those books that have been piling up on the bed-side table, and enjoy the fresh fruits and vegetables from the gardens. Time to slow down a little and enjoy the gifts of God's creation. I pray that you will experience some, or all, of these things.

This is my last article before my usual summer break—not a break from you, but a break from writing for the Bellringer. My next article will be in the edition you receive in August. By that time, I will have participated in two programs that I know I'll want to tell you about.

First, at the end of June, I'll be attending a retreat in New Hampshire that will begin the Growing Green Leadership Training program in the first cohort of Episcopal Clergy. This is a program sponsored by Province I (New England) of the Episcopal Church and aims to train and support Episcopal clergy who seek to live into Creation justice within their congregation and communities; and want to build relational networks of support across Province I. The cohort of clergy will meet monthly for six months on Zoom after the first retreat.

The second program is the annual gathering of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery at the end of July in Harrisburg, PA. The Coalition is a collaboration of the Mennonite and Episcopal Churches, and Indigenous Peoples across the Americas. In preparing the Spring Training workshop on the Doctrine of Discovery, I came to the conclusion that more study and self-education on this topic was important to my role as an ally and as an Episcopal priest in the movement of advocacy and justice for our Indigenous friends and neighbors. The gathering in Harrisburg will be a time of learning through talks; a tour of the Carlisle Indian School (one of the main residential schools to which Indigenous children were sent for white inculturation); and spiritual worship and meditation.

I am looking forward to both opportunities with both excitement and trepidation, and gratitude to God for making these times of learning open to me. I hope to bring insights back to you that will make a difference in your lives and how we all think about the environment and history.

See you in church!

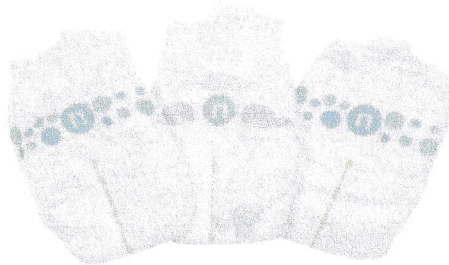
In peace,

Diana ✝

MISSIONS

Thank you so much for contributing to our Missions Lenten Vitamin Drive for St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Haiti. We added some monies from the bottles and cans to your donations for a total of \$1000, some of which will buy a year's worth of vitamins for each of the 200 students at the Center. The rest of the money will be put to good use by the Center. in their area of greatest need, in particular, food. The Missions Team is so grateful for the donations made by the members of our Parish which will help to keep the school going at this difficult time.

Closer to home, a huge thank you to all who contributed to our Diaper Drive for Mother's Day. We collected 1541 diapers which will go a long way in easing the costs for our Social Worker's families in need. Several people expressed their shock at the cost of diapers - a fact that these families know all too well. As a result, they sometimes have to make difficult decisions about how long a child needs to stay in a wet diaper. Thanks to your generosity, these decisions can be put off.





LET'S RING OUR BELL ON JULY 4TH

As part of the July 4th Semiquincentennial celebration Governor Lamont has called upon churches, businesses, towns, and individuals to ring their bells at 2pm on July 4th. Christ Church will participate in this state-wide and nation-wide event. Come to the church at 1:45pm on the 4th to help ring our bell to honor the 250th birthday of our country. Bring your own bells, too, to add to the joyful noise! All ages can have a go at pulling the rope in the front foyer! For more Connecticut events leading up to the 4th follow this link to the official calendar: <https://ctvisit.com/ct250>



THE TREASURER'S REPORT



As of April 2026

Pledges for April were \$7,831.50, under budget by \$638.00. Year to date pledges stand at \$38,324.00, over budget by \$4,446.00.

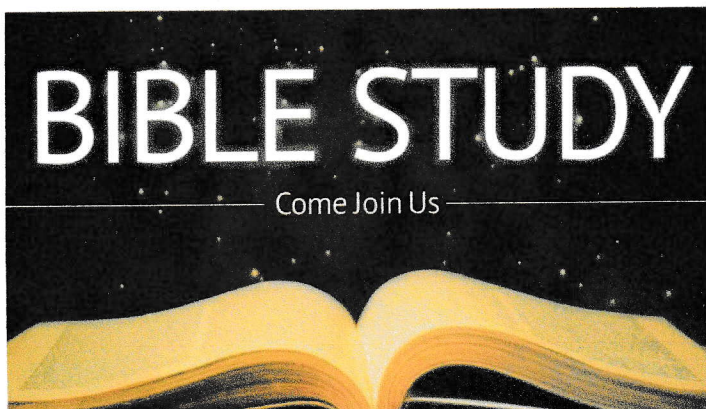
April income was \$15,537.50, over budget by \$3,947.16. Year to date income is \$55,682.50, over budget by \$9,321.14.

April expenses were \$9,925.06, under budget by \$1,481.93. Year to date expenses are \$41,542.45, under budget by \$8,435.51.

Geri Cecilio, Treasurer



On behalf of the Missions Team we thank all who donated diapers during our annual Mother's Day Diaper Drive. Patti, Mary & Scott are taking a well deserved rest after loading all the diapers into Patti's car for delivery to the Department of Children and Family Services.



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.

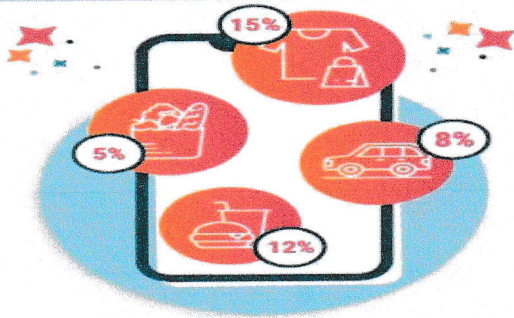


CHANGE OF OR ADDITION TO OUR EMAIL ADDRESSES

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

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 you want to be , 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 to place your order.



Fellowship, food & fun
CHURCH
Picnic



The Annual Parish Picnic has been scheduled for June 7th at the home of Linda & Dick Napoletano, 84 Bay Road, East Hampton. Plan to arrive at 12 noon or later. Lunch will be potluck and they ask that you bring an appetizer, main dish, side dish or dessert. A sign-up sheet will be available at the church. Street parking on the road. Several parking spaces are available on the property for handicapped individuals. Don't forget your bathing suit.

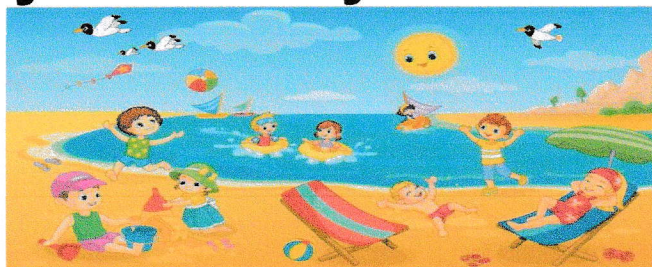
Come join us for a wonderful day of fellowship, good food and lots of fun.



**LAST
DAY
OF**

**Sunday
SCHOOL**

The last day of Sunday School is June 7th.



ENJOY YOUR SUMMER, STAY SAFE

June Birthdays



Rev. Mary Anne Osborn	06/03
Douglas Bevin	06/07
Kael Lynch	06/07
Myles Risigo	06/07
Bryson HYTE	06/10
Laurie Pietruska	06/11
Roberta Edmonds	06/13
Michael Gingras	06/13
Clive Tucceri Robertson	06/14
Chase Semenza	06/15
Barbara Sargent	06/20
Laurie Pugatch	06/22
Nora HYTE	06/27

Dotty & George Seitzer	06/03
Christine & Matthew Semensa	06/11
Winnie & Barry Edmonds	06/13
Dawn & Michael Gingras	06/29



Congratulations!

Time To Celebrate

The BELLRINGER DEADLINE

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

Send all submissions to:

christchurchbellringer@gmail.com



FOOD4LIVES MIDDLETOWN, CT



Patti Kloo, a member of our Christ Church family, volunteers for the **Food4Lives CT** program in Middletown, serving those in need of a warm meal **every Sunday starting at 1:15 pm in Middletown**. Organized about 4 or 5 years ago, the program serves roughly **30 to 40 people each Sunday**, providing them not only with a warm meal but a take away bag for later. They set up just outside the St Vincent de Paul's place on Main Street and, since St. Vincent de Paul's does not serve on Sundays, they are able to use their inside space. The program became a model for a similar program in Hartford which currently serves 130-150 people on a Sunday!

Here are the ways to help, depending on your ability to do the tasks needed:

1. **Volunteer to serve food** on a Sunday; If you bring a meal too, that would be great!
2. **A. Make a meal**. The meals are vegetarian so everyone can eat them. A 12x18 aluminum pan is enough. The meals and sides which have been successful are:

Mac and Cheese	Coleslaw
Rice and Beans	Potatoes (sweet or white; mashed, boiled, roasted)
Pasta and Sauce	Fresh Vegetables
Salads	Cheese and Crackers
Corn Muffins	Cookies/Granola bars/Fresh Fruit
Hot Chocolate Powder (in cannisters)	

3. **B. Provide Take Away Items** - they usually give out 30 bags each Sunday - just give what you can - the most common items for these bags are:

Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches	Cookies or Dessert or Granola bars
Instant oatmeal Packets	Small bags of Chips
Mac and Cheese cups	Fresh Fruit (apples, bananas, etc.)

3. **If you are not available to serve on Sundays, but can cook a meal**, you can bring your heated dish to church and Patti will take it with her. If you need to make it ahead of time, Patti will collect it from you and heat it and take it for you on Sunday. Patti needs to know by Wednesday what you plan to cook for that week in order to register it with the program.
4. **If you can shop but can't cook**, you can purchase the ingredients and Patti or another volunteer will make the food.
5. **If you can't shop or cook**, the program can use gift cards (Walmart is preferred, or Stop & Shop) or give a monetary donation directly to Patti to purchase food.

In addition, the program collects toiletry items such as toilet paper, toothbrushes and toothpaste to distribute.

Please do not stop supporting the East Hampton Food and Fuel Bank, but if you can support more than one program with your time, talent and/or treasure, please consider supporting **Food4Lives CT** in Middletown.

INTERESTED IN HELPING?

Contact **PATTI KLOO** at 860-510-3583 or at **SMALLMIRACLES23@SBCGLOBAL.NET**



FOOD4LIVES



Warm Weather Clothing Drive

Patti Kloo will again be collecting warm weather, new or nearly new, clothing for people in need in Middletown. Christ Church was the leading donor of the Winter clothes so now is a chance to clean out your closets of warmer weather clothes. Needed are T-shirts, shorts, pants, light sweaters, hoodies, sweatshirts, sandals, sneakers, and even undergarments. Adult sizes are needed from small to XXL or larger. Please bring your cleaned donations to church and leave them on the bench inside the church or in the Parish Hall. Be sure to mark your donations as for Food4Lives and let Patti know. Thank you!

*It is more blessed
to give than
to receive*

Acts 20:35

~ Jesus

Mark Your
CALENDAR
UPCOMING EVENTS AT OUR CHURCH

Save the Date--Sunday June 7th!

Sunday, June 7th, will be a busy and glorious day at Christ Church. The Rev. Maggie Labinski will preach and co-preside at the 10am service where she will receive a gift from Christ Church to celebrate her ordination to the priesthood. Also, the choir will end its season with a musical flourish, making us eager for its return in September! Sunday School will also close for the summer to return in the fall. And the day will wrap up with our annual picnic at Dick and Linda Napoletano's (more details on page 6). So save the date, you won't want to miss any of the festivities!

JUNETEENTH

Celebrate Freedom

JUNE 19th



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 Linda or Dick Napoletano at lindanapoletano@me.com, rnap1137@gmail.com or 860-490-8026, 860-490-8006 and they will let you know what slots are available. Thank you for volunteering.

PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP



LAST DAY OF CHOIR



THE LAST DAY THAT OUR CHOIR WILL BLESS US WITH THEIR WONDERFUL VOCAL PRAISES TO CHRIST WILL BE JUNE 7, 2026. PLEASE JOIN US IN WISHING THEM A WONDERFUL, SAFE AND WELL DESERVED SUMMER VACATION. WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU BACK IN SEPTEMBER.



TO ALL OUR FATHERS, BOTH NEAR AND FAR, WE WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY FATHERS DAY. ENJOY YOUR VERY SPECIAL DAY.

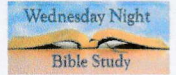


Calendar of Events



Wednesday, June 3, 2026 - Bible Study

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



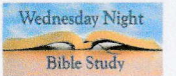
Sunday, June 7, 2026 - The Second Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Roger
The Rev. Maggie Labinski, co-president & preacher
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Wednesday, June 10, 2026 - Bible Study

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



Sunday, June 14, 2026 - The Third Sunday after Pentecost

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



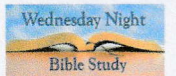
Tuesday, June 16, 2026 - Vestry Meeting

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



Wednesday, June 17, 2026 - Bible Study

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



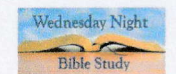
Sunday, June 21, 2026 - The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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)



Wednesday, June 24, 2026 - Bible Study

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



Sunday, June 28, 2026 - The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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



And now these three remain:
faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13

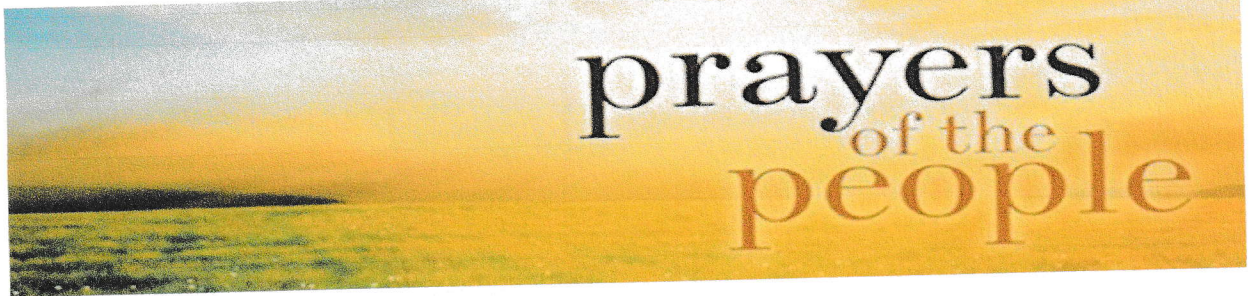
LOVE

each other as I have loved

YOU.

- John 15:12, NIV





prayers of the people

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. Luke's, New Haven; St. Paul & St. James, New Haven; St. Thomas's, New Haven; Regional Deans, Clergy peer groups & the Clergy Family Assistance Program

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 Castellán; Wayne Curry; Libby Clayton; Susan Ehringhaus; Lee; Paul; Kym Stohl; Ralph Tacey; Gerry Leddy; Ambra Pettibone; Rev. Joanne; John Edmiston; Sandy Forman; Maggie; Scott Williams; and Barry Edmonds.

We pray for:

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

For the hungry and the homeless.

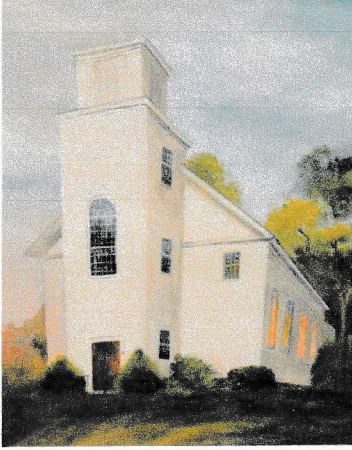
For all who mourn, bearing in mind the continuing deaths by gun violence.

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.

Please Note: If you know of someone that needs prayers and you would like them added to our prayer list, please fill out a prayer request form located on the table at the front of the church and place it in the collection plate, or contact our office administrator, Joal Lentz by email at ccmhadmin@gmail.com with your request. Each request will be placed on the prayer list for a period of 30 days. If at the end of 30 days you wish to have the individual remain on the list, you will have to initiate a new request.



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
Geri Cecilio, 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 Klou
Jerry Graham
Linda Napoletano
Scott Konior
Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard

Organist:

Ted Williams

Parish Administrator:

Joal Lentz

Bellinger Editor:

Bruce A. Dubay

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