

THE BELLRINGER

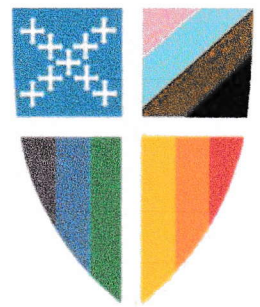
Christ Episcopal Church
66 Middle Haddam Road/P.O. Box 81
Middle Haddam CT 06456-0081

(860) 267-0287



ALL ARE WELCOME!

September 2026



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

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Can you believe it—it’s almost Memorial Day and Summer!” Can you believe I wrote those words to you almost three months ago! And now, can you believe it’s almost Labor Day and time for the Cookie Booth at the Haddam Neck Fair, and the Tag Sale (Dick and Linda Napoletano are working in the Parish Hall as I write this) with bake sale? Time passes quickly and a summer just begun soon becomes a summer almost gone. And almost nothing that we hoped would happen came to fruition, such is life.

In about a month we will have Welcome Back Sunday—the first day of Sunday School and the return of the choir. Backpacks will be blessed for a new school year and we will be astonished by how much our church children have grown and matured. Some have been to Camp Washington this summer, others were more involved in sports, everyone enjoyed the fruits of the earth—fresh corn, peaches, tomatoes, and (the inevitable) zucchini. God has richly blessed creation with good things to eat and soft summer days and nights to revel in.

In early August we said farewell and Godspeed to our beloved musician Ted Williams. Ted is retiring and moving into a new phase of his life and we wish him well. A small committee of the Vestry has been formed to think about next steps for Christ Church in hiring a new musician. Details of that search will be forthcoming as the committee does its work. If you have suggestions or questions please talk with me, either of your Wardens Donna and Clive, or our Choir Director Linda.

While I didn’t get to everything I had planned this summer, I did attend a four-day gathering in July/August of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery in Harrisburg and Landisville, PA. The coalition is a group of Episcopalians, Mennonites, and Native Americans dedicated to being in conversation and action with each other to identify and ameliorate the impact of the Doctrine of Discovery documents had upon the founding of non-Native nations in the Americas. In 2009 The Episcopal Church at its General Convention repudiated the doctrine and called upon all dioceses to search their histories and current practices that grew out of the doctrine. If you’ve never heard of the Doctrine of Discovery please talk with me or do an Internet search.

I hope each of you have been having a wonderful summer and that you are ready for the new academic year at Christ Church.

See you in church!

In peace,

Diana +

WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU?

Five good qualities of a person are kindness, honesty, empathy, resilience, and humility. These traits help people build strong trust, recover from tough times, and treat others with care and respect.

Kindness: Doing good deeds and treating others with warmth.

Honesty: Telling the truth and acting with a sincere heart.

Empathy: Feeling and understanding what other people go through.

Resilience: Staying strong and bouncing back when bad things happen.

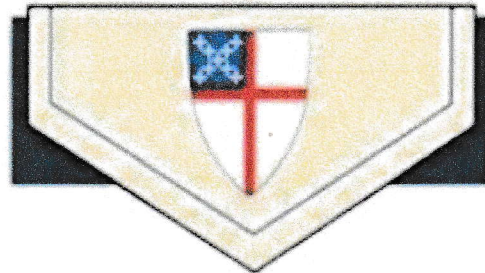
Humility: Knowing your limits and staying modest without arrogance.



**WE
NEED
YOU**

CHRIST CHURCH

Altar  Guild



**PLEASE
CONSIDER
VOLUNTEERING**

Since the loss of our Altar Guild colleague Barry, we are hoping for another church member to help us out. The rotation is once every 3 weeks and only takes about 15-20 minutes after the Sunday service to do the clean up and setup for the following Sunday. You will be paired up with another member. If someone does not want to make this full commitment, you may consider being a fill-in when needed or help out during the busiest times of the year for Altar Guild which is Advent, Christmas and Easter.

Please contact one of the Altar Guild members if you would like to join us!



Life is better with a friendly neighbor and you can make that difference right here in East Hampton.

UR Community Cares is looking for volunteers to support older residents and veterans through the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. A small act of kindness, like shoveling snow, raking leaves, mowing a lawn, or gardening, can make a big difference for someone who wants to remain safe, independent, and connected at home.

This program connects caring community members with neighbors who need yard work. Volunteers give their time based on their own availability, making it a flexible and meaningful way to help. All participants over 18 are background checked, and volunteers ages 15-18 may participate with supervision.

When you volunteer, you are not just helping with outdoor chores - you are bringing dignity, gratitude, and companionship to someone in your community.

If you're ready to lend a hand and be a friendly neighbor, sign up today at www.URCommunityCares.org or call 860-430-4557.

Together, we can make East Hampton stronger, kinder, and more connected, one good deed at a time.

Best Regards,

Janice Butterfield

Administrative Assistant, UR Community Cares

www.urcommunitycares.org



IT'S THE
FRIENDS
WE MEET
along THE WAY
THAT
HELP US
APPRECIATE
THE *journey*



One of the ways to meet new friends is to join our Youth Group, presently being formed at Christ Church. This is open to anyone 13 years or older. If interested, the meetings scheduled for September are September 2nd and 16th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall, next door to the church. Just drop an email to ccmhyouthgroup@gmail.com and meet the people who will help you appreciate the journey.





Caring for God's Creation



New Season of Creation Daily Devotions Begin on September 1

Most of us know very little about the great web of life that surrounds us. The purpose of these daily devotions is to open our eyes to some of the “created ones” with whom we share common ground, to awaken our hearts to their needs, and to take new steps towards living together in peace.

How do the work?

Each day of the 2026 Season of Creation (September 1 - October 4) participants will receive a Daily Devotion via email bringing to light a different keystone species in our Province One Eco Region. The Devotions will include a photo, a brief description, thoughts on how the species reflects our image of God, and a closing prayer. The Devotions will be prepared by Episcopalians from around Province One.

How do I sign up?

Follow this link to sign up: www.lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/OXmcMht

The Devotions will also be accessible at the website of *An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice* website: www.episcopalcreationpath.org

Reverend Diana wrote the devotion entry for September 30th

AUTUMN LEAVES FAIR

Saturday November 7, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please join us in celebrating the season and helping to continue the incredible tradition started decades ago, namely the Autumn Leaves Fair. There are wonderfully creative members in our community who knit, crochet, sew, make jewelry, craft cards, do woodworking and so much more.

And there are so many food items to be made, baked or donated by our church community, cookies, pies, jams, granola and many more.

Themed baskets filled with a selection of new items are always big sellers; we have the baskets and theme ideas for you!

There are so many ways to get involved. If you don't bake or craft we still need you. We will need help with the set-up, clean-up and help on the day of the fair. We will need you to encourage your friends and neighbors to come and support the fair.

Look for announcements in the Bellringer, Bulletin and weekly emails. Let us know what you would like to donate or how you want to help.

This is a huge undertaking and is an important fundraiser!

For more information, contact one of the two Co-Chairs:

Donna Dube Hryb donnadubehryb@gmail.com 860-633-0472

Bobette Reed Kahn bobette@kahn.com 860-250-0790



WE NEED YOU, PLEASE VOLUNTEER!



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.

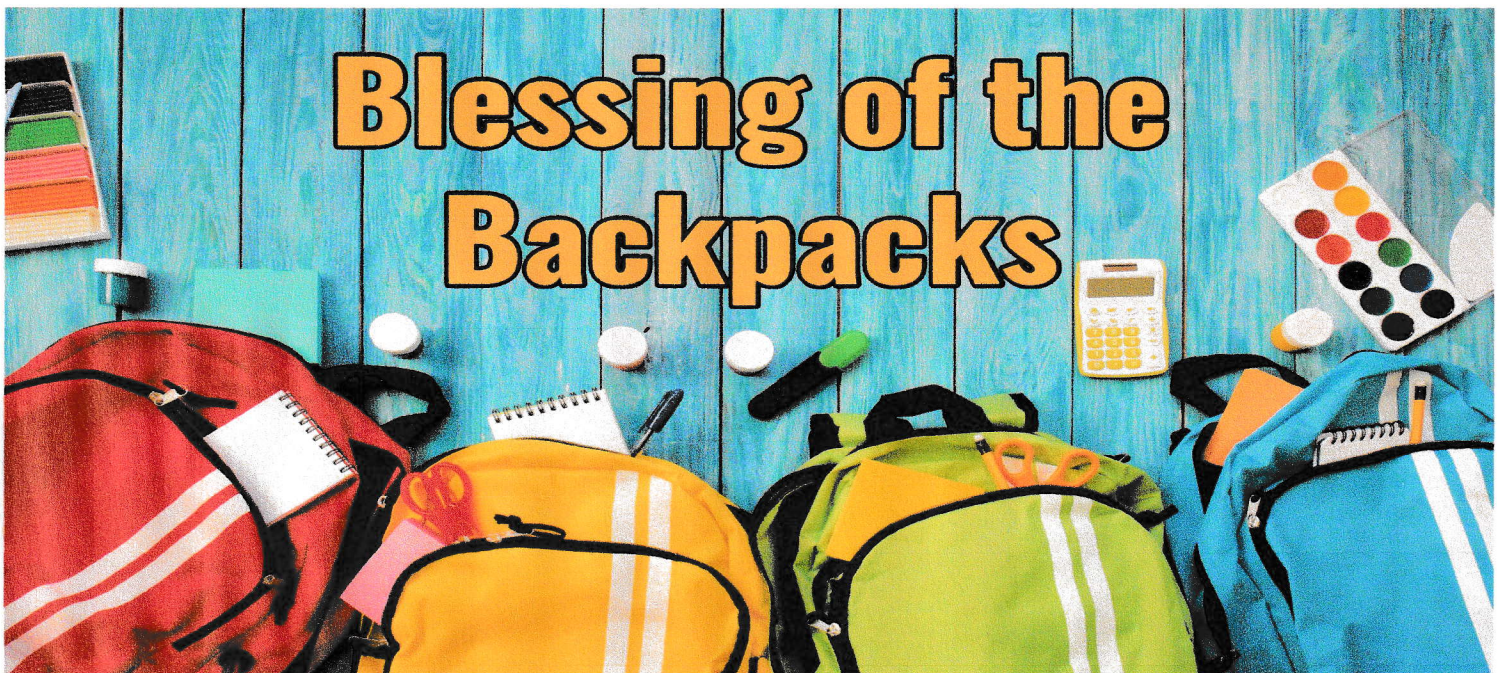
In addition to baked items we would like to include canned items like pickled beets, jams, jellies, tomatoes, tomato sauce, pickles and any other items you have canned from your gardens. Now that canning season is in full swing please put aside a few jars for the church's sale.

More information on the bake sale will appear in the weekly Constant Contact and monthly Bellringer or you can contact Winnie Edmonds at bwedmonds1214@gmail.com.





Sunday, September 20th is the first Sunday back for Sunday School. We'll register all students as we have in the past. We'll have a great time sharing the ways God showed up in their lives during the summer. And, of course, it will be Sundaes for the start up of Sunday School coffee hour. Please mark your calendars for this important date. The date has been changed for the beginning of Sunday School to allow members to attend Gavin Lynch's confirmation at St John's Niantic on September 13th. Christ Church will hold its normal 10am Holy Eucharist on the 13th.



Don't forget to bring your backpacks to church on Sunday, September 20th. They will receive a blessing during the service as we ask Jesus to guide you and protect you during the upcoming school session.

A close-up photograph of an open book showing musical notation on staves, serving as a background for the title.

Welcome Back, Choir!

Our wonderful choir will be back singing to the glory of God on September 20th, 2026 after enjoying a well earned summer off. Let's welcome them back with a round of applause.

We are in need of new voices to sing to the glory of God. If you are interested in joining our wonderful choir please contact Linda Napoletano at lindanapoletano@me.com, and let her know of your interest. No experience necessary. The date has been changed for the beginning of Choir to allow members to attend Gavin Lynch's confirmation at St John's Niantic on September 13th. Christ Church will hold its normal 10am Holy Eucharist on the 13th.

Make a *Joyful* noise unto the *Lord*
Psalm 98:4





CHURCH TAG SALE

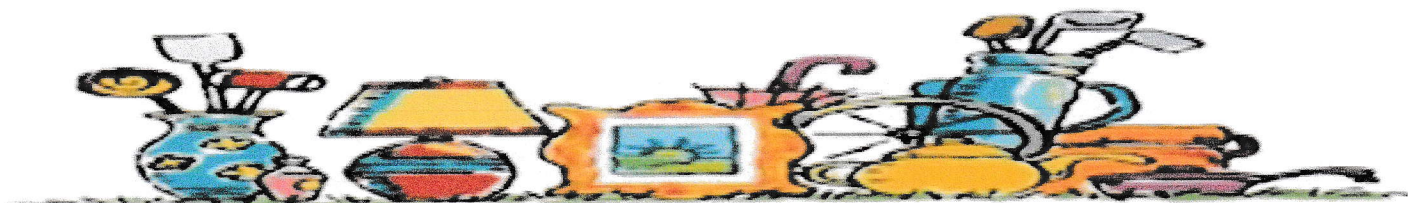


The fabulous Christ Church Tag Sale is back! We will open on Friday, September 4th of Labor Day weekend and continue Saturday, September 5th and Sunday morning, September 6th. To be the success it has been in the past, we will need quality donations, lots of help to clean, sort, and price, as well as a crew to help clean up after the sale is completed. donations can be placed to the left or inside the Parish hall, beginning on August 1st. It's important to donate early, since some quality items donated early will be sold on Facebook Marketplace. Please no old Tv's, outdated electronics, heavy furniture, adult clothing or exercise equipment. Best sellers are light to medium weight furniture, lean kitchenware and kitchen counter to appliances, as well as tools, bicycles, toys, antiques and games.

The tag sale is a great time to see old friends, make new acquaintances, and to give back to the church. Cleaning your donation will help us save time and make your donation more saleable.

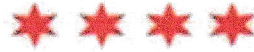
If you need help with pickup, wish to sign up to volunteer or have questions, contact Dick Napoletano at 860-490-8006, rnap1137@gmail.com or Scott Konior at 860-418-9719, wskonior1@hotmail.com.

GET RID OF YOUR STUFF





THE TREASURER'S REPORT



As of July 2025

Pledges for July were \$7,452.00, under budget by \$927.00. Year to date pledges stand at \$68,921.00 over budget by \$9,635.00.

July income was \$7,237.00 under budget by \$4,353.00. Year to date income is \$94,008.00 over budget by \$12,875.00.

July expenses were \$9,116.00 under budget by \$4,240.00. Year to date expenses are \$73,069.00 under budget by \$13,168.00.

Geri Cecilio, Treasurer



WE'RE BACK

Bible Study



Every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm beginning on September 16th, 2026. 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.

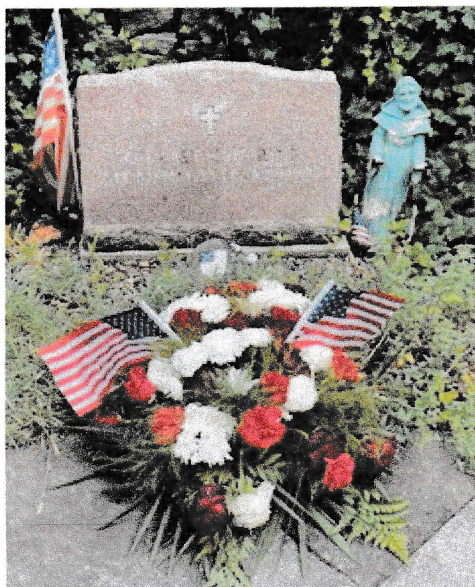
Bring your creatures, great and small, to the

Blessing of the



In memory of Saint Francis, on Sunday, October 4th, 2026 at 12:00 p.m., after Church and Coffee Hour, all of our parishioners, friends and neighbors are invited to meet outside for the Blessing of the Animals. All animals are welcome. If you don't have a live animal to bring, then bring a favorite photo, stuffed animal, ashes or a photo of an animal you used to have. This year will celebrate 800 years since the death of Saint Francis.

Please use your best judgement when choosing the animal to join us since we don't want your animal to be frightened. Treats and water for our animal friends will be provided as well as animal cookies for our human friends. This is always a joyful and fun event!



This arrangement was left in the Memorial Garden by persons unknown in memory of our fallen brother Barry Frank Edmonds who served in the U.S. Army. Some of his ashes are currently resting in our garden.



Celebrating SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES!

Avery Semenza	09/01
Chris Rapple	09/02
Donna Long	09/03
Christine Van Cott	09/07
Jerry Graham	09/11
Cindy Strickett	09/18
Mackenzie Rapple	09/24
Geri Cecilio	09/29
Bobette Reed Kahn	09/30

Jennifer & Doug Bevin	09/18
Barbara & Dan Sargent	09/26
Susan & Gregory Pugatch	09/27

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday

it's time to
CELEBRATE



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

Send all submissions to:

christchurchbellringer@gmail.com

DEADLINE



Calendar of Events



Wednesday, September 2, 2026 - Youth Group Meeting

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Parish Hall



Saturday, September 5, 2025 - Cookie Booth

10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Haddam Neck Fair Grounds



Sunday, September 6, 2025 - Cookie Booth

10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Haddam Neck Fair Grounds



Sunday, September 6, 2026 - The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers

(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Monday, September 7, 2026 - Cookie Booth - Labor Day

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Haddam Neck Fair Grounds



Sunday, September 13, 2026 - The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers

(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Tuesday, September 15, 2026 - Vestry Meeting

6:00 p.m. - Parish Hall

All are welcome to attend



Wednesday, September 16, 2026 Youth Group Meeting

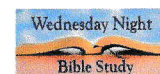
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Parish Hall



Wednesday, September 16, 2026 - Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn

(This will be a Zoom.com meeting)



Sunday, September 20, 2026 - The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers

Senior Adult Ministry - Cobalt Lodge immediately after the service

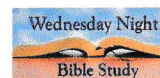
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Wednesday, September 23, 2026 - Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn

(This will be a Zoom.com meeting)



Sunday, September 27, 2026 - The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Diana Rogers

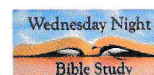
(This will be a hybrid celebration)



Wednesday, September 30, 2026 - Bible Study

6:00 p.m. - Led by the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn

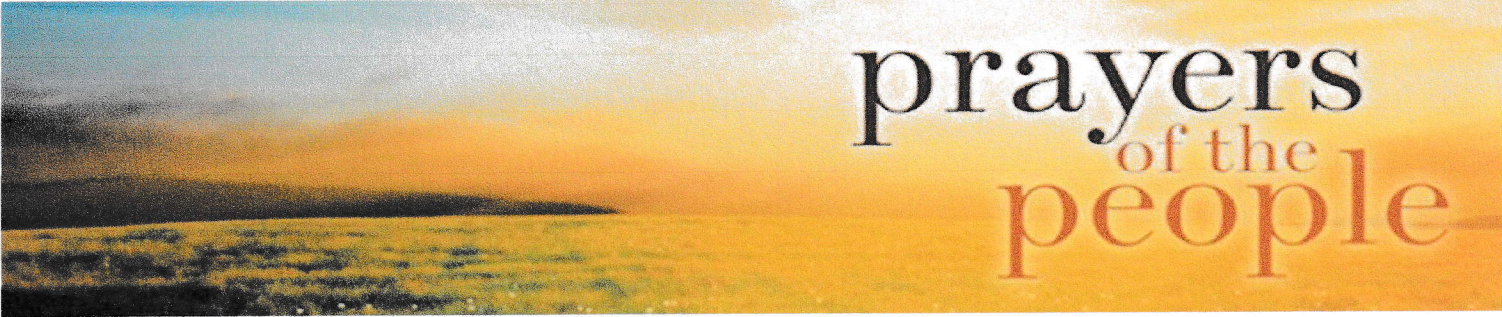
(This will be a Zoom.com meeting)



AT THE END OF A STORM



IS A GOLDEN SKY



prayers of the people



In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer

The Church in Wales

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Wooster School, Danbury; Kent School, Kent; St. Thomas's Day School, New Haven;
Students, teachers & chaplains at Episcopal schools preparing to begin the school year

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; Susan Castellan; Wayne Curry; Libby Clayton; Lee; Kym Stohl; John Edmiston; Sandy Forman; Maggie; Scott Williams; The Edmonds Family; The Werner Family; Megan; Bud Briere; The Van Cott Family.

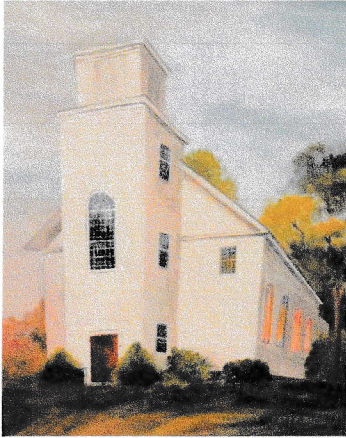
We pray for:

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

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
Olive 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:

ccmhadmin@gmail.com

Sexton:

Brian Donaldson

Vestry:

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

Organist:

Ted Williams

Parish Administrator:

Joal Lentz

Bellringer Editor:

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