



## The Crossroads

December 2019

Wow...this past month was a busy one! It is such a blessing to me to be doing so much good ministry with you all. I truly feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as we engage the work God has given us to do. Truly Christ Church is making a difference in our community. What a way to wrap up our church year.

Now we begin our next chapter. Advent is a time of preparation. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* defines the first season of the Church year:

The ecclesiastical season immediately before Christmas. In Western Christendom Advent Sunday, i.e. the first day of Advent, is the Sunday nearest to St. Andrew's Day (November 30<sup>th</sup>). Four Sundays in Advent thus always precede Christmas Day. In the East Advent is a much longer season, beginning in the middle of November. Advent Sunday is traditionally the day on which the ecclesiastical year begins. The first clear references to the season in the West come from the later half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Advent was formerly kept as Lent, but with less strictness. In the West fasting is no longer normally ordered, and the solemn character of the season is marked by the liturgical use of purple (except on the Third Sunday (Gaudete) when rose colored vestments may be used). The season is observed as a time of preparation not only for Christmas but also for the Second Coming of Christ as Judge at the Last Day. (pp20-21)

So, we begin a period of active anticipation. We wait, watching for the coming of the Babe *and* the return of our Savior.

This year we are getting into the preparation for these comings by switching up our liturgy a bit. We will be using an approved Expansive Language trial liturgy which has more inclusive language. The committee overseeing the implantation of these new trial liturgies is eager to hear your feedback...good, bad, or indifferent. You can send them a message at: <https://dohio.org/our-diocese/expansive-liturgy-task-force>

Please remember that Advent is not about busily running around to get ready for Christmas. It is actively waiting for Our Savior's Birth and Return. Find time to pray. Find time to listen. Find time to open your heart to the abundance God has planned for each of us. By doing so, we will more fully understand the Incarnation.

Have a faithful Advent so that you can experience a truly Merry Christmas!

And, please always remember that I am lovingly yours, in Christ,

Fr. Jeff+

**Lessons and Carols:** Please join us for what has become one of Warren’s treasured Christmas traditions. This service is patterned after the famous “Lessons and Carols for King’s”, King’s College, Cambridge, England, which is heard across the world on Christmas morning. The story of Christ’s birth is told through old and new testament readings interwoven with the most beautiful music of the season for choir and orchestra.

**Prayer List:** Starting this month, we will be refreshing our prayer list. Those who want to put a name on the list will need to inform the office.



**Our December Birthdays**

1st: Daniel Mason and Jaclin Baker  
2nd: Walter Paul Carvin, Roger M. Carnahan, and Carole Lewis  
5th: Deborah Ann Gold  
8th: John Robert Hammel and Reese Kaylin Tomko  
14th: Mary Ellen Rogers  
15th: JoAnn R. Green  
17th: Charli Strock  
18th: Carlene Jo Myers  
21st: Carl John (CJ) Vath II  
22nd: Joyce Thomas and Paul Richard Homa  
24th: Shelley Elizabeth Watts  
25th: Deb Murphy

A modern "happy home recipe" includes:

- 4 cups of love,
- 2 cups of loyalty
- 3 cups of forgiveness
- 1 cup of friendship
- 5 spoons of hope
- 2 spoons of tenderness
- 4 quarts of faith
- 1 barrel of laughter



Take love and loyalty, mix thoroughly with faith. Blend it with tenderness, kindness and understanding. Add friendship and hope, sprinkle abundantly with laughter, Bake it with sunshine. Serve daily with generous helpings.

Anonymous

## Children and Youth Ministries

**Children's Choir:** We have several opportunities for our children to perform and lead worship during the month of December. First, children will once again sing at our Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 pm. Second, we will have a Christmas Pageant at our 5:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. Children will fulfill the character roles. (Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Wisemen, etc.)

To accomplish the above opportunities, we will need to have a series of rehearsals to prepare for both the Lessons and Carols and the Pageant. Beginning Sunday, December 1 and continuing through Sunday, December 22. We will hold rehearsals in the Choral Rehearsal Room from 11:30 am until noon each week.

**Christmas Party:** On Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> immediately after church, we will have the annual Children's Christmas Party in the Parish Hall. This party will include lunch, crafts and there will even be a visit from St. Nicholas. Kids will leave their boots or shoes in the chapel where he and his elves will fill them up with traditional goodies. If you would like to assist St. Nick, he would appreciate donations of candy, fruit, etc. for the kid's boots to be filled.

## Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Schedule

Note that the first Christmas Eve service is being held an hour later than normal this year.

Christmas Eve: 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm

Christmas Day: 9:00 am (In Chapel)



## Acolyte Schedule

- 1** Gage Tomko  
Reese Tomko  
Zoey Tomko
- 8** Nicholas Costianes  
Joseph Costianes
- 15** Zachary Snelson  
Colin Snelson
- 22** Mason Burge  
Madelyn Hall
- 24** Christmas Eve Service  
In Church 4:00 PM  
Zachary Snelson  
Gage Tomko  
Colin Snelson  
Reese Tomko  
Zoey Tomko
- 24** Christmas Eve Service  
In Church 11:00 PM
- 25** Christmas Morning  
One Service 9:00 AM  
In the Chapel
- 29** YOUTH SUNDAY  
All Acolytes are  
scheduled

## Ministry Schedule (10:00)

- 1** Karen Andrus C/R  
John Panagis C/P  
Irv Jones Lector
- 8** Heather Shimko C/R  
Mark Peteritis C/P  
Jeffrey Heakin Lector
- 15** Katy Shroder C/R  
Carol McMichael C/P  
Kevin Knowlton Lector
- 22** Sally Mazey C/R  
Faith Scarmuzzi C/P  
Laurie Jones Lector
- 24** Christmas Eve Service  
In church 4:00 PM  
Faith Scarmuzzi C/R  
Karen Andrus C/P  
Lee Snelson Lector
- 24** Christmas Eve Service  
In Church 11:00 PM  
Mark Peteritis C/R  
Carol McMichael C/P  
Lynn Peteritis Lector
- 25** Christmas Morning  
One Service 9:00 AM  
in the Chapel  
Jan Henrey C/R  
Dianne Begg Lector
- 29** YOUTH SUNDAY  
All Acolytes are Scheduled

## Ministry Schedule (8:00)

- 1** Joe Gladd C/R/P  
Bill Baran Lector
- 8** Jan Henrey C/R/P  
Dianne Begg Lector
- 15** Mike Maggiano C/R/P  
Carol D'Errico Lector
- 22** Steve Watts C/R/P  
Deb Murphy Lector
- 24** Christmas Eve Service  
In church 4:00 PM  
Faith Scarmuzzi C/R  
Karen Andrus C/P  
Lee Snelson Lector
- 24** Christmas Eve Service  
In Church 11:00 PM  
Mark Peteritis C/R  
Carol McMichael C/P  
Lynn Peteritis Lector
- 25** Christmas Morning  
One Service 9:00 AM  
in the Chapel  
Jan Henrey C/R  
Dianne Begg Lector
- 29** Fred Schweitzer C/R  
Janet Schweitzer Lector

# Arts on Atlantic Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 15 at 6:00pm

Parish Choir

Chamber Orchestra

James W. Shiell, conductor

Free and open to the public.

Cookie Reception Following in the Parish Hall

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**CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR LESSONS AND CAROLS:** Christ Church cookie bakers, we need your delicious Christmas cookies for the reception following Lessons And Carols on Sunday, December 15. Please try to have them in the kitchen (marked "Lessons and Carols") by Saturday morning, December 14. We will try to tray them following the rehearsal that morning. Last minute, bring them on the morning of Sunday the 15th. Many, many thanks and Merry Christmas.



## Christmas Flowers

*If you would like to place poinsettias as a memorial or thank offering during Christmas, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or in the church office on or before **December 12**. Any donations received after the deadline will not be listed in the bulletin. (\*The usual donation is \$25.00.)*

Please make checks payable to Christ Church, memo: Altar Flowers.

Donor(s) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Wording for listing (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

### Megan's Mittens

371 mittens were delivered to third graders in Lincoln, McGuffey, Jefferson and Willard. Extra mittens (157) and hats were left at all schools for any child in need.

Thank-you cards were received from the children at McGuffey school. What did they say:

- Thank You. Appreciate your thoughtfulness. I am using the gloves. Church – you are the best – Christopher
- Thank you. I am happy that you came to see my classroom and I am happy that all of the third graders have gloves - Malachai
- Thank you for bringing nice gloves and I need them. Thank you so much - Jayla

A thank-you banner was sent from the children at Lincoln school. Look for it hanging-up in the Narthex.

### Thank You

#### Sally Mazey and members of Warren City Federation of Women's Club

The Warren City Federation of Women's Club was organized in 1923. Its members are representatives from local community organization whose mission is to promote civic welfare through united Club efforts.

Each monthly meeting has a member hostess. This individual can designate a local organization to be the recipient of a contribution of her choice. Sally selected the Lincoln School Pantry. The contribution was peanut butter and jelly. The result was **four** cardboard boxes of peanut butter and jelly.



## Blessing Boxes

In this season of Thanksgiving when we give thanks for all of our blessings the Blessing Box thanks you for your caring and your generosity. Your response for a call to help is overwhelming. Look what was collected and delivered to Lincoln School Pantry for children and parents in need. Necessity items continue to be delivered to the Warren Family Mission.



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Our December Tower Lighting is in loving memory  
of

*Megan Day Bolters*

*From her loving parents, Peter and Linda*

Vestry Highlights  
Highlights from the November 19, 2019 Vestry Meeting

Christ Church Connection Implementation:

- Trumbull Regional Health Center volunteer chaplaincy program – Fr. Jeff has volunteered and is exploring obtaining certification for his dog Sammie.
  - Thanksgiving food baskets are planned for the YWCA residential apartments
- CEC hosted the Transit Authority public form on Transportation on November 20th from 6 to 8 PM
- December 3rd CEC is hosting Valley Soup. Fr. Jeff is making wedding soup to serve that evening. He felt it would be good advertising.

Vestry Membership 2020 - Four persons volunteered to serve as Vestry members. They are: John Panagis, Richard Cesta, Irv Jones and Mark Peteritis. At the Annual Meeting their names will be presented for a vote.

Status Update Stewardship Campaign 2020 – To date of pledges received 46 are the same, 2 are reduced and 9 are new for a total of \$100,784. One hundred pledges cards were sent. 46 have been returned.

Operations update - Ambulatory Door – Located at the end of the hall by the Altar Guild room It is the last door to be replaced. Two bids were received. Bid accepted to replace was \$3903. Foundation is responsible for payment.

Staff Compensation: - Vestry approved a 2% salary increase effective January 1, 2020

Vestry Clerk – Melanie Garman resigned her position. L. Day volunteered to serve as Vestry Clerk a position she held in the past.

Next Meeting - December 17, 2019

**October 2019                      Year to Date**

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income				
Pledges	\$8,359	\$10,400	\$99,617	\$104,000
All Other	\$15,111	\$7,150	\$124,294	\$98,255
Total Income	\$23,470	\$17,550	\$223,911	\$202,255
Expenses	\$19,269	\$23,602	\$241,463	\$245,692
Excess/(Deficit)	\$4,201	(\$6,052)	(\$17,552)	(\$43,437)

