

St. John's Announcements

December 1, 2024



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Auction and Baked Goods Table from this past weekend's Holiday Bazaar!



Dear Friends,

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent and the start of our Church year. While we might not shoot off fireworks and throw a party, the beginning of the Church year does contain a strong element of hope. That hope is found in the person of Jesus both in his coming as the incarnate Word of God born of the Virgin Mary over 2000 years ago and as Christ the King, our great Lord and bringer of the end of time. The season of Advent's peculiar combination of looking forward and back is very appropriate for the beginning of a year. We give thanks for all the blessings of the previous year, and we gather hope for what the new year will bring. The church is wise, and Christians understand that the only way that the world will ever be just and without sin, is if there isn't a world anymore. While pondering this can sound very dark; it really isn't. The end will mean that we are with God forever. It is ultimately something for which we pray. We ask God to conclude the age, but until that time comes, let us fill this place with love and serve all of those in need.

Blessings,

Marc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

12/4- Eucharist @
10:30am - Healing
Service

Happy Birthday!

Bentley Chanthavisouk
David Clarke
Maizie Farrell
Sherri Feenstra
Wilson Varner



Gift Card Sales - Sale begins now and last day to put in orders is **December 8th**. Gift cards will be delivered on 12/15. Order forms are on the table in the Narthex. Please hand in your orders along with a check made payable to St. John's Episcopal Church. You can give your order to Lois Valliere at the 8am service and Bill Francis at the 10am service. You can also drop your order at the office or call Bill Francis to arrange a pick-up – 860-836-6748. Please remember those amongst us who are challenged with grocery insecurity.

BENEFIT CONCERT Saturday December 7, 2024 at 7 p.m. at St. John's - Zoe Vandermeer and her students and guest singer are giving a special benefit concert on Saturday December 7, 2024 at 7 p.m. as a fundraiser for the many people and animals who have suffered from hurricanes Helene and Milton. Although the news has abated, these hundreds and thousands of people and animals are still struggling with the most basic needs of food, shelter, water, and medical support. Suggested ticket price is \$20. Tickets are by donation and proceeds will be given to the Humane Society and the American Red Cross, or a charity of your designation.

St. John's Toy Drive - Asking for new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls, ages infant to 12 yrs. old. We are donating to Vernon, Manchester, and East Hartford Fire Departments. There is a table at the Tree of Life for the collection. We are accepting CASH donations; if you would like us to shop for you. Also looking for volunteers to sort and deliver the toys. Santa says thanks for the help! Any questions please contact John Horan (860-578-6412), Joy Dorin (860-614-8183) Terri Sessions (860) 644-5892

Help needed! – If you gave a check for Hawkwing food bank please contact Terri Sessions with the amount and check number at 860-644-5892 or terrisessions@gmail.com.

Lunch Bunch – will meet **Thursday, Dec. 5th at 12:00** in St. Mary's hall. Please bring a hot or cold dish to share. Beverages and desserts are provided. To celebrate the spirit of the holiday season, a donation of gloves and/or mittens would be most appreciated. Donations will be forwarded to The Cornerstone Foundation. All parishioners are invited. Contact person, Chris Emery 860-593-3176.

Learning to tell our Story: A Coffee Hour Formation Series - We will have two special post-service formation periods on Advent II (December 8th) and Advent III (December 15th). Both Sundays, we will gather in St. Mary's Hall immediately following both Eucharists. We will have coffee, tea, and light refreshment. We will gather together in tables and be given a couple of questions to ponder. While this is a time of sharing, no one will be asked to do anything they are not comfortable in doing. Passing completely on a question will be respected. Having said this, Christians are called to be witnesses to the faith. Witnessing to the way God moves through our lives is an important part of evangelism and church growth. The object of this two-week period, and others to follow, is not to have a bigger church (though that is not a bad thing), it is to get more in tune with our life of faith and to reinforce our ability to share that story. I have heard from you, and experienced in my own life, that, even for secular people, hearing the story of God's work can a welcome narrative in a world so filled with troubling events and despair. I know Episcopalians have not been good at this over that last 100 years, but it is something on which, I believe, we can improve.

Blessings, *Marc*

Nut Sales & Holiday Bazaar – There are still nuts for sale! Please see Nancy Simon after the 8am & 10am service on 12/1. The Holiday Bazaar was a success – we beat the numbers from last year! More details to follow!