



Trinity Episcopal Church

36 Main St, Newtown Ct

www.trinitynewtownct.org

Thursday, 01/23/2020



When we moved into the rectory on Main Street three years ago, there were three huge trees looming in front of our neighbor's house. For centuries these trees provided much shade and beauty. Sadly, when a horrific storm blew through Main Street in May 2018, one of these massive old oaks fell onto Betsy's house. Had her home not been as structurally sound as it was, that tree would have destroyed it. It took a year and a half to repair the damage and remove the old oaks in order to avoid a future catastrophe. Driving by the house today, it looks pristine. And yet if you are used to seeing the massive trees, her yard looks barren. That is until you take a closer look and readjust your eyes. Because there are now seven saplings planted in front of Betsy's house, eight if you count the one on our side of her driveway. These saplings are spindly and are not destined to become large oaks. However, given time, they will grow into their own lovely beauty and unique function.

Fifteen years ago, much like those old oak trees, Trinity was expansive. There were tons of children, our youth program was filled with teens, our music program, extensive. The budget was big, a massive renovation project had been completed, chairs had to be added for Christmas Eve and Easter worship. If you're used to seeing Trinity through this lens, you are going to be disappointed, maybe even angry. And yet if you take a closer look and readjust your eyes, you will see, just like those saplings, new plantings. For example, this Christmas Eve newly baptized, baby William, was in costume with his parents as the Holy Family. We had three young bejeweled wise people, two adorable angels, several shepherds and the cutest little bouncing sheep you ever saw. At a recent baptism we had children leading the renewal of our Baptismal Covenant. Each Sunday in worship Matt now leads the children in their moment of learning. Our youth confirmants are young and shy, and they are showing up. Emelia is vocalizing in worship that she will be ready for a Cherub choir in three or four years. We're branching out into the neighborhood.

When we gather this Sunday at 9:30am down in the Glover Room for our 288th Annual Meeting as Trinity Church, we are going to give God the glory for all the marvelous things God has done and is doing through us today. Some things, like old oak trees, aren't meant to last forever and neither are the old ways of being Trinity Church.

ANNUAL MEETING

Notice of the 288th Annual Meeting of Trinity Church, Newtown, CT Sunday, January 26, 2020

Please come this Sunday for the Annual Parish Meeting & Worship. We begin at 9:30am downstairs in the Glover Community Room. The meeting will cover the following:

- Election of one Vestry member, Wardens, Treasurer, Clerk and delegates and alternates to ECCT Diocesan Convention
- Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Celebration of our ministries
- Sharing in Holy Communion

After the meeting, please stay for food and fellowship. The Chapel will be an alternative space for children during the Annual Meeting.



Vestry Nominee - Cathy Filiato

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and have been a member of Trinity Church since 2005 when we moved to Newtown from Princeton, NJ. I have served in a variety of ways at Trinity including; member of Choir of Men and Women, Music @ Trinity, the visioning team, youth commission, church school teacher, and librarian for Trinity's library. I work at the Mark Twain Library and am pursuing my Masters of Library Science from Long Island University. I also hold a CT real estate license. My husband, Tony, and I have three children who were all confirmed at Trinity. Caitlin graduated from Dickinson College last May and is living and working in New York City. Tristan is a Sophomore at Connecticut College and Rebecca is a Junior at Newtown High School. In my free time I like to travel, read, play tennis, ski and train our two dogs. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for Trinity and am honored to serve on the vestry.

Bible Study

We're moving right along! Last Saturday we had a great time getting back into our study of the New Testament book of Acts. We'll meet again this Saturday, January 25, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the church

ADULT FORMATION

library. For this week, please read Acts chapters 21 to 23 where Paul finishes his final missionary journey and, despite the warnings from his fellow believers as to the danger awaiting him there, returns to Jerusalem. Indeed, trouble brews and Paul repeatedly must defend both his Jewishness and his ministry on behalf of the gospel. Please join us!



Candlemas ~ Sunday, February 2

Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It is based upon the account of the presentation of Jesus in Luke 2:22–40. It falls on Sunday February 2 this year and is traditionally the 40th day of the Christmas–Epiphany season. While it is customary for Christians in some countries to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve those in other Christian countries historically remove them on Candlemas. For our Sunday worship on Candlemas, we will use candles at the beginning of the service to remind us that Jesus Christ, who referred to Himself as the Light of the World, commands us as his followers to be “a light in the world.” (Fun fact, the last time February 2 was on a Sunday was 2014 and before that, 2003.)



Formation and Confirmation for Youth Continues – Will you join us in this journey?

As we continue to discern confirmation for our youth, I encourage all parishioners to continue to hold Caitlyn, Lily, Ella, Brady, Matthew, Aidan, and Tain in your prayers. If you are interested in learning more about our journey, please [click here](#) for upcoming dates and meeting topics about the [Way of Love](#).

There is no confirmation group learning session January 26th so that our youth can participate in our Annual Meeting.

The next regularly scheduled group learning session on “Rest” will be held February 2nd. This group learning time will be held in the Johnson Room immediately following our worship service.

For more information or to join in this ministry, please feel free to call or email the [church office](#).

YAC Gatherings –

Will you join us in this journey?

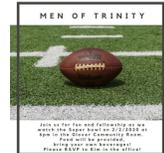
YAC is a group gathering that is designed for young adults who have already completed confirmation. This is so that, following confirmation, an intentional space is offered for continuing discernment and community building. So, wherever you are in your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here!

Our next YAC gathering is scheduled for February 2th from 12:00 – 2:00PM in the Johnson Room. This time will be an opportunity to explore faith-in-action projects for the YAC group. Lunch will be provided.

I encourage all to continue checking the calendar on the [church website](#) for additional dates for this offering. For more information or to join in this ministry, please feel free to call or email the [church office](#).

Men of Trinity Super Bowl Party

The Super Bowl party for the Men of Trinity will **not** be held this year.



Mardi Gras Gala

On February 22nd, Trinity Church will open its doors to the Newtown community for a Mardi Gras Gala! This will be an excellent opportunity for our parish to gather with the wider community in support of our ongoing youth formation. Guests to this event will have an opportunity to explore the facilities and history of Trinity Church through a guided tour. Following the tour, guests will be invited to view a range of items donated by local businesses. These items will be auctioned following a buffet style, authentic Cajun dinner. All proceeds raised in this community event will benefit youth pilgrimage at Trinity Church.

Space is limited, so reserve your seat today! You will not want to miss out on this exciting event! Tickets are available following worship service each Sunday.

Advanced Purchase Tickets:	\$15.00/person
Ticket Price at-the-door:	\$20.00/person
Children (10 and under):	\$5.00/person

For more information, please contact the [church office](#).

On January 12, the Stephen Leadership Team held an Epiphany Conversation on "The Art of Listening". It was very well-received and greatly-appreciated by those in attendance.

We realize that not everyone had the chance to come to the first session, so for those of you who missed it—we are holding a repeat session on Sunday February 16. We hope you will take advantage of it!

LET THERE BE LIGHT AMONG US!

*Extra Repeat Session for
The Art of Listening - February 16*

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak.

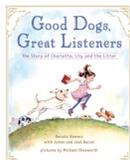
James 1:19a

It's something we do all the time—but do we really? Listening is an art—but it's also a set of skills—one of the underpinnings of our life in Christian Community, in our families, in fact anywhere and anytime we want to be in meaningful contact with the people we care about. Learn more about how you can be a better listener.

And save the date for the second conversation!

February 23: Maintaining Boundaries

Brought to you by the Stephen Leaders team.
Coffee and Refreshments will be available.



Good Dobs, Great Listeners Storywalk

Saturday, February 22nd * 2-4 pm FREE! Fun for the whole family! Join us on a StoryWalk® as we read our way through downtown Sandy Hook, CT.

Starting at the United Methodist Church to get your map and where parking is available, stroll the streets of Sandy Hook village and visit participating local businesses where you will be greeted by guest readers and engaging posters of the book "Good Dogs, Great Listeners". Follow along with the story, ask questions and meet back at the Newtown United Methodist Church for light refreshments, and a chance to meet the authors as well as local Therapy Dogs! Multiple start times on this leisurely walk. Last reading will begin at 3:30pm. Free signed copies of the book to the first 50 Families!

Praise and Thanksgiving

For those requesting our prayers: Arlene Coleman, Peter Jameson, Rev. William West, Maureen Trotto, Bode Kloos, Karen Gardner, Judith Harris, Michael Hansen, Ann Moore

For those celebrating a birthday this week:
John Melville, Abigail Simes, Ella Simes

For those celebrating an anniversary week:
Randy & Sue Lewis

Trinity's Video - [check it out!](#)

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www.trinitynewtownct.org

There are events happening at Camp Washington -[click here](#) to learn more!
[ECCT](#)

