



Trinity Episcopal Church
36 Main St, Newtown Ct
www.trinitynewtownct.org

Thursday, 01/30/2020



I am hooked on HGTV. Turning on Channel 49 and watching various episodes of this home improvement network delights me. My favorite used to be “Fixer Upper” with Chip and Joanna. Having seen most of their Waco, Texas make-overs, I now prefer “Home Town.” In this reality show, Erin and Ben Napier are revitalizing Laurel, Mississippi one house at a time, redesigning run-down houses into charming homes with connections to history. “Good Bones,” another favorite, features a mother-daughter duo who are rescuing old homes in Indianapolis.

To me, there is something very inspiring about watching these transformations take place. The process always reveals unexpected challenges. An open spacious concept is a must have and walls that divide always need to be removed. New floors and new lighting are other must haves. Demo Day is exciting, when all the old comes crashing down to make room for the new. The “Big Reveal” is the best. After all the hard work has been completed, the fully functioning re-imagined home is celebrated and blessed, often with tears of joy.

The connection for me to Trinity is that in recent years we have been doing similar revitalization work. Wanting a more open concept, we removed some walls. We’ve peeled back layers and exposed our challenges. Today, metaphorically speaking as I see it, the framing has been done, the sheetrock is up, the floorboards of making disciples and becoming apostles, have been laid. More lighting has been affixed to shine in the darker places of our life together. What awaits are the new missional furnishings of ministry decorated with restored faith and action, trust and commitment. The “Big Reveal” is yet to come. Unlike HGTV, there is no timeline for completion. We’re working on God’s time. And there’s no max budget for the cost isn’t with dollars and cents, it is with our very lives.

Blessed to be doing this work with you, Jenny+

TRANSITION

The Transition Teams continue diligently doing their work so that we are on a timely path to hire a new rector after Jenny's retirement. During this phase of the work, the Discernment Team made up of Sue Roman, Forry Weatherby, Michelle Toby, Floyd Higgins, Rick Irving, Hope Johnson and Cory Benson does much of the heavy lifting. They are putting together a ministry portfolio for Trinity Church that gets shared on databases where clergy do their job search. This portfolio includes people, activity, and financial data about the congregation and answers to a dozen broader questions. The Discernment Team is also freshing up the Trinity website and adding a section with information for clergy in the job search. The deadline for this phase is March 3rd when the team meets with Bishop Ian Douglas and Canon Lee Ann Tolzmann.

Meanwhile the Prayer Team holds us all in daily prayer, the Hospitality Team is offering background support, and the Recruitment Team is developing interview questions for candidates.

After Bishop Ian approves our work the position will be posted for 6-8 weeks. After that the Recruitment team will get the list of candidates who they will interview by Skype. They will invite in to Trinity a select group. Then the Recruitment team passes on to the Vestry the three top candidates for the vestry to interview. The final hiring decision is made by the vestry.

We can always share information about where we are in the process. When the Recruitment team starts interviewing they will not share information about the candidates. Confidentiality is important so that no damage is done between the interviewing clergy and their own congregations who won't know they are in a job search. Thank you in advance for understanding how important this confidentiality is. If you have any questions please reach out to [Sue Roman](#) (Discernment), [Paget Haylon](#) (Prayer), Marcia DeBrok (Hospitality) or Cindy Anderau (Recruitment).

ANNUAL MEETING

Vestry Appreciation

Many thanks to these serving so faithfully on our Vestry. Newly elected at our Annual Meeting on Sunday is Cathy Filiato who will be the liaison to

Formation. Those returning are Moe Pershinsky, Parish Life; Hope Johnson, Finance; Leon Karvelis, Properties; Gordon Dunn, Worship; David Erickson, Missional Engagement; and our Youth liaisons, Jack Wojtowicz and Rick Irving. Our Wardens, Laurie Trotto and Dennis O'Connor were elected to serve another year. Patrick DeBrock was elected for his fourth year as Treasurer. Dorothy Schmidt, was elected as the Vestry Clerk, replacing Beth Thompson who is relocating to Torrington after living in Newtown and being at Trinity for thirty years. When you have a chance, please thank these faithful leaders for their ministries. We also wish Beth and Keith Thompson and their family many blessings in their move to Torrington.



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.)

Acts Saturday Bible Study Continues

ADULT FORMATION

We're getting close to the end! Not only are we close to the end of Acts but it's close to the end for Paul, as well. For this week read Acts chapters 23, 24 and 25 where Paul faces mounting danger and repeatedly has to defend himself and his ministry. We hope to see you this Saturday, February 1, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., in the church library.



Monthly Service of Healing and Reconciliation

On the first Wednesday evening of each month, we gather in quiet and beauty of our sanctuary for prayers, anointing, healing and sharing in Holy Communion. The next healing service is **Wednesday, February 5th**. We begin at 7:00 pm and the service lasts about 45 minutes. Healing prayer invites God into the realness of our lives—especially when we or those we love are experiencing sorrow, grief, sadness, disappointment, despair and struggle. This service is open to the community and all are invited.

Adult Confirmation Preparation

CONFIRMATION
PREPARATION

Consider it an invitation to explore your faith or an opportunity to officially become an Episcopalian or a time of fellowship with others in our parish. On **Tuesday evenings in March from 6:30pm-8:30pm**, the clergy will be offering a series of conversations about the Episcopal Church. A simple soup supper will be served and using the “Way of Love” curriculum we will explore what it means to be an Episcopalian. Those who

want to be confirmed or received will be invited to do so on May 3rd when Bishop Ian Douglas will be at Trinity. Those who want to reaffirm their vows will also be invited to participate in this service. And if you just want to come, please do so. It is the strong hope that participants will attend all the five sessions (with the one on Tuesday March 24, being in Meriden with the bishop.) So that we can determine location, **please RSVP to Jenny or Matt by Friday, February 21.**



Ministry Scheduler Pro

The schedule for March and April will be run on February 10th! Please log in to your account and add in any "Can't Serve" times before that date. Also, please take into consideration Holy Week. All the worship dates for that week can be found on [Trinity's calendar of events](#), and these will be filled on February 10th as well!



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](#).

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](#).

Youth Confirmation & YAC Living the Gospel

Our youth and YAC groups have been invited to serve at Chapel on the Green in New Haven, CT on February 23rd. [Chapel on the Green](#) is unique opportunity for housed and unhoused residents of the greater New Haven area to share in God's compassion through care, community, worship and the breaking bread together.

This ministry draws together many Connecticut entities—churches, temples, schools, and others—to engage with Trinity in support of this vital ministry. It is an ecumenical experience through which many communities join hands beyond their borders as they live out their call to love and serve. Serving at Chapel on the Green is just one of many ways our youth are leaning in as their faith calls them to action!

Our youth will be joining with other congregations as they assist with the community meal, and participate in an outdoor service. As an additional response to this community, Trinity Newtown has been asked to provide a gift of warmth for those who come to be cared for.

So, I am asking that parishioners bring wool socks each Sunday to provide for this gift. We will need socks for 150 people. If you need additional information about this ministry, please contact the [church office](#).



Mardi Gras Gala

On February 22nd, Trinity Church will open its doors to the Newtown community for a Mardi Gras Gala! **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

Pilgrimage has always been an amazing opportunity for our youth. It will continue to be so for our current confirmation group as they prepare for their own pilgrimage. This preparation requires support from us all, and I am asking you to prayerfully consider how you might be called to join in this ministry.

Why does supporting pilgrimage matter? Well, YAC member Jenna Dunn has some thoughts on this:

“Going on pilgrimage to South Dakota was a life changing experience. Getting away from technology and being out in the beauty of nature amidst the mountains allowed me to feel closer to God. We met some Native Americans who shared amazing stories with us and it made me feel grateful for all that I

have. I was not that close to my peers before the trip but we really bonded and came back close friends. I am really thankful for the opportunity to have this unique spiritual experience.”

Our community is grateful for the gifts that Jenna, and all our youth, shares with Trinity! **Many hands make light work! So, if you are interested in helping out with this event or with youth formation in general, know that this would be much appreciated!** 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.



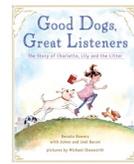
Seeking Selma Recollections

Ahead of the 55th anniversary of The Selma to Montgomery Marches, March 7-25, 1965, Newtown Bee Associate Editor Shannon Hicks is hoping to hear from Newtown residents who either participated in any of those historic marches, or lived in Newtown in March 1965 and remember first-hand accounts of the events. As you may know, our pastor was one of four from Newtown who traveled to Selma in March 1965; if you remember that event, your recollections would also be helpful.

The Newtown Bee is planning to publish a pair of stories in late February that will look at Newtown's ties to those marches. If you would like to be involved please contact Shannon at 203-426-3141 or shannon@thebee.com by mid-February.

Good Dogs, 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 Troto, Bode Kloos, Karen Gardner, Judith Harris, Michael Hansen, Ann Moore

For those celebrating a birthday this week:

Judy LaCroix, Cindy Anderau, Maddie Britton, Jessica Gibson, Karen Wojtowicz, Jenna Dunn, Patrick DeBrock

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

kmerrill@trinitynewtownct.org
www.trinitynewtownct.org

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

