



**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**36 Main St, Newtown Ct**  
**[www.trinitynewtownct.org](http://www.trinitynewtownct.org)**

Thursday, 02/06/2020

Trinity Episcopal Church presents

# MARDI GRAS GALA

5:30 PM ~ HISTORICAL TOURS  
6:00 PM ~ AUCTION ITEMS VIEWING  
7:00 PM ~ BUFFET CAJUN DINNER  
8:00 PM ~ LIVE AUCTION

February 22, 2020

Trinity Episcopal Church, Glover Community Room  
Advance Purchase Ticket Price: \$15.00  
Ticket Price at the Door: \$20.00  
Children 10 and under: \$5  
[trinitynewtownct.org](http://trinitynewtownct.org)

**All proceeds benefit Trinity's Youth Pilgrimage.  
This event is open to the public - all are welcome!**

### **Mardi Gras Gala to Support Youth Pilgrimage**

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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.**



Twelve years ago, my friend, Anne, said to me, “I want you to come to a retreat that you are going to love!” “What is it?” I asked suspiciously. “Just come” is all she said. So, I did. Turns out the retreat was an icon writing workshop and Anne was right. I loved it! Had she told me I would be painting and praying for hours I probably wouldn’t have gone. And, yet, almost every year since, I have participated in this spiritual prayer practice of writing an icon. And while I hope you will consider participating in the upcoming icon writing workshop at Camp Washington March 20-23, when iconographer Kara Nelson will be guiding us to paint the “Mother of God of Tenderness” image, the point of my musing this week is not about icon writing.

My point is simply to invite you to “try on” a new spiritual practice. While it is easy to do what’s familiar, there’s often very little space for growth in doing what we’ve done for years. There’s no chance of expanding when we keep the status quo. There’s less possibility for the in-breaking of revelation when the routine never changes.

So how about coming to the Saturday Bible Study, the “Monday’s in March” Women’s Prayer Group, the Lenten Taize Healing Service on March 4<sup>th</sup>, taking part in the adult “Inquirer’s Class” on Tuesday evenings in March, staying for the Forums following worship February 16 and 23 as well as March

1, 8, and 29. There are also opportunities for our youth to try on a new spiritual practice with Chapel of the Green, YAC group, and Forums. Consider the icon writing workshop at Camp Washington. In all of these, set aside your suspicions. Just come! You will be glad you did!  
Peace and Blessings, 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 freshening up the Trinity website and adding a section with information for clergy in the job search. The deadline for this phase is March 3<sup>rd</sup> 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).

### ADULT FORMATION

**Acts Saturday Bible Study Continues**  
**Just two more weeks and we'll finish our study of the New Testament book of Acts.** For this Saturday, February 8, we'll stand with Paul as he faces continued

accusations against his ministry and himself personally, and as he mounts a defense before Governors Felix and Festus, and King Agrippa (Acts 24-26).

Then on Saturday, February 15, we'll journey with Paul to Rome where he hopes to appeal to the Emperor (Acts 27-28). Acts ends with Paul under house arrest, yet all the while being faithful, "proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness..." (28:31). Please join us for the next two Saturdays from 9:30 to 10:30 am, in the church library.

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## Adult 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

CONFIRMATION  
PREPARATION



## 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.

**I am asking that the youth gather immediately following the service for a quick update on some exciting news! We will gather at the rear of the sanctuary following the service.**

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## **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 March 1<sup>st</sup> 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](#).

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### **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 23<sup>rd</sup>. [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.

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.

## *Mission and Outreach*



Let's give thanks. The Mission & Outreach Commission would like to thank the Trinity Congregation for the Christmas and Thanksgiving special offerings of food and gift drives. We fed two families at Thanksgiving and gave gifts at Christmas as well. We collected \$3325 at the Christmas offering for the Faith Food Pantry in town and for Connecticut Students for a Dream. Thank you all so much!



### Seeking Selma Recollections

Ahead of the 55<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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, Ann Sandercox, Jane Flader

**For those celebrating a birthday this week:** Leo Simes

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

[kmerrill@trinitynewtownct.org](mailto:kmerrill@trinitynewtownct.org)  
[www.trinitynewtownct.org](http://www.trinitynewtownct.org)

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

[ECCT](#)

