



## Trinity Episcopal Church

36 Main St, Newtown Ct

[www.trinitynewtownct.org](http://www.trinitynewtownct.org)

Thursday, 10/31/19



An often-asked question in sermons for All Saints' Day is "who is the saint who most helped to form you in the Christian faith?" My usual response is my maternal grandmother, Vennie, with whom I spent a great deal of time. I loved sitting next to her in church, playing imaginary games with her while swinging on her front porch swing, and living with her the year after my grandfather died. She lived a rock-solid faith and loved me dearly. Which is how I hope my grandchildren will remember me one day.

And yet, it makes me sad that I never knew my paternal grandmother, Myrtice. Myrtice died suddenly of a heart attack about a month before I was born and I don't think my daddy ever got over losing his mother. He was the youngest of her seven children and they were very close. I remember as a child asking questions about her but daddy never said much in response. The only time I ever saw him cry was at church on Mother's Day. When daddy died in 2017 any chance of hearing stories about my grandmother were lost.

Surprisingly, when I was visiting my mother this summer, she gave me an oval framed picture of Myrtice as young woman, one I had never seen before. She's beautiful with wavy long braided auburn hair and penetrating blue eyes. Her billowing light blue dress has lace at the neck and sleeves. Gazing at her picture I wonder, who is this saint? All I know for sure is that she loved my daddy and missing him as I do, I'm comforted by knowing they are together, part of the great cloud of witnesses who watch over me and with whom I will one day join in heaven. And this, dear ones, is why I'm grateful for the faith we have in Jesus, living as Christians with the hope and promise of eternal life.

Faithfully, Jenny +

# TRANSITIONAL UPDATE

Thank you to everyone for answering this call to this important ministry for Trinity! With God's help and guidance, these teams will help lead Trinity to where God is calling us to be as a parish in this new missional age. The teams will be formally commissioned during the service on November 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to either of the Wardens (Laurie Trotto ([ltrotto@outofthinair.com](mailto:ltrotto@outofthinair.com)) or Dennis O'Connor ([dennis.oconnor@boehringer-engelheim.com](mailto:dennis.oconnor@boehringer-engelheim.com))).

Kind regards,  
Dennis O'Connor

#### **Discernment Team**

Sue Roman, Chair  
Cory Benson  
Floyd Higgins  
Rick Irving, Youth Member  
Hope Johnson  
Michelle Toby  
Forry Weatherby

#### **Recruitment Team**

Cindy Anderau, Chair  
Patrick DeBrock  
Jenna Dunn, Youth Member  
Bart Geissinger  
Jessica Gibson  
Leon Karvelis  
Beth Murphy  
Jack Wojtowicz, Youth Member

#### **Prayer Team**

Paget Haylon, Chair  
Sally Deloughy  
Ron Dukenski  
Teddy Jameson  
Joan King  
Dave Lias  
Walt Streett  
Gordon Strother  
Ellie Zarifis

#### **Hospitality**

Marcia DeBrock, Chair  
Noel Bellesheim  
Carol Bigman  
Jean-Maurice Camels  
Nancy Cole  
Martha Dayton  
Moe Pershinsky



#### **All Saints Sunday**

All Saints' Day, also called All Hallows' Day, Hallowmas, or Feast of All Saints, in the Christian church, is a day commemorating all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have attained heaven. It is one of the seven Principal Feasts observed in the Episcopal Church and may always be observed on the Sunday following November 1. As such we will be celebrating All Saints' Day this **Sunday, November 3** with the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. A special prayer will be offered at the beginning of worship and all will be invited to name aloud those saints for whom they are remembering with thanksgiving.



#### **Sacred Conversations Continue**

Following worship on the four upcoming Sundays in November, we will be shifting the focus of our Sacred Conversations toward what we believe as Episcopalians and as Trinity Church about the Bible, about Jesus,

the Church and Ministry. These conversations are intended to give us further clarity and insights of who we are as Trinity Church and how God may be calling us to explore new possibilities. All adults are invited to gather downstairs in the Glover Community Room following worship for what is hoped to be lively conversation.

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### 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, November 6**. 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.

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## *Everybody Needs a Place*

Hope you're having fun with the Mad-Libs, we look forward to your responses!



## THE GREAT PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

Don't forget the Great Pumpkin Challenge is tonight - we will be open, and handing out candy! We are also collecting for the [Hole in the Wall Gang Camp](#), which is dedicated to providing a fun and nurturing experience for seriously ill children and their families. Programs are offered year-round, and services are free of charge to its participants. Our online fundraising page can be found [here](#).

# YOUTH

## INFORMATION

### **Annual Interfaith Youth Meet-up Sunday Nov. 3 from 3pm – 6pm Newtown Congregational Church**

Don't forget about the exciting opportunity our youth have to gather with our larger community of faith! All are welcome, and this year's event will feature programming for youth, separate programming for adults, a guest speaker, and a delicious assortment of halal and kosher refreshments.

If you have joined for this meet-up in the past, you can attest to how wonderful it is to see youth of all faiths having a great time and the hope that it gives toward the future.

If you are interested in attending this event and need additional information, please contact the [church office](#) or sign up [here](#).

### **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. The [Way of Love](#) is a call that encourages and forms each of our lives. As part of our spiritual journey together, it is the love and support of our parish family that builds up God's kingdom. So as we continue to support these seekers in their discernment, I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider your own call to join this journey during our time of transition.

Specifically, there is an exciting opportunity available for any parishioner to select a date on which your schedule might allow you to join a confirmation meeting as an additional adult supervisor. This is so that our youth can continue to experience your commitment to their discernment and spiritual growth. It is also so that we can continue to provide a "safe church" space for their learning time. Without an additional adult each Sunday, we are unable to offer a group learning session to remain in compliance with ECCT guidelines.

Our youth are so excited to learn and grow, and I know that each of you is equally invested in their spiritual discovery. For more information, 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!

During our time together, we are focusing on exploring the realities of our daily life, and the various demands of our time. Through intentional conversation and reflection, our group is seeking to build up tools for addressing concerns, as well as considering how we are called to respond to the world in light of our faith. Through formation, conversation, and shared meals, we are focusing on building relationships within our church and beyond.

I encourage all to continue checking the calendar on the [church website](#) for additional dates for this offering. As a reminder, our next gathering is scheduled for **November 3, 2019 from 12:00PM – 2:00PM**. This gathering will be at the house of Sue Roman. Our YAC group will be continuing in conversation while preparing lunch together.

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

### **Teen Youth Retreat at Camp Washington: November 1-3**

Camp Washington will foster a brave space for listening, sharing, and learning. During this exciting opportunity for youth (grades 9-12) participants will explore the topic of racism and ways that change can be brought about in our lives and communities. I encourage each of you to consider the importance of this weekend of friendship building and reflection.

Please feel free to reach out to the church office for more information if you need assistance with registration. For additional information and registration online, please click [here](#).

## **ADULT FORMATION**

### **Bible Study: The Acts of the Apostles**

**Just do it!** Just get up this Saturday and come to our ongoing study of the New Testament book of Acts. We meet from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and the sessions are led by Joe Glaze. Coffee is provided. No advance sign-up is necessary.

**For this Saturday, November 2, please read Acts 11:19 through Acts 15.** This is a thrilling recounting of the first missionary journey by Paul and Barnabas. As more and more Gentiles respond to the Gospel the most conservative of the Jewish Christians want to add conditions to their doing so: "Unless they are circumcised according to the custom of Moses they cannot be saved" (15:1). This

is unacceptable to Paul and Barnabas! It seems like just one more barrier to the full inclusion of Gentiles. No, they say. One isn't saved but doing this or that, "but solely by the grace of the Lord Jesus" (15:11). And, their argument wins the day—thanks be to God!

For further information, contact Floyd Higgins (203-264-3587).

**This week's study will meet in the church library, the Johnson Room.**

### **Adult Confirmation Preparation**

At Trinity we spend a great deal of time and energy preparing our youth for Confirmation, inviting them to make a "mature public affirmation" of their baptismal faith and to receive the laying on of hands by the Bishop. So, what about adults who have been baptized in some other fellowship of Christians and want to become a member of The Episcopal Church? Is it desirable and appropriate that this person be presented to the Bishop and be blessed with the laying on of hands? Yes! Absolutely!

Preparation for adult confirmation is beginning this November following worship with four Sacred Conversations on the topics of what we, as Episcopalians and Trinity Church, believe about the Bible, about Jesus, about the Church, and about Ministry. Additional classes will be offered in early 2020 for adults who are seeking confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation of their baptismal vows. Bishop Ian will then be at Trinity on Sunday morning May 3, 2020 to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church building and to confirm youth and adults. If you have questions or want to know more about adult confirmation, please talk with [Jenny](#) or [Matt](#).



### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Do you wonder what our children do after we bless and send them forth for their Liturgy of the Word? First, they follow the cross downstairs to the Children's Chapel and usually gather in a circle to say their names and welcome one another. A child then lights the altar candles, moves the arrow on the liturgical calendar and then all sit for a time of learning. During the fall they have been learning about "The Abundant Life Garden Project" created by Episcopal Relief and Development. This Sunday they will be talking about Saints, followed by three weeks of learning about the Old Testament character, David. After this time of learning, they often sing a song or two, then say prayers and repeat a version of the Creed. As time allows there is an activity. A special thank you to Barbara Chamberlain for playing the piano and to our youth, Jenna and Gloria, for helping. If you would like to volunteer occasionally, please talk with Cate, Matt or Jenny.



### **Stay Connected on our Website**

I don't know about you, but when I am unable to be present with our community in regular services, I miss you! Whether traveling or teaching in another area of our parish during worship, I find myself wanted to know what everyone else is considering together. If you have found yourself in this position, then I have great news for you! Now you can stay connected with our parish worship through our sermon archive! The digital archive provides an opportunity for you to listen to sermons after they have been shared. Our archive began on kickoff Sunday for this year. Please visit the [archive](#) to catch up on anything that you have missed.



## **Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement Looks to Sponsor Another Refugee Family**

Trinity Church, along with a number of other Newtown-area houses of worship, is a member of the Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement (IPRR). You can learn more about IPRR and which Newtown faith communities are members at [www.iprefugeer.org](http://www.iprefugeer.org). Trinity helped IPRR re-settle two refugee families from the Democratic Republic of the Congo over a 3-year period, during which those families were given a foothold on a new life in the U.S.

Now the IPRR seeks to sponsor the resettlement of another refugee family. We do this under the guidance of Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services (IRIS), a non-profit social service agency based in New Haven. IRIS was founded under a different name by the Episcopal Diocese of CT in 1982, and now resettles hundreds of families per year. IRIS will not entertain an application from the Interfaith Partnership until we have raised enough money and have adequate volunteers to help soften a refugee family's landing in a foreign culture.

The co-sponsorship model that the Interfaith Partnership practices is more of a **HAND HOLD** than a **HAND OUT**. We do provide short term financial support in order to get the family a place to live and basic supplies, but most of the support is in the form accompanying and advocating for the refugee family as they learn to navigate public transport, find jobs, enroll children in school, find healthcare, and all the other things that people do when they move to a new place, in addition to learning English if necessary. You can learn more by contacting Carol Bigman at [bigmancarol@gmail.com](mailto:bigmancarol@gmail.com).

Stay tuned for an announcement in church about ways to participate. There will also be a **special collection during the worship service in November** to help Trinity contribute again to resettling a refugee family. To donate, please make checks payable to Trinity Church and write "Refugees" in the memo. Alternatively, you can donate to the Interfaith Partnership directly at [www.iprefugeer.org](http://www.iprefugeer.org). If you do donate there, please let them and the Trinity office know that you are contributing on Trinity Church's behalf.

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## Praise and Thanksgiving

**For those requesting our prayers:** Arlene Coleman, Peter Jameson, Rev. William West, Maureen Trotto, Bode Kloos, Prudence Cooney, Carla Eylers

We give thanks for the life of Peter Garrett and pray for the repose of his soul.

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

Alex Gibson, Jack Wojtowicz, Peter Jameson, Nicole Jodan

**For those celebrating an anniversary this week:**

Peter & Cindy Anderau, Dennis O'Connor & Cory Benson

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

[trinity@trinitynewtownct.org](mailto:trinity@trinitynewtownct.org)

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