



Trinity Episcopal Church

36 Main St, Newtown Ct

www.trinitynewtownct.org

Thursday, 11/14/19



I've tried three times to write this article. First at church yesterday which didn't work out as planned. Second attempt was last night when I was super tired. And this morning, after sound sleep and fueled by a cup(s) of steaming Ethiopian coffee with hints of dark chocolate and plums, I'm beginning again.

What's been on my mind for days is a reflection I read this week by spiritual writer and poet Joyce Rupp. The title is "Jesus, what were the joys of your ministry?" I can honestly say I have never thought about Jesus experiencing joy in his ministry. Suffering, yes. Challenge, yes. Discouragement, yes. Exhaustion, yes. Fear, maybe. But joy, never. That is until I considered Joyce's questions. Jesus, "were you sometimes astounded at the strong, intense movement of generous love within you? When you experienced men and women changing their lives for the better because of what you taught, were you filled with gratitude? Could you find enjoyment in the challenging conversations you had with your disciples and with strangers? Was it exciting and rewarding to discuss the brave opinions and ideas that you had? Were you able to forget the tough parts of your work when you played with children, celebrated at weddings, walked through fields of ripened grain, and filled your eyes with the beauty of flowers?"

To each of these questions I imagine Jesus smiling with a joyful glint in his dark eyes, saying, "Yes!" Thinking about Jesus in this way causes to ponder the joys of my ministry. The easy ones are baptisms, presiding at the altar, planning liturgy, preaching and working with the vestry. Then there's the enjoyment of conversations with you, praying with you, listening to your stories, offering spiritual guidance and writing these articles. What's harder for me is finding enjoyment in challenging conversations or when I feel inept and discouraged. But you know what? I'm going to try. And I'm going to counter the tough parts of my work by making more time to play, create, bake bread, and walk in the woods. What about you? How might you find joy in your work and in your ministry? Blessed to share joy with you, Jenny+

TRANSITION

CALLING ALL VOICES

A parish-wide exploration to imagine
the kind of Rector God needs for Trinity Church.
Saturday, November 23

9:30am - Noon
Glover Community Room
Coffee and snacks provided

The Rev. Jack Gilpin, facilitator
Hosted by the Discernment Team
for Transition Ministry

TO PREPARE, PLEASE PONDER THESE QUESTIONS

What are the signs we are living into being a parish that is:
“A community of theological imagination, fed by Word and
Sacrament, forming Disciples and Apostles in God’s Mission
and connected to the wider Body of Christ.”?

In which area(s) are we strongest and why?

Which area(s) are the biggest challenge for us and why?

Imagine it’s 2023 and our new rector has been with us for
three years. Describe our parish’s three most exciting,
energizing, significant accomplishments within those first
few years of serving God together.

More people and more money CANNOT be on the list.

**WE REALLY WANT TO HEAR ALL VOICES! IF
CHILDCARE IS NEEDED, PLEASE EMAIL KIM AT
KMERRILL@TRINITYNEWTOWNCT.ORG BY
WEDNESDAY, 11/20.**

For more questions to think about, please [click here](#).

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
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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

Sacred Conversations Continue

Following worship on the next two 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.



Celebrating 150 Years in our Building in 2020

On Saturday, 11/16 at 9:30am there will be a meeting to plan a year-long celebration. We need help planning, please come!

Everybody Needs a Place

Please turn in your stewardship pledge cards at your earliest convenience and remember, we will be concluding our Stewardship drive on **November 24th**, which will be celebrated with a **Breakfast Sunday!**

Lunch Bunch

The next Lunch Bunch will be held Noon, on Thursday Dec. 5th at My Place, Newtown. In January we will meet at noon at My Place the last Thursday, the 30th.



Thanksgiving Collection

Outreach is collecting food items for two Newtown families. See our sign up board in the Glover Community Room. Items can be dropped off until **Wednesday, November 20th**.

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering

This year the Newtown Interfaith Council is hosting an Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving on **Sunday, November 24 at 1:00pm at Adath Israel** (115 Huntingtown Road, Newtown). Join friends and neighbors for an Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering of Prayer and Song. There will be sacred texts and prayers as we celebrate the season of gratitude as well as the deeply held faith practices of hospitality and unity. All attendees are invited to bring non-perishable food items and monetary donations (make checks payable to Adath Israel) in support of the Newtown Faith Food Pantry. All are welcome!



Advent Wreath Making

As Advent approaches, our parish is invited to join together across all age groups in making Advent wreaths. This will be an excellent opportunity to share time and fellowship while building a wreath that will grace our homes, and remind each of us of the light that is coming into our world! The parish is invited to build Advent wreaths immediately following service on **Dec. 1st**.



Informational flyers about this event are posted around the parish.

Please let us know if you would like us to be part of this fellowship by:

1. Filling out your interest card found at the back of the service bulletin.
2. Sign up online at: <https://signup.com/login/entry/967016739419890060>

All proceeds from this event will support youth programming at Trinity Church.

Edible Creations Display & Competition

More than just gingerbread!

Sunday, December 8th

In conjunction with

The Holiday Festival

Main St. Newtown, CT



Trinity is partnering with Newtown Youth & Family Services for the 34th Annual Holiday Festival. We will be hosting "Edible Creations" in the Glover Community Room on Sunday, December 8th. [Please click here](#) if you are interested in participating - the entry fee is only \$10, and the grand prize is Disney tickets! (Kim has been envisioning Trinity built out of sugar cubes since August!) At 2:00 that day, a **very** special guest will be dropping by for a visit, and giving out ice cream cake to all! If you have ever wanted to meet **Olaf, from the Frozen movies**, now is your chance! **"Ice Cream with Olaf"** is included in the line up of the Holiday Festival. Tickets can be purchased [here](#), at [NY&FS](#) any time prior to the festival, or at the Newtown Library and Edmondtown Hall the day of the festival. Don't miss out on the fun!

(If you are interested in helping out with the event, we are looking for a few volunteers! Please email [Kim](#) if you are interested.)

YOUTH INFORMATION

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.

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, all parishioners are asked to consider a date that 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. If you are interested in learning more about our journey, please [email Matt](#) for upcoming dates and meeting topics.

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 17, 2019 from 12:00PM – 2:00PM**. This gathering will be held in the Glover Community Room.

ADULT FORMATION

Bible Study: The Acts of the Apostles

After this week our study of the New Testament book of Acts will take a break for the holiday season. So, please join us this Saturday in the church library from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. After this session we'll resume after the first of the year—look for further details.

For this Saturday, November 16, please read Acts 17:15-34.

This is the exciting account of when Paul preaches something entirely new to the intellectuals of Athens—the account of a man, Jesus, rising from the dead! **Also begin reading Acts 18:23-21:17**, the third and final missionary journey of Paul before his arrest, his trip to Rome, and there his imprisonment and death.

Stay Connected on our Website

Don't forget that 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. Please visit the [archive](#) to catch up on anything that you might have missed!



Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement Looks to Sponsor Another Refugee Family

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. If you do donate there, please let them and the Trinity office



"Canticles of Thanksgiving" features a veritable cornucopia of music ranging from Aaron Copeland, John Rutter, Leonard Bernstein, and Barry Manilow, songs that lift your spirit with an inspiring program celebrating unity, harmony, gratitude and peace. This family-friendly concert will allow you to step away from the world for a while and recharge.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for youth/seniors, and \$10 for active or retired members of the military. Children under 12 may attend free of charge. Tickets may be purchased online at www.ctchoralsociety.com and at the door with cash or credit card. For more information visit the CCS website at www.ctchoralsociety.com or Facebook at ConnecticutChoralSociety.



Waterbury Symphony Orchestra

Leif Bjaland, Music Director & Conductor

Michelle Johnson, Soprano
Christopher Houlihan, Organist



HOLIDAY BRASS & ORGAN

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 30, 7:30 PM**

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
36 MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN, CT 06470**

Tickets: waterburysymphony.org or 203-574-4283

Concert Sponsored by:

CARMODY 
TORRANCE | SANDAK | HENNESSEY LP

Praise and Thanksgiving

For those requesting our prayers: Arlene Coleman, Peter Jameson, Rev. William West, Maureen Troto, Bode Kloos, Prudence Cooney, Rick, Connie O'Connell

For those celebrating a birthday this week:
Karen Gardner, Glenn Nanavaty

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

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