



## Trinity Episcopal Church

36 Main St, Newtown Ct

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

Thursday, 12/5/19



Earlier this year with all that was going on with Joe and me I felt as though I had lost my soul. I didn't know who I was any more. I was weary, weepy and worn down. I was angry, hurt, confused, fearful and sad. Traveling in the dark as I was, my spiritual director shared this poem by Jan Richardson with me.

“Blessing for Traveling in the Dark”

*Go slow if you can.*

*Slower.*

*More slowly still.*

*Friendly dark or fearsome,  
this is no place to break your neck by rushing,  
by running, by crashing into what you cannot see...*

When I took these words to heart, they made a world of difference. Slowing down, I began to feel blessed and loved. I saw more beauty and less pain. I was not as anxious and became more hopeful. As we enter this blessed season of Advent, I encourage you to slow down, especially if you are traveling in the dark. And, even if you aren't. If slowing down sounds impossible with your busy life, I invite you to try. Clear your calendar of a few unimportant things. Walk slower. Linger over a meal or cup of coffee. Put down your phone. Be still if only for a few minutes each day. Then see what blessings may be waiting for you. Listen for what God may be saying to you. S-l-o-w down, wait, watch, wonder.

Advent Blessings, Jenny+

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### Peace Light

Tonight, our Eagle Scout, Adam Bowditch, is attending a very special Scout service at St Peters Danbury to pray for peace and receive the Peace Light. He will bring back to Trinity an infused candle which we will use to light the second Peace Advent candle this Sunday, December 8th. The Peace Light is very special, being sourced from the flame burning in the Bethlehem grotto where Jesus was born. Each year a child from Austria transports the flame in miners' lanterns from Israel to Vienna. From there it is shared at a special service of peace to children from all over Europe and then continues its journey to JF Kennedy airport in New York. From here it is distributed by Scouts all over the United States. Adam says, “I will be honored to bring that flame to Trinity this

# Everybody Needs a Place

Dear Trinity members,

As of November 25<sup>th</sup>, 64 pledge cards have been received. Thank you so much for your response to last week's update as we doubled the number of pledge cards. However, based on 2019 history we should have approximately 95 pledging units for the 2020. I would ask any parish member that has not turned in a card to do so over the next couple of weeks. It is critical that the Vestry have a clear understanding of the total financial picture for Trinity as the 2020 budget is finalized. Please help us to have full transparency of the funds available and drop off your pledge card as soon as possible.

Change Year over Year	2020 Pledge	Net Change	# Units	Percentage Change
Decrease	\$44,992	(\$12,608)	12	-22%
Increase	\$68,820	\$4,960	18	8%
No Change	\$102,290	\$0	26	0%
Returning	\$5,768	\$5,768	3	0%
New	\$8,200	\$8,200	5	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$230,070</b>	<b>\$6,320</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Decrease – drop in pledge amt, Increase – increased pledge

Returning – did not pledge in 2019 but did in 2018

New – Never pledged before at Trinity

## TRANSITION

### Trinity's Transition Collect

Oh God, whose Spirit moved the waters of Creation, move us now with a renewed resolve to greet the future with courage and optimism as a committed community of faith and action. We pray for wisdom, guidance, and direction as we seek to discover your will in finding a Rector who will support us in your mission for Trinity. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

**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 Geissing  
 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

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



# ADVENT

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## Advent Prayer Service

Advent is a time of quiet expectancy. It is a time of recognizing the reality of our world while waiting with anticipation. Recognizing that it is very easy for the celebratory atmosphere of Christmas preparations to obscure the penitential, introspective mood of the Advent season, a special service is being offered at Trinity.

During the month of December, parishioners can gather weekly for an Advent Prayer Service. This prayer service will foster a contemplative space to reflect upon what God is calling us to consider during this season. The service includes meditation and centering prayer. All participants are encouraged to participate as they feel called.

The prayer service will begin at 5:30pm and will last about 30 minutes. Our next service will be held on **December 10** in the chapel.

For more information about this service, please contact the [parish office](#).

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Please remember: adoptive family gifts are due this Sunday, and thank you for the great response! There is one tag left if anyone feels like grabbing it between now and then!



## **Listening Sessions for Children's Worship**

Trinity Church has had a long, successful tradition of forming and supporting children and youth! Trinity remains committed to this ministry as it looks to the future. There is much to celebrate, and all who have shared in forming our children know firsthand how vibrant this ministry remains! We are excited to continue building this legacy as God leads us. As we continue to discern God's call, we are excited to "try on" some adjustments to our Sunday worship offering. We are excited to share this with you, and welcome your feedback. It is for this reason that we are offering two listening sessions.

Listening sessions are an excellent opportunity for the parish to gather in prayer and engage in dialogue. During our time together, we will explore our new children's liturgy through a moderated conversation.

**Sessions are as follows:**

**December 7 – 9:30AM**

**December 10 – 6:15PM**

I hope that you will prayerfully consider attending these sessions. Each listening session will be held in the sanctuary. For more information, please contact the [church office](#).

# Ice Cream With Olaf



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. 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 Edmondstown Hall the day of the festival. Don't miss out on the fun!

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. If you are interested in learning more about our journey, please [click here](#) for upcoming dates and meeting topics about the [Way of Love](#).

If you feel called to join in this ministry, please select a date on which your schedule might allow you to join a confirmation meeting as an additional adult supervisor. This is so we can continue to provide a “safe church” space for our learning time. **Without an additional adult each Sunday, we are unable to offer a group learning session to remain in compliance with ECCT guidelines.**

For more information, please feel free to call or email the church office. Our next group learning session will be held on **December 8**.

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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!

**YAC members are invited to assist with the upcoming Edible Creations event from 1:00 – 4:00. For more information, please contact the church office.**

I encourage all to continue checking the calendar on the [church website](#) for additional dates for this offering.



## **Pilgrimage to San José la Montaña, El Salvador March 15 to 24, 2020**

The Companion Parish Committee invites you to come on a pilgrimage to San José la Montaña, El Salvador. The trip is an opportunity to strengthen bonds with our companion parish, to hear their stories, and to learn how the teachings of recently sainted Archbishop Romero apply to people’s lived experiences today.

We fly together as a group to San Salvador, and then take a private van to the colonial town Suchitoto for a short stay there. Then we go on to San José la Montaña, where we stay with families in their homes and share their meals and

daily lives. Our time there coincides with their three-day patron saint festival, which includes village-wide events and special church services. Finally we travel to San Salvador to visit the National Cathedral and other sites of historical and religious significance, including the last home of Archbishop Romero. Each day will include time for group prayer and reflections.

Pilgrims are supported throughout the trip by Sister Parish, Inc., whose in-country staff supply logistical support, transportation, language translation, and cultural interpretations.

Cost: \$1,200 includes all ground transportation, lodging, food, and activities in El Salvador. Additional costs are airfare to San Salvador (approx. \$600), plus some incidentals. Partial scholarships are available.

Pilgrims should be able to walk on uneven and hilly terrain for at least an hour. We will stay in modest hotels in the cities. In San José la Montaña some of the houses we stay in may not have full indoor bathrooms. Bottled water will always be supplied.

This pilgrimage is open to people 16 years and older. We plan to take 8 pilgrims and hope to get a range of ages. Applications will be accepted until December 30, with decisions made by January 15th.



### **Prayer Booklets are Available for All**

Your friends at Stephen Ministry have had a little side project going that we are pleased to tell you about.

Over the years of Stephen Ministry at Trinity, members of the Stephen Ministry Team have compiled a collection of prayers which we have found useful to us as Care-Givers and to the people who have reached out to us for help as Care-Receiver during a time of need. We have compiled a collection of these prayers, with Kim Merrill's help, and have put them into a booklet for anyone who would like to have one.

These booklets have a number of Christ-centered/care-centered prayers, consistent with the mission of Stephen Ministry here at Trinity:

*Stephen Ministry at Trinity recruits, trains, and supports lay volunteers to be present for, pray for and bring Christ's love to people going through significant transitions and/or recovering from challenges in their lives – for as long as it takes.*

The prayers come in various lengths and some are specified for use for certain kinds of challenges or times of need.

Whether you are someone who might be going through a difficult transition yourself—or someone who wants to pray for someone who is suffering in some way—we hope you will find these prayers of benefit to you.

Those of us who have been in Stephen Ministry have considered our involvement to be a great blessing in our lives. We hope these prayers will be a blessing to you as well.

Booklets are available on the tables next to the side sanctuary entrance.

## **Stephen Ministry—Christ Caring For People Through People**

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

If you have been unable to join our community for worship, 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 with our community. Please visit the [sermon archive](#) to catch up on anything that you have missed.

### **Praise and Thanksgiving**

**For those requesting our prayers:** Arlene Coleman, Peter Jameson, Rev. William West, Maureen Trotto, Bode Kloos, Prudence Cooney, Karen Gardner, Ann Sandercox, Paul Roman, Heather

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

David Tuttle, Lisa Irving, Leon Karvelis, Caitlyn Bellesheim, George Rockwell

**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](#)

