



Trinity Episcopal Church

36 Main St, Newtown Ct

www.trinitynewtownct.org

Thursday, 12/12/19



There's something about dark times that can make life seem almost surreal. It's like you can't believe that what's happening in your life is actually happening and yet it is. Scripture verses that might otherwise be comforting, fail to do the trick. Yes, you've heard "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (*John 1:5*) You know the prophet Isaiah's words are true, that "the people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." (*Isaiah 9:2*) You believe the Psalmist who talks

about God as being inescapable, that "even the darkness will not be dark to (God); the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you." (*Psalms 139:12*) Your faith tells you "for you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." (*Ephesians 5:8*) And yet, darkness prevails within you.

Speaking from my recent experience of traveling in the dark, I offer a suggestion. What if you simply let yourself walk in darkness for a while. Ask for help. Enlist others to pray for you. But allow yourself to embrace the darkness. Poet Christine Valters Paintner describes it this way: "embracing the darkness . . . does not mean carrying a light into the dark, it means walking right into the darkness and exploring its landscape so that our other senses become heightened and attuned to the sound of seeds jostling deep beneath the black soil, to hear the slow in and out breath of animals in hibernation, to feel our own heartbeats and the heartbeats of those we love, to experience the pulsing of womb sounds within us just before the water gets ready to break."

Advent means waiting in the dark. Given time, the light will dawn. Christmas is coming. Just you wait and see.

Advent Blessings, Jenny+

Everybody Needs a Place

Dear Trinity members,
As of November 25th, 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%
Grand Total	\$230,070	\$6,320	64	\$0

Decrease – **drop in pledge amt**, Increase – **increased pledge**
 Returning – **did not pledge in 2019 but did in 2018**
 New – **Never pledged before at Trinity**



12/14 Service of Remembrance

The vestry of the Episcopal Church is responsible for overseeing parish finances, the buildings and grounds, as well as being leaders of ministry in the areas of mission and outreach, parish life, formation, and worship. Nominees must be 16 years and older, active baptized members, and preferably confirmed Episcopalians. At our Annual Meeting on January 26, 2020 we will be electing two new vestry members to serve for a three-year term. If you are interested in learning more about serving on the vestry, an informational meeting will be held this Sunday, December 15 in the library following worship. You may also reach out to Jenny or one of our wardens, Laurie Trotto and Dennis O'Conner, to discuss responsibilities in more detail.

Vestry Nominations

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Christmas Offering

Every Christmas and Easter, Trinity selects charities to receive 100% of the collected holiday donations. The 2019 Christmas Special Offering collections from the Congregation will be divided

between the following organizations chosen by the Mission & Outreach Commission and approved by Vestry:

- CT Students for A Dream (<https://www.ct4adream.org/>) was founded in 2010 by a group of students and allies across the state, who fought for the DREAM Act, and rallied to win In-State Tuition for undocumented students. On October 18, Angelica Idrovo, a Danbury CT 4 a Dream student came to Trinity and spoke passionately about the continued needs of her organization.
- For over 30 years, F.A.I.T.H. Food Pantry of Newtown (<http://www.newtownfoodpantry.org/>) has relied on the kindness and support of Newtown residents and businesses to help them provide food to residents in need.

Save the Date - King Cake Contest!

Bakers of all ages put your talents to work and create a King Cake for this year's bake-off contest following 9:30am worship on Sunday, January 5th. During Coffee Hour two honorees will be chosen and crowned King and Queen for this year's Mardi Gras party which will take place on Saturday evening February 22nd. Mark your calendar NOW for the Mardi Gras party that will feature Cajun cooking extraordinaire as well as kick-off our 150th Sequential 2020 Celebration.



Homeless Jesus

Jesus has come to grace our Trinity Church steps again this year, and we are fortunate to welcome him from December 1st - 15th. Timothy Schmaltz is a Canadian sculptor known for his Christian religious sculptures. This sculpture of Jesus is here to remind us of the plight of people who are without the necessities of life and to motivate us to action.

ADVENT

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 final service will be held on **December 17** in the chapel.

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



Thank you!

"Edible Creations" and "Ice Cream with Olaf" were both a huge success! We had over 200 people come through Trinity on Sunday. I would like to recognize, and sincerely thank Kit Dougherty, Moe Pershinsky, Marcia DeBrock, and Patrick DeBrock for helping with set up, hospitality during the event, and clean up. I would also like to thank Tain Gregory, for being possibly the best Olaf impersonator of all time! Newtown Youth & Family Services rated our event on a scale of 1-10, and we scored a 15!

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.**

Confirmation class will NOT meet next week. For upcoming confirmation dates, please continue to check the church calendar.

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



On behalf of Mission and Outreach at Trinity, we wish to thank you for your generous contributions to IPRR as we prepare to welcome our third family. We received approximately \$1, 500.00 for our fundraising project which is a significant contribution toward our goal. We will keep you posted about our progress as time moves on and please remember we are happy to have new volunteers. Please contact Carol Bigman at bigmancarol@gmail.com or Jean Maurice Calmels at millau12@yahoo.com to discuss those opportunities.

Congregational Church Brookfield
Stephen Ministers invite you to
“Hope at the Holidays”
What does it look like?

This informative and supportive workshop for adults dealing with grief will be presented by The Rev. Sam Dexter of Regional Hospice and Palliative Care
5-7pm Sunday, December 15th in Brooks Hall



Holidays are supposed to be merry and bright, but for people who are grieving they can be a time of sadness, anxiety and loneliness. Join in conversation with others who understand the challenges of coping with the holiday season. Learn strategies for getting through these difficult times and discover new ways to celebrate.

Light refreshments will be served, and childcare can be provided on request.



Journey to El Salvador in March

Our friends in our sister Parish of San José la Montaña are an inspiration. They've rebuilt their village following the civil war in the 1980s. They work cooperatively to make sure everyone has a voice and opportunity. They are thoughtful in their words and their actions. And they are a lot of fun to be with.

We will go on pilgrimage to see them from March 15 to 24, 2020. Our trip coincides with the festival to Saint Joseph, which is celebrated with village-wide events and church services. We will also spend time in the colonial-era village of Suchitoto and visit sites of religious and historic significance in the capital city of San Salvador.

The cost of \$1,200 includes food, lodging, ground transportation and activities in El Salvador. Lodging will be a combination of hotels and homestays. Other costs are airfare and suggested vaccines.

To find out more contact Sue Roman at 203-733-3300 or sroman@fastmail.com or David Ericson at 203-313-2880 or ericson.david@gmail.com.

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 Troto, Bode Kloos, Prudence Cooney, Karen Gardner, Ann Sandercox, Paul Roman, Heather

We give thanks for the life of Ann Clark, and pray for the repose of her soul

For those celebrating a birthday this week:

Justyn Murphy, Edmund Breitling, Dick Taylor

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](#)

