



# CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 24

May 2020

## Upcoming Events

Sunday Zoom Services at 9:00 a.m.

## Clergy Schedule

May 3, Fr. Jim Speer

May 10, Fr. Robert Stocksdale

May 17, Fr. Robert Stocksdale

May 24, Fr. Robert Stocksdale

May 31, TBD

## Sunday Zoom Services

We are now holding worship services via Zoom every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

To connect by computer click:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7639094733?pwd=WkR1ZHBNYTNKWmJqM2NvTkRjZ09hdz09>

To join by phone call:  
929-436-2866  
Meeting ID = 763 909 4733  
Password = 39

The weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays and the Zoom line is usually opened up around 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

If you would be not receiving the bulletin please email or call Diane in the office at [Christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:Christandtheepiphany@gmail.com) or 203-467-2310.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out to Susan Shultz at 860-669-1104 or [sbshultz@gmail.com](mailto:sbshultz@gmail.com).

## Easter Sunday Bonnets

Barbara and George Columbe



## Senior Warden

Barbara Parsons

I am so thankful for all the time and effort that has been put forth to keep in contact over the last month especially Susan's work on our online services. To some it has been an extra blessing to be able to attend a service and see friends, since they are unable to attend church physically. Also we are able to invite friends and family and others who can join us from out of state!

As Senior Warden in a church without clergy, Andrew [Rev. Andrew Osmun] has been more than a blessing to me. He is a gift to all of us and I am so thankful to have his never-ending help and support. I would not have been able to do it without him. My heartfelt gratitude also goes out to Diane Rowley in the office. She has been available to us at all times, which is priceless.

There are so many things to make me smile. Someone coming forward to keep our

Sanctuary light burning in the church; ringing the bell on Easter to announce to all that "The Lord is Risen"; taking time to decorate the outside planters. Forgive me if I've forgotten any good deed done. What really counts is that God knows and He's also smiling.

Wendy and I will be planning the services until the Diocese sends us a new Priest. We will have clergy for the Homily, Absolution and Final Blessing. There may be Sundays when we have Spiritual Communion. Andrew has agreed that we should keep our commitments to the priests that we have asked to do Supply before the pandemic occurred. So far we have coverage for May. We had originally decided to do Morning Prayer without clergy on the last Sunday of the month, but I will discuss with the Vestry having clergy every week. I feel with the current situation, clergy bring a certain degree of comfort and stability to these stressful times. Andrew and Fr. Bob Stocksdale have offered to be our regular Supply. I look forward to have them join us in person again.

I pray that we will all be safe and God will bless us with His "Peace that passes all understanding".

In His Love,  
Barbara

## Parish List Update

We are in the process of updating our Parish List. We expect to be complete by the end of May. You will be contacted to make sure we have your current information.

## Pledging in the Time of Quarantine

We are going to be depositing received income via ATM once every two weeks. While we know this is a difficult financial time for everyone, we encourage you to mail your pledges to the office. Diane checks the mail regularly and this will help us continue to pay our bills.

## COVID-19 Update

All in-church services and events continue to be cancelled. Sunday services are held at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Periodically we are emailing a daily devotional reading from our parish family. Please send your submissions to Barbara at [mannybarb1@gmail.com](mailto:mannybarb1@gmail.com) or Diane in the church office at [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com).

The intercessory prayer list continues to be emailed out each week.

As we continue to work on creative ideas for alternate ways to worship God as a community, watch your email regularly. Details will be emailed and posted on our Facebook page.

If you need *anything* please reach out to either Barbara

Parsons (203-640-1368) or the church office (203-467-2310). If you are not receiving email do let us know so we can make sure we have the correct email address to reach you. It is important during these difficult times that we stay in touch with each other.

We expect to do a thorough cleaning of the church before we return to its use. We will communicate any other changes or accommodations as things develop.

## April Vestry Summary Susan Shultz

**Next Meeting** - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> via Zoom after the 9:00 a.m. service.

**Junior Warden** - Wendy Bellmore was voted Junior Warden for 2020 to fulfill the canons.

**Worship** - Carol has ordered a communion set with disposable cups to use instead of the common communion cup for when we return.

**Building & Grounds** - The only current use of the building is by Food Pantry staff. Pickups are done via "drive throughs". Ken and Kathy are doing building "checkups" twice a week. We will continue to work on a cleaning agenda as the situation develops.

**New Business** - The Chapel seating arrangement will be re-evaluated when we return to try to accommodate more chairs. A good problem to have! We will also work to

update the Parish List information.



May 5 - Pat Walters  
May 8 - Audrey Sundwall  
May 11 - Diane Villano  
May 13 - Judi Randall  
May 20 - Geneva O'Donnell



May 19 - Diane & Erick Villano  
May 21 - Judy & Ray  
Clearwater  
May 30 - Jill & Tony Lamberti

## Intercessory Prayers

Andrew, Barbara R., Barbuschak Family, Carol Ude, Carol C., David, Devin K., Diane, Diane Link, Ed, Eileen F., Eleanor N., Faith and Family, Father Eddie, Frank P., Fred H., Gale, Geneva, Goodfellow Family, Greg T., Ian, J.D., Jack K., Dr. Jeremiah Martin, Jim C., John A., John M., John U., Joseph, Judy C., Judy DeFeo, Julia, June W., Karen Dattilo & Family, Katherine Burdick, Katrina R., Leah S., Lisa, Lisa H., Lois, Lucas Sundwall, Madeline, Mark Conti, Marjorie Cowles, Marty, Matt, Melissa D., Patty R., Rachael, Ray C., Sallie Alexander, Shawne G., Turiano Family, Vivian S., Zach Schatz

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested. If a person you have placed on the list recovers in less than three months or passes away, please update the church office.



**Yale  
Divinity  
School**

**Diane Villano  
Summer Study at Yale  
Divinity School**

Summer Study is cancelled for this year, but Yale Divinity hopes to offer the same workshops in 2021.



**Education for  
Ministry  
(EfM)**

**Diane Villano**

I have almost completed my first year in the Education for Ministry program, a four-year course of study administered by the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. This is not an ordination program; it's geared to developing the lay minister and exploring how one can serve others.

From [efm.sewanee.edu](http://efm.sewanee.edu): Every baptized person is called to ministry. The Education for Ministry (EfM) program provides people with the education to carry out that ministry. During the Service of Confirmation, we ask God to "Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set

before them." EfM offers an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service. The seminar group is the nucleus of the Education for Ministry program. A group consists of six to twelve participants and a trained mentor who meet weekly over the course of a nine-month academic year. These meetings are usually from two and a half to three hours in length. Through **study, prayer, and reflection**, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom.

Each year can be taken separately, and seminars meet around the state. I'm part of the group meeting at Church of the Epiphany in Durham, and we meet every Monday evening. Currently, we are sharing our reading and insights via Zoom. Because the Episcopal Church in Connecticut is a sponsor, we can join at a discounted price. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please let me know.

**Bible Study**

**Wendy Bellmore**

Over the last 3 years we have been traveling in the sandals of Jesus, first learning and discussing the concept of healing of body, mind, and spirit. We read the synoptic Gospels Matthew, Mark and Luke, and then the Gospel of John. In those readings, we explored Jesus' mission to bring us back to God, to repent our sins and reconcile our relationship with God, and to emulate Jesus by going out in mission to preach the Gospel, and heal the sins and

brokenness in this world. We then followed the apostles in Acts, to see how they were able to sustain and uphold the work given to them, and all of us, by Jesus.

This year, have we returned to the prophets, starting our study with Isaiah and Jeremiah, and will be closing with Ezekiel. We are finding and discussing the consistency of our loving Gods message to be present with his people, to forgive our sin, and to reconcile our relationship, all this many hundreds of years before the time of Jesus. From there, we hope to explore and discuss the book of Revelation, a vision of judgement of the righteous and the wicked.

While we all have been put on hold in quarantine, our Bible study was also suspended, and discussion among some participants indicates that, now that we are mostly able to use Zoom successfully, we might consider a weeknight Bible study, or perhaps Wednesday evenings. Please contact Wendy Bellmore, or Warden Barbara Parsons if you are interested.

Another Bible study option is to follow along with Trinity, Wethersfield, with Father Tom Furrer, director of Kateri, our mission to Nigeria. On Thursdays during the day, they post a prerecorded video on their website and get together via Zoom for discussion. Please visit their website for more information:

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

## Online Faith Resources

We fell asleep in one world and woke up in another.

Suddenly Disney is out of magic,  
Paris is no longer romantic, New York is no longer standing,  
the Chinese wall is no longer a fortress, and Mecca is  
drained.

Hugs and kisses suddenly become weapons and not visiting  
parents and friends becomes an act of love.

Suddenly you realized that power, beauty, money was  
worthless and couldn't get you the oxygen you were fighting  
for.

The world continues its life and it is beautiful; it only puts  
humans in cages. I think he's sending us a message:  
" You are not necessary. The air, earth, water and sky  
without you are fine. And even better. When you come back,  
remember that you are my guests... Not my masters."

Unknown author

**Pray as you go** has both a website and mobile app. <https://pray-as-you-go.org>  
This daily prayer session helps you pray whenever you find time.

Get free **Daily devotionals** delivered to your email from [www.inspiration.org](http://www.inspiration.org).

### Next issue

The deadline for the June 2020 issue is **May 22**. If you have contributions for the newsletter please email us at [newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com).

For updates to the Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310.

Charlie Langlan & Susan Shultz, Editors

Prayer for **People Critically Ill** or

### Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,  
God who in Jesus stills the storm  
and soothes the frantic heart;  
bring hope and courage to all  
who wait or work in uncertainty.  
Bring hope that you will make them the equal  
of whatever lies ahead.  
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,  
for your will is health and wholeness;  
you are God, and we need you.

- *ECCT website, Adapted from New Zealand Prayer Book*



## Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT)

Excerpts from the latest ECCT Clergy and Lay Leaders Communication: COVID-19 Update #8: April 17, 2020

Dear Clergy and Wardens in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

We want to begin with a word of thanks. Thank you, and thanks be to God, for your faithful leadership as we continue to do all that we can to mitigate and suppress the spread of COVID-19. We have been moved by the many creative ways you have led your parishes in online worship throughout Holy Week and the wonderful celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Easter Day. Thank you also for your faithfulness in trying to keep your other ministries going, especially those ministries with individuals and families struggling with food and housing insecurity. Your dedication to God's mission in your neighborhoods is inspiring.

On Friday, April 10, Governor Ned Lamont signed his Executive Order No 7X. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/LamontExecutive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7X.pdf> This Order extends the closing of schools, restaurants, bars, malls, fitness facilities, and other "non-essential business" through May 20, 2020. It also extends the prohibition of public, in-person gatherings of more than five people until May 20, 2020. In our Update #3 of March 20, 2020 we strongly urged parishes to be closed at least through May 10 in keeping with the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control. While religious institutions are not mentioned in the Governor's extension of closures through May 20, we believe it is our civic duty to also keep our churches closed through May 20, 2020. Therefore, please extend the closure of your parishes from May 10 to May 20, 2020. If you do need to enter your church buildings for urgent matters to help keep the parish running, please observe the direction not to gather in groups of more than five individuals while also practicing a safe distance perimeter and wearing facial masks to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets. The Commons will remain closed for in-person meetings through May 20, 2020 while ECCT staff continue to work from home.

It might seem self-evident, but it is important to note that spring confirmations in our Regions will also be cancelled through at least May 20, 2020 and probably beyond. We are currently looking at our calendars and are hoping to find time in the fall for Region confirmations.

Finally, we know that your ongoing efforts to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, coupled with the reality of sickness and death from COVID-19 and other illnesses of those in your care, will continue to cause an increased burden on you as clergy and lay leaders. We urge you, as we do regularly, please take care of yourself. The best thing we can do for others is to stay healthy and whole so that we can be the priests, pastors, and leaders that our parishes need today and into the future. Please do not hesitate to reach out us at any time as we want to do all in our power to support you. You are in our daily prayers for strength, safety, endurance, and health. God bless you all.

Faithfully,  
 The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Bishop Diocesan  
 The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

**Treasurer Report**  
 Susan Shultz

	MAR	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$3,283.53	(\$7,153.97)	\$20,509.22	(\$4,948.28)
EXPENSES	\$8,538.12	(\$2,562.58)	\$25,062.95	(\$6,511.99)
NET	(\$5,254.59)	(\$4,591.39)	(\$4,553.73)	(\$1,563.71)

Notes: We are starting to see the effect of the building closure especially on pledge income. Building use is also a little down but future months will show a bigger discrepancy. Utilities were above budget but year-to-date they are still under budget.

# **Christ and The Epiphany Church**

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Website: [christandtheepiphany.org](http://christandtheepiphany.org)

## **Worship Schedule**

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Audio/Visual Zoom Worship

*(We will be having a Zoom call abridged service each  
Sunday until further notice. See your email for details.)*