



# CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 28

February 2024



## What is Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church?

During Bishop Laura Ahrens pastoral visit on February 14, 2024, she will administer the Rite of Confirmation and Reception to Paul Barrett (Confirmation), Melanie Miller (Reception) and Maryclaire Peach-Keyes (Reception).

But what exactly *is* this Rite?

Through Confirmation into the Episcopal Church, a candidate “expresses a mature commitment to Christ and receives strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.” (Book of Common Prayer, p.860)

Confirmation is a person’s opportunity to publicly affirm their Christian faith, recommit themselves to the responsibilities of their baptism, and receive the laying on of hands by a bishop of the Episcopal Church. The requirement is to have been previously baptized, either in

the Episcopal Church or another branch of Christianity.

During the Confirmation rite, a candidate reaffirms their renunciation of evil and renews their commitment to Jesus Christ. They reaffirm the promises made by them or for them at the time of their baptism. The members of the congregation promise to do all in their power to support the candidate in their life in Christ, and all present renew their baptismal covenant.

If a person wanting to become part of the church has previously been baptized and confirmed in another Christian fellowship, they would be received into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church by the bishop.



**Remember  
to sign up for  
Coffee Hour**

## Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candle

Just a reminder that the sign up sheet for Altar Flowers and the Sanctuary Candle is on the Bulletin board in the Narthex. Please consider memorializing or honoring a family member, or event in your life. Flowers are \$35 and Sanctuary Candles are \$10. You can put your check in the offering with a notation or give to Carol Link-Ude.

## Worship Services

**Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,**  
in-person and via Zoom

**Sunday, February 11, 9:00 a.m. Bishop Laura Ahrens visit,** with reception of Melanie Miller and Maryclaire Peach-Keyes, and confirmation of Paul Barrett

**Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m.** Ash Wednesday service with celebrant Tim Hodapp

*(Zoom connection information at the end of newsletter.)*

## Events

**Mondays,** starting February 12, 12:15 p.m., *The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross* Lenten luncheon series (see article for locations)

**Tuesdays,** starting February 20, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. via ZOOM, Lenten study

## Inclement Weather

In the case of severe weather prohibiting in-person worship services the Communications Team will notify channels 9 and 61 for on-air and website postings. Our website and Facebook page will also be updated.

## Ash Wednesday

If you need a ride to the Ash Wednesday service please call or email the church office.

## Lenten Devotionals and Weekly Study

The Communications Team has purchased copies of *Living Well Through Lent 2024* devotional booklets from Living Compass in English and Spanish. They are available in the Narthex, stair landings, and Good Shepherd Thrift Store. This season's theme is Practicing Forgiveness with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind.

We will meet Tuesday evenings on Zoom from February 20 to March 26, at 7:00 p.m. for up to one hour. Use our normal Sunday service Zoom link available on our website ([ChristandTheEpiphany.org](http://ChristandTheEpiphany.org)) or Facebook page.

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Parish meeting took place on Sunday January 28. To request either an emailed or a USPS mailed version of the Annual Report call or email the church office.

Elected for 2024:

**Sr Warden:** George Coulombe

**Jr Warden:** Barbara Parsons

**Treasurer:** Susan Shultz

**Clerk:** Gail Beck

**At-Large:** Astrid Swanson

**At-Large:** Pat Walters

**ECCT Delegates:**

Astrid Swanson, Diane Villano

**Alternate:** Barbara Coulombe

## Continuing Vestry

Ray Clearwater, Audrey

Sundwall, Carol Link-Ude

The Thrift Store donated **eight** winter coats to St Mary's in Branford for their coat drive!

## Around the Church

Annual Meeting  
January 28



## New Upper Hall curtain



## New outside welcome flag



## January Vestry Summary

**Next Meeting** - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, February 18th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

**Worship** - We are still looking for someone (does not have to be a Vestry person) to chair the Worship committee.

In Feb, Bishop Laura will be doing the service on 2/11, the Rev. Tim Hodapp will be leading the service on Ash Wednesday (2/14) at 7:00 p.m., and The Rev. Charles Kamano will be with us on 3/24 for Palm Sunday. Plans are being made to have a Prayer and Praise service on 2/4 and a Taize as part of our Morning Prayer one Sunday in Lent.

Diane Rowley has taken over the responsibility of obtaining and scheduling Supply Priests. If you have any suggestions, please pass them along to her.

**Building & Grounds** - Ken and Kathy Dougherty gave the kitchen a complete and thorough cleaning to prepare for the inspection and renewed licensing of the kitchen by the East Shore Health District. Wendy Bellmore holds that license.

We have two rentals of the Great Hall for March. A baby shower for Vi Satterwaite's granddaughter and a fundraiser for the Greater New Haven Cat Project where Diane Villano's husband has been a volunteer for many years.

**47 Park Place** - Shoring up of 47 Park Place will start on March 4. The bathroom ceiling on the first floor will also be repaired. We have a new renter for the building and rent for January has been paid.

**Feast & Festivities** - The following is the tentative schedule for 2024 events. Look for more information as each event approaches.

- Feb 11 - Bishop visit
- May 10 - Military Whist
- Jun 23 - Church picnic
- Sep 7 - Fall Festival
- Dec 7 - Christmas Fair

**Communications** - The Vestry approved the purchase of a small garden gay pride flag to be placed in the front of the church. Parishioner database info will be reviewed at the Annual meeting and missing name tags will be created prior to the bishop's visit. Copies of the brochure, *Belonging: Membership in the Episcopal Church* by Forward Movement were purchased and placed in the rack in the narthex.

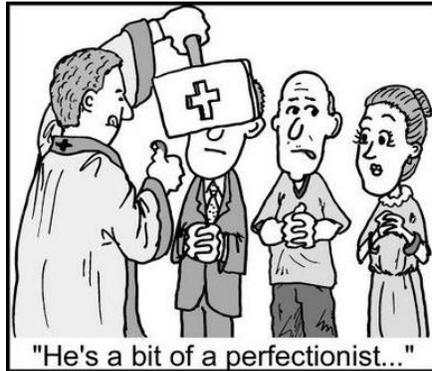


## Summer Study

The Divinity School at Yale has posted course descriptions for their Summer Study program which are on Zoom exclusively and run June 3-7. Courses include the Gospel of John, Requiems and Funeral Songs though the Ages, Jonathan Edwards, Unlocking the Song of Songs, and Reading Poetry Devotionally. Registration opens in February and details are on [summerstudy.yale.edu](http://summerstudy.yale.edu).



February 9 - Fred Bowden  
February 18 - Tony Lamberti



## Candlemas Diane Villano

On your personal calendar, is February 2<sup>nd</sup> noted as Groundhog Day? It is also Candlemas, a Christian commemoration of the presentation of the newborn Jesus at the Temple. The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, was recorded as early as the fourth century CE, and is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church. It is based on the event described in Luke 2:22-40.

*When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord.*

In some countries, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, traditionally the 40<sup>th</sup> day of and conclusion of the Christmas-Epiphany season, signals the time to remove Christmas decorations, if they weren't removed earlier on Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve).

Some churches bless parishioners' candles to be used in the new year, which serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

*Some Candlemas traditions:*

France - eating crepes

Germany - ending of "servant's year" when they were paid any remaining annual wages

Luxembourg - children singing traditional songs in their neighborhood for a small reward

Puerto Rico - procession with the statue of Our Lady of the Light, bonfire and singing

Guatemala - The Virgin of Candles is celebrated as the patron saint of Jacaltenango and her feast marks the end of the Christmas season.

How will **you** be celebrating February 2<sup>nd</sup>?



Feb 11 - Kurt Mollor & Carolann Jackson

## Encouraging Words Audrey Sundwall

All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

- 2 Timothy 3:16

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. - Daniel 9:3

## The Seven Last Words / Statements of Christ on the Cross

This year the East Haven Faith Community will hold a weekly Lenten lunch time gathering to discuss *The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross*. The Old Stone Church, St. Pio's of Pietrelcina's Parish and Christ and The Epiphany will alternate hosting the 12:15 p.m. Monday sessions, starting February 12, 2024. Please bring your own brown bag lunch. For more information, call the Old Stone Church office at 203-467-2907.

Here is the schedule:

- 2/12 Old Stone Church - Matthew 27:46, 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Psalm 22:1
- 2/19 St. Vincent De Paul - Luke 23:34
- 2/26 Christ and The Epiphany - Luke 23:42-43
- 3/4 Our Lady of Pompei - Luke 23:46, Hebrews 9:14
- 3/11 Christ and The Epiphany - John 19:26-27
- 3/18 St. Vincent De Paul - John 19:28, Psalm 69:21
- 3/25 Old Stone Church - John 19:30

This will be a wonderful opportunity for Christ and The Epiphany members to learn, discuss and pray with other faith communities of East Haven during the most important season of the Christian year.

## Lenten Reflection

Barbara Coulombe

Soon we will be worshipping on Ash Wednesday. In fact, this year it is a day of love on February 14<sup>th</sup> - Valentine's Day! How appropriate! Jesus' abundant love shines through all of Lent in His sacrifices, His suffering, His death, and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

As we begin this 2024 Lenten season, ask yourself these questions:

1. What am I seeking?
2. What is God seeking?
3. What will I commit to or practice during this time?

During this Lent, may these questions help you engage in the spiritual practice of seeking and asking questions. Let yourself be open-minded in order to expand your perspectives and be drawn into the fullness of the heart of God.

The following poem was written by the Rev. Sarah Speed of *Sanctified Art*, a collective of artists in ministry who create resources for worshipping communities. ([sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org))

✿ “at the start”  
✿ Is this the fast I choose?  
✿ Will I wake with the sun each morning?  
✿ Will I start with *thank you*?  
✿ Will I peel back the cage around my frame to let you in or will I get too busy?  
✿ Will my Bible collect dust on the shelf, along with my journal, along with my sense of self,  
✿ or will I roll back the stone and wade in?  
✿ Every new season beckons something of us - attention, beauty, the chance to create.  
✿ This season is no different.  
✿ So, like moths to the light, will we find our way toward God, or will we hover, circling fake suns?  
✿ I am seeking something deeper.  
✿ I am kicking off my shoes.  
✿ I am starting this season on holy ground.



## ***From the Bookshelf***

In honor of Valentine's Day, here are ten books from our library on the topic of  
Feel free to browse and borrow any books you like.



**Love is the Way** - Bishop Michael Curry

*Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*

**A Wondrous Love** - C.S. Lewis and Henri J.M. Nouwen

*Daily Lenten Meditations*

**Love in a Fearful Land** - Henri J.M. Nouwen

*A Guatemalan Story*

**Loving God** - Charles Colson

*What does it mean to love God?*

**The Four Loves** - C.S. Lewis

*An exploration of the different types of love: Affection, Friendship, Eros, and Charity.*

**Tell Me the Truth About Love** - W.H. Auden

*Ten love poems*

**The Christian Ethic of Love** - Norman L. Geisler

*What is a proper ethical view of love?*

**Learning to Love Yourself** - Sharon Wegscheider-Cruse

*Finding your self-worth*

**Loneliness is for Loving** - Robert E. Lauder

*How can we make loneliness a positive element in our lives?*

**Don't Fake it... Say it With Love** - Howard G. Henfricks

*With God, with your mate, with your children, in your church, in your neighborhood*

## **Intercessory Prayers**

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alexis, Alfred, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Bohdan and Family in Ukraine, Brandon, Carol Ude, Charlie & Kris Langlan, David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Debbie G., Don Dempsey, Doreen St. Germaine, Dot Logan, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Faith, Fran Zella, Francesca, Geneva O'Donnell, Jack Uberti & Holly Chickos, Jack and Jan McDonald, James Chapman, Jay Medlyn, Jay W., Jennifer, Jim R. & Family, Joan Shaffner, Joyce Aurelius, Kris, Lauren, Leah S., Linda P., Lori M., Lucas Sundwall, Matt R., Maureen McPherson, Mike, Michael M., Minogue Family, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Pete F., Phyllis Marston, Rachael, Ray Sundwall, Sr., Rebecca & unborn baby, Jeff, Rosa E., Sam W., Stanley Rogalski, Susan Diaz, Thomas Brown, Tim, Tish, Tricia Clearwater, Turiano Family, Wayne

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.

## **A Prayer for Transition and Guidance**

O Lord, you are with us in every transition and change. With your deep compassion, presence and abounding love ease our anxiety. We pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, and daring in our faith. We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Help us accept change as a gift of your direction for our journey in this transition. Instill in us a vision of the church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## ECCT 2023-2024 Prayer Cycle

<b>Feb. 4</b>	<b>Parishes:</b> <b>Christ and The Epiphany, East Haven</b> ; St. John's, East Windsor; Christ's Church, Easton; Holy Trinity, Enfield <b>Additionally:</b> Comite Hispano, Spanish-language Cursillo, Latino/Hispanic ministries in CT <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> The Anglican Church of South America
<b>Feb. 11</b>	<b>Parishes:</b> St. John's, Essex; St. Paul's, Fairfield; St. Timothy's, Fairfield; Trinity/St. Michael's, Fairfield; St. James', Farmington <b>Additionally:</b> Haitian ministry in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
<b>Feb. 18</b>	<b>Parishes:</b> St. David's, Gales Ferry; St. James', Glastonbury; St. Luke's, Glastonbury; Christ Church, Greenwich <b>Additionally:</b> The Union of Black Episcopalians CT and the Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation Ministry Network <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
<b>Feb. 25</b>	<b>Parishes:</b> St. Barnabas', Greenwich; Christ Church, Guilford; St. John's, Guilford; Grace & St. John's, Hamden <b>Additionally:</b> All parish-based mission partnerships; ECCT- wide mission partnership networks; the Companions in Mission Network <b>Anglican Cycle of Prayer:</b> The Anglican Church of Tanzania

### Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	DEC	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$17,869.86	\$513.66	\$115,910.00	\$13,090.00
EXPENSES	\$7,047.73	(\$2,617.76)	\$96,959.82	(\$15,610.18)
NET	\$10,822.13	\$3,131.42	\$18,950.18	\$28,700.18

Notes: We started 2023 with a projected budget deficit of \$9.750 but ended the year with an almost **\$19,000 surplus** which represents a \$28,700 swing!

Income was up due to increased pledges, loose plate and significant special gifts. A shortfall in building use (no Community Kitchen) was offset by our Fundraising (Thrift Store, Carol's Kitchen and Christmas Fair). And lastly (thanks to George Coulombe for initiating the idea) putting \$100,000 into a CD gained us \$2,700 in interest income over just 6 months!

On the Expense side we saved half through lower in utilities and grounds costs and the other half through not getting a priest-in-charge.

**Next Issue** The deadline for the March issue is February 20th. Submissions can be sent to [newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com). For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310 or email [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com).

## Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)

	February 4	February 11	February 14 Ash Wed 7pm	February 18	February 25
Service	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer
Presider/ Officiant	Gail Beck	Bishop Laura Ahrens	Tim Hodapp	Judy Herzman	Audrey Sundwall
Crucifer		George Coulombe	George Coulombe		
Acolyte		Audrey Sundwall	Audrey Sundwall		
Lay Reader	Audrey Sundwall	Barbara Parsons	George Coulombe	Gail Beck	Wendy Bellmore
Usher	Astrid Swanson	Ken & Kathy Dougherty	Diane Villano	Diane Villano	Barbara Parsons
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz	George Coulombe		George Coulombe	Astrid Swanson
Ass't Counter	Evelyn Conant	Barbara Coulombe		Barbara Coulombe	Melanie Miller

### Clergy, Vestry and Staff

Priest-in-charge	Open
Senior Warden	George Coulombe
Junior Warden	Barbara Parsons (& Outreach)
Treasurer	Susan Shultz (& Technology)
Clerk	Gail Beck
Vestry Member	Ray Clearwater
Vestry Member	Carol Link-Ude (& Altar Guild; Hospitality & Fund Raising)
Vestry Member	Audrey Sundwall (& Communications)
Vestry Member	Astrid Swanson
Vestry Member	Pat Walters
Music Director	Barbara Coulombe
Parish Administrator	Diane Rowley

ECCT continues to experience a shortage of supply clergy for Sunday services. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving at C & E, please contact the office at [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com).

To connect by computer, enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>, or click on the link on our webpage: [www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org](http://www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org)

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

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin, please contact Diane Rowley in the office at 203-467-2310 or [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com).

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 203-589-1142 or [sbshultz@gmail.com](mailto:sbshultz@gmail.com).

# **Christ and The Epiphany Church**

39 Park Place  
East Haven, CT 06512

Phone: 203-467-2310

Email: [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com)

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

## **Worship Schedule**

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship  
*In-person with social distancing and optional masking*