



The Signpost Weekly

December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent
Fr. Zac Harmon, Vicar
<http://www.stchristophersnh.org>

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
187 East Rd., Hampstead, NH 03841
Tel. (603) 329-4674

News or Info: signpostweekly@comcast.net

Calendar

Sunday, December 2

- ☆ First Sunday of Advent
- ☆ 2019 Pledge Drive Concludes
- 8 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m., Adult Formation – Prayer
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Youth Group Christmas Caroling and Party

Monday, December 3

- 9 a.m. Yoga

Tuesday, December 4

- 9 a.m., Morning Prayer
- 9:30 a.m., Exodus Bible Study

Thursday, December 6

- 7 p.m. Eucharist/Bible Study

Saturday, Dec. 8

- 2 p.m. Rhythms of Grace

Sunday, December 9

- ☆ Children's Sunday
- 8 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 Adult Formation
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. Worship Service - We will be reflecting on stories about St. Nicholas.



"Who knows... I might even make an appearance."

Adult Formation @ 9:15- For Advent, Br. David and Ann Gerns will be leading us in exploring prayer. There are many traditions and ways of praying in the Christian tradition, from short phrases to be said in the midst of our day to ways of praying which take hours of waiting in silence. This Sunday Br. David will be guiding us some ancient Benedictine forms of prayer and approaches to Christian Spirituality. St. Benedict's holy life transformed the way Europe approached spiritual life after the Roman Empire collapsed and this witness and Christian spirituality have endured to be practiced by Benedictine communities across the world. Please come learn more! Next week Ann Gerns will be guiding us in taking a look at another enduring tradition which emerged at about the same time: Celtic Christian Spirituality- another highlight.

Youth Group Christmas Caroling and Party-

11:30-2:30- This Sunday our youth group will be

heading out to Christmas Carol at Roy Jeffrey's retirement home and celebrating with some festive games too.

What do we mean when we say the "2019 Pledge Drive Concludes Today?" It means we'll add up all the pledges made as of this Sunday - 40 pledges, \$92,724. Then we share that information with the Finance and Bishop's Committees, so they know how much we have to spend/budget for 2019 developments and ministries. That part's not rocket science. Quite frankly, though, it is "rocket science" when we have to make an educated guess and assumptions about some pledges we'd like to anticipate, and the \$'s attached. God has blessed us with your presence above and beyond everything else, whether or not you can make a pledge. For those who have/will be making a pledge, your participation in the stewardship ministry called "Financial Stability," please know that you have our most heartfelt and sincerest gratitude. [Lyn Rockwell](#), Stewardship Committee member,

'The Beginning Is Near'- Happy Advent, Happy New Year

Here we are at the beginning of a new liturgical year, entering into the rhythm and season of Advent and preparation for Christmas - preparation for Christ's birth into



the world. Our church rhythm can so often feel at odds with the rhythm of the world about us. In the wider world there are holiday parties to attend, presents to purchase, cookies to make, life responsibilities to accomplish, snowy weather to contend with and much more. Yet, in church, we

make time for quiet, for prayer, reflection and preparation. We make time for waiting. To mark this different season in Advent we will be using the color blue again as a color to mark this tone. The Episcopal tradition of using blue for Advent (instead of purple) has a long history which stretches back to the cathedrals of Medieval England and continued from there. You might be thinking: what is the big deal about using one particular color for [Advent](#)?

The use of blue communicates that [Advent](#) is its own season in many ways and stands apart as a time of quiet and reflection that is distinct from the quiet of Lent (which is marked by the color purple). In the season of [Advent](#) we take time to remember the longing of God's people and indeed the longing of the world for heaven and earth to come together in the person of Christ. Blue instead of purple also indicates that laughter, merriment and joy are not out of place as we prepare for Christmas. With this Advent Season, we will have a fun children's Sunday with St. Nicholas on December 9th at the 10:15 service and a Lessons and Carols service of festivity on Sunday, December 16th.

Roy Jeffrey Liberty House Drive- Thank you to all



who helped with the Roy Jeffrey Liberty House Drive for Homeless Veterans. We had to take two cars to fit all of the supplies which ranged from canned goods to tents to winter clothing to hand warmers to can openers.

It was wonderful to see how the

parish and wider Hampstead area too participated in making this drive such a success to serve those who have supported our country in service. Thank you to Matt Rioux, Oliver Ford and Bob Salois in helping transport the supplies to Liberty House!!



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 187 East Road, Hampstead

Christmas Schedule

Lessons & Carols, Sunday, December 16

The experience of Lessons and Carols is like a sacred concert with readings, carols and prayers which reflect on Christmas. The choir was outstanding last year, and it is sure to be an uplifting experience this year as well.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS @ ST. CHRISTOPHER'S LESSONS & CAROLS
Sunday, December 16
A Holiday Music event, featuring the St. Christopher's Choir & solos



Blue Christmas, Thursday, December 20, 7 p.m.

For some Christmas can be a harder time of year where losses from the last year or difficult memories surface. If this is the case for you or a family member or friend, this service makes space for prayer and the gift of Christ in the midst of that time.

Christmas Eve
December 24

Family Christmas Service with Pageant
Children can partake in pageant if they come 30 minutes early
4 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
9 p.m.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
187 East Road, Hampstead, NJ
609-329-4674 stchristophersnh.org

Family Christmas Eve Service w/Pageant, 4 p.m.

This celebration of Christmas Eve will be child and family focused with both room for the jubilation of children and the holy stillness of songs like Silent Night. The pageant will be simple and enjoyable. Children who would like to participate in the pageant should arrive by 3:30 p.m. for a costume fitting.

Christmas Eve Service, 9 p.m.

This is our full and festive service with candle light.

Christmas Day Service, 9 a.m.

The holy quiet joy of the Christmas Day service can be a beautiful and delightful part of celebrating this season, if you would like to include this in your celebration of Christmas this year.

All the Tags have been taken from the Giving Tree. Thank you for your support once again. Please bring presents, wrapped or not, in by December 9, when we will be delivering them to the food pantry at St. Anne's. *Outreach Committee*

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

E-News from the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire

FAITH RENEWAL IN ADVENT

It's Advent! Slow down. Wait. Let your faith be birthed anew. Here are some options for deepening your spiritual practice during advent:

Advent provides a wonderful opportunity to follow our Convention resolution and renew our faith! **Journeying the Way of Love: Advent Curriculum is now available [HERE](#).** The 4 sessions are specifically designed for a formation hour before or after worship during the four Sundays of Advent or could be adapted for a weeknight or quiet day. Contact Canon [Tina Pickering](#) for support.

Canon Tina will lead an **online Advent group reflecting on the Way of Love each Sunday of Advent at 4:00 pm (December 2, 9, 16, and 23)**. Participate in the group in your flannels and slippers, from the coziest spot in your home! These meetings will be conducted through Zoom - you will need a computer or mobile device with an internet connection and a camera to participate. Please register [HERE](#) to participate in the series (you do not have to commit to attend each session). Once you register, a link to the Zoom meeting will be sent in your registration confirmation - just click on the Zoom link to participate in the group. BYO hot chocolate!

Daily Advent Activities: **Follow our Facebook page for a daily series of simple Advent activities and reflections** that will encourage you to reflect and share the good news of Emmanuel. Interact with others on Facebook by sharing your experiences or download all 22 activities to do on your own [HERE](#). Alternatively follow the [Way of Love Advent calendar](#).

The Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations will be hosting a webinar series on December 5, 13, and 18. Registration and more information on this series, *Walking in Welcome: An Advent Series with Episcopal Migration Ministries* can be found [HERE](#).

Other Advent Resources:

- Download [Pray As You Go](#) - an audio prayer, music and daily reading resource - or listen to [Sacred Ordinary Days Advent Music Playlist](#).
- Participate in [#AdventWord from Building Faith](#).

- Attend [Cherishing Stillness in Advent at Church of the Woods](#) – Dec. 16, 11 am to 2 pm
- And for lots more ideas go to [Salt's Advent Resource Round Up](#)
- Finally, advent marks the "new year" for the church. You can find all of the daily readings in the [Revised Common Lectionary Year C](#) through Advent 2019.

Our 2019 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 13, 2019, snow date: Sunday, January 20

As is our custom, we will have one service on that day at 10 am. New members of the Bishop's Committee, Delegates to Convention and Assessors will be voted in. A week before the meeting you will receive a PDF of the new Annual Report via email.

"Hard copies" of the report will also be available at church. This is a very important meeting for the church, one you will want to attend

From Brooke Lamonica

New Hampshire Philharmonic Concerts

(www.nhphil.org)

- 12/1/2018 - 7:30 pm, Salem High School, Salem, NH
- 12/2/2018 - 2:00 pm, Salem High School, Salem, NH
- 12/8/2018 - 7:30 pm, Clinton Town Hall, Clinton, MA

Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Concerts

(www.mvpo.org)

- 12/16/2018 - 2:30 pm, Timberlane Performing Arts

Prayers of the People

Ingrid and Mark Chapman ask for your prayers for their daughter **Lisa**. Please pray for **Nick**, Anne Darrah's cousin's husband; please pray for **Angie McCurdy** and her family; please pray for **Lincoln**, Christine Collins' cousin's young son who is ill; and for **Aaron, Alex & family** in their time of grief. Prayers for **Zach**, a relative of a parishioner; prayers for **Noelle Schreiber**; **Ellie McCabe**; prayers for **Bob Gleason**, **Lucille Gigeure**. For Dave Darrah's brother, **Tom**; for **Deb**; for **Roy Jeffrey**; **Ann Donovan**; **Kate**; **Brayden**; **Matty**; **Ian**; prayers for **Howie**; for **Cheryl**; for **Ryan**; for **Jacqueline**; for Natalie's brother **Lorin**; for Mark and Ingrid's son **Eric**.

Serving in the Military: Pray for Pam Vazquez's son, **Army 2nd Lt. Nicholas J. Vazquez**, for Del's cousins, **Daniel, Matthew and Sandra**.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Br. David and Ann Gerns; Brian and Sue Gleason; Skip and Lois Gilman; Brenda Getchell

Attendance

11/25, 10:15 a.m. 44

ADVENT CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 Worship</p> <p>Advent 1</p> <p>Pay attention during worship. What part of the gathering fills your heart?</p>	<p>3 Go</p> <p>Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously, or who has a different perspective than you.</p>	<p>4 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:26-38. What is God calling you to say “yes” to?</p>	<p>5 Pray</p> <p>Set a timer for five minutes. Silently repeat this prayer: “Come, Lord Jesus.”</p>	<p>6 Bless</p> <p>In the spirit of St. Nicholas, practice a random act of kindness today.</p>	<p>7 Turn</p> <p>Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends?</p>	<p>8 Rest</p> <p>Do something that replenishes your spirit.</p>
<p>9 Worship</p> <p>Advent 2</p> <p>What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share these words with someone close to you.</p>	<p>10 Go</p> <p>Choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play today. Who or what did you encounter differently?</p>	<p>11 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:39-56. Tell a friend or family member about your practice of the Way of Love and invite them to join you.</p>	<p>12 Pray</p> <p>Join a family member or friend for 10 minutes for prayer, either in person or by phone.</p>	<p>13 Bless</p> <p>Call or write a family member with whom you desire a closer relationship. Tell them what they mean to you. Ask how you can pray for them.</p>	<p>14 Turn</p> <p>Turn away from the busyness of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.</p>	<p>15 Rest</p> <p>On this day of rest, pause and breathe deeply with a friend or family member. Give thanks for the restorative power of love.</p>
<p>16 Worship</p> <p>Advent 3</p> <p>Pray for each person as they receive communion. Imagine who you would like to see at church next week. Invite them to church today.</p>	<p>17 Go</p> <p>Read or watch your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing.</p>	<p>18 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:57-80. Name three ways your faith community challenges you to practice the Way of Love. Share your list with a member of your community.</p>	<p>19 Pray</p> <p>Gather with your faith community for a short time of prayer today.</p>	<p>20 Bless</p> <p>Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Then share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.</p>	<p>21 Turn</p> <p>Read the Confession (BCP 352) in an unfamiliar location - in the park, at work, at school, or on the bus. What does the prayer inspire you to turn from in that location? What does it inspire you to turn toward?</p>	<p>22 Rest</p> <p>How can you or your community open yourselves to people in need of rest and relief from overwork? From oppression? From violence?</p>
<p>23 Worship</p> <p>Advent 4</p> <p>Linger before leaving worship today. Ask God to prepare and send you to go out into the world to witness to God’s love.</p>	<p>24 Go</p> <p>Notice and pray for all those who, like Mary and Joseph, are in need of shelter.</p>	<p>25 Learn</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Read Luke 1-2. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ-child. Pray that you may follow Christ Jesus on his Way of Love with your whole heart, mind, body and spirit.</p>				