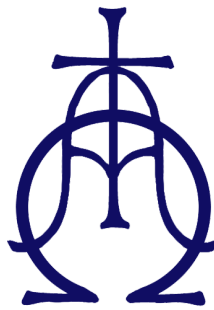
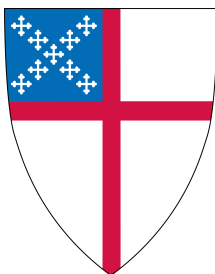

CECX News - Poinsettias, Socks for Baby Jesus, Holiday Events and more

2 messages

Christ Episcopal Church <joldstonemoore@wittenberg.edu>
Reply-To: joldstonemoore@wittenberg.edu
To: tcwildstar@gmail.com

Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 1:25 PM

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH XENIA**NewsNote Vol. 3, No. 2
The Second Sunday of Advent****Welcome!****Celebrant and Preacher : Rev Dr. Jennifer Oldstone-Moore*****We **WILL** stream to Facebook this week.***[Link to Facebook page](#)**The blessing of Advent**

I heard a great sermon Sunday (I was with daughter Marilee in Cincinnati at All Saints) about Advent that summed up some thoughts I wanted to share with you. Rev. Meredith said that she didn't have many thoughts about the "war on Christmas" but she had many thoughts about the war on Advent. The first thought was that many Christians, and certainly Episcopalians, are countercultural when it comes to Advent.

As you know from the church (and from this newsletter), we're now in the purple season. You may have noticed that we changed our Opening Acclamation from "Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" to "Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins." These are some of the ways that we mark the change of time: the change from Ordinary Time after Pentecost to Advent; the change from a season of hearing parables and Jesus' work with the disciples to pondering the future of the world and the state of consciences. We wait and plan for Jesus by entering a time of penitence and repentance, looking over what we have done and regret, and "turning around" (which is the meaning of "repentance") to try a new direction.

The countercultural part is that in church we hold off on the carols and sing songs of preparation and planning instead. Our altar doesn't have poinsettias yet, but quiet greenery. We don't decorate the church until after the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec 19th). Traditionally, Episcopalians leave the Christmas tree decoration for Christmas Eve and the 12 Days of Christmas leading to Epiphany. We leave the Christ Child out of the nativity set until after Christmas Eve service—and Mary and Joseph are making their way across the living room, a little every day, to get to their stable (the Magi are much further behind on the dining room window sill). It's a time of waiting and watching, just as expectant parents do.

This Advent, be at least a little counter-cultural, waiting with John the Baptist, and Elizabeth, and Mary, and with the whole world—waiting in the dark as the days get shorter and shorter, waiting for the light to come to us once more. It can be something as simple as sitting in silence for just a few minutes, not praying with words but just leaving your heart open for whatever may come. Perhaps you could say the General Confession every day (BCP p. 359) and write one regret, sin, or resolution to change on a slip of paper, saving them in an envelope and burning them on the 24th . You could make some cookies or sweets that will be tucked away until Christmas Eve...or perhaps have a month-long stock piling of underwear and socks for Baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

However you choose to celebrate, don't miss Advent this year. Christmas is coming and will get here in good time--may this be a blessed Advent for you and your loved ones.

Peace,

Rev. Jen+

Upcoming Events at Christ Episcopal Church

Dec 05 Breakfast Sunday
Dec 21 Tuesday The Longest Night (Blue Christmas) 7.00 pm
Dec 24 Friday Christmas Eve Service
(Christmas Carols at 5:30pm, Service with Festal Eucharist at 6:00pm)
Dec 26 Sunday Lessons and Carols

Check this newsletter for more information as the dates get closer!

Socks, Underwear, and Diapers for Baby Jesus

We are collecting socks, underwear, and diapers for Baby Jesus! (And other foster kiddos!) We are also collecting underwear for Mary and Joseph, too. Please bring whatever you can buy and donate to the Nickell House. Contact Nikki for a drop off time that works for you! You can also save your purchase to bring forward at the ingathering during Christmas Eve service.

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NEW Parish Office Emails

We need to split up the main email (ChristEpiscopalXenia@gmail.com). Please update the emails in your computer for Rev. Jen, Becky or Nikki.

Rev. "Prepare ye the way" Jen - CECX.Priest@gmail.com

Bookkeeper "Sleepers, wake!" Becky - CECX.Bookkeeper@gmail.com

Parish Admin. "Rejoice, rejoice!" Nikki - CECX.Office@gmail.com

Poinsettias for Our Church

We need to order poinsettias for our Church for the holidays! They cost \$11.50 this year. The order forms will be in the church this Sunday. If you need one sent to you, please contact Nikki.

Scripture Readings for December 5th

Baruch 5:1-9
Canticle 16
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

*If you're on a computer, you can [click here to read the Scripture Readings](#).
You can find copies of our weekly devotional at the bottom of this note.*

Seekers' Class

Our *Seekers/Confirmation* series that meets on **Mondays at 6.30 in the Nickell House** will next meet on Dec. 13th. The final meeting will be Dec 20th.

All are welcome. Please contact Rev. Jen if interested.

Attention Choristers! (And all who like to sing!)

Choir is under the direction of Choirmaster Chris Oldstone-Moore. New members are welcome at any time. Please let the Nikki know if you're interested in raising your voice in song!

Prayers for your daily devotions:

Current Prayer List

We pray for healing for those who suffer from any illness or distress, especially Rick, Kim, Ruth, Cynda, Heather, Claris, Dolores, Lisa, and Amelia - and for all who suffer because of COVID-19.

Long Term Prayer List

Madysun, John, Jess and Tim, Heidi, Karen, David O., and Diana and Peter.

We Mourn the Passing

We pray for Sheriff Gene Fischer; solace and healing for his friends and family.

Current COVID-19 Protocols

New Update from our diocese (as of August 2, 2021):

- *People attending services and meetings held indoors are to resume wearing masks, even if they are vaccinated*
- *Communion in one kind, bread, only.*
- *singing with masks on*
- *no seating limitations*

Read the complete guidelines [here](#). Please be prepared for changes as we continue to learn about this virus.

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Last Week's Sermon

Click the link for Fr. Mike's sermon. [Sermon from November 28th, 2021.](#)

Our Valuable Vestry

Want to keep up with our valiant Vestry? We will begin posting a link to the minutes for their meetings. Just check this space after the second Wednesday of each month when the Vestry meet to stay in the know.

Your Vestry members are:

- Jennie Hudson, Senior Warden
- Bradley Alexander, Junior Warden
- Debbie Gillespie, Member at Large
- Rick Bayless, Member at Large
- Jim Goins, Member at Large

NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY

Christ Church Share 1 to 1 Outreach:

We are starting a special area to collect clothes for children in foster care! Please spread the word and donate as able.

We need winter coats (especially kids) and blankets for the winter!

We need volunteers to help with our Community Clothing Closet!

Do you have any spare time? Want to help our community? Would you like to spend time with other people doing the same? Even if you just have an hour or two, please give the office a call and we'll figure out a time that works. ***This includes people who might like to come in when the office only has one or two people in it.***

We need clothes for our community! While we gladly accept all clothing in good condition, we especially need items for school-aged kiddos, teens, and men. Hygiene items are always in great need. Contact the office for details.

St Marks Episcopal Church Wednesday Book Club

Here is all the info you need to join in the Zoom meeting for a Wednesday Night Book Club! This bookclub is run through St. Mark's Church, Riverside, with Rev. Rowena MacGregor leading. We are reading "The Church Cracked Open," a book about the challenges and opportunities for the church in our current time.

Time: Dec 1, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632616243?pwd=S2hIWnB6ZU5UK1dqS9veDhlajNFZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 3261 6243

Passcode: 727842

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89632616243#,,,,*727842# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,89632616243#,,,,*727842# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keufwtRTV2>

New COVID Booster Guidelines per the State of Ohio

On October 22nd, the Ohio Department of Health released its guidelines to medical providers about the shots.

Booster shots for the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines were authorized for people ages 18 and older under certain conditions on Thursday.

The state said no one under that age should take a booster vaccine.

The state said those who received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine are allowed to get their second shot at least two months following the initial dose.

For those who received the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, there's a few more guidelines. Those eligible for a booster shot must have received their second dose at least six months and meet any of the following criteria:

- 65 years and older
- Those 18 and older who live in long-term care settings
- Those 18 and older who have underlying medical conditions
- Those 18 and older who work or live in high-risk settings

For now, those who have taken a Pfizer/Moderna vaccine should not exceed three total doses.

When and where can you get a booster shot?

Eligible Ohioans can get their booster shots immediately. Those wanting to get the shots can most likely find them at pharmacies,

federally qualified health centers, doctor's offices and other locations.

Calendars

Calendars for you to GIVE

Do you have any 2022 calendars that you won't use? Brad needs them! Please bring them by the office or the church whenever is convenient.

Calendars for YOU to TAKE

We have purchased more liturgical calendars for 2021--you are welcome to take one! They are in the sanctuary on the piano.

Weekly Devotional

Our weekly devotional comes from Suzanne Guthrie's "At the Edge of the Enclosure: Soul Work for Sunday." This is a lovely devotional that takes a spiritual pilgrimage each week with reflection, prayer, art, poetry, and commentary on the scriptures. There are links to other resources; Rev. Jen loves the Visual Commentary on Scripture **Edge of the Enclosure**

There is a tab on the main page that will take you to the scripture readings for the week.

Weekly Scripture Reading

2022 Holy Land Pilgrimage & Study Tour

Tour Leaders – Canon Jason Oden & Rabbi Brad Hirschfield
March 17 – March 26

Scholarships are available for lay leaders, postulants, candidates, and clergy through the Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership's Stand and See program and the Diocese of Southern Ohio.

Features of the trip:

- Explore the sites of the Holy Land (Jerusalem, West Bank, and Galilee) through a diverse theological and political lens
- Discuss Becoming Beloved Community in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- Discover the ancient and modern sites, people, stories, and events of the Holy Land through articles, podcasts, and films curated by Canon Jason Oden
- Unique stops on the itinerary curated by Rabbi Brad Hirschfield and local guide Gary Kamen, including Roots, a grassroots movement promoting understanding, nonviolence, and transformation among Israelis and Palestinians
- Worship at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem

- An extended visit with The Rev. Nael Abu Rahmoun, vicar of Christ Church in Nazareth, to learn more about the peace and justice work that he and the congregation are engaged in for the Nazareth community.
- Spiritual Practices and Experiences: Daily prayer, Eucharists, Stations of the Cross, baptismal renewal vows in the Jordan River

Cost: \$3,690 – Sharing a Room \$4,580 – Private Room

[For more information and to register, click here!](#)

Advent Blessing: Week 2

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

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