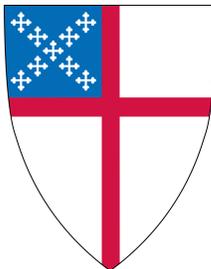

CECX News - Important Message from Rev Jen, Holiday Events and more

2 messages

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

Tue, Dec 21, 2021 at 11:54 AM

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH XENIA**NewsNote Vol. 3, No. 5
The First Sunday after Christmas****Welcome!****Celebrant and Preacher : Father Mike Kreutzer****We *WILL NOT* stream to Facebook this week.**[Link to Facebook page](#)

This week is Mary's week, focusing on Mary's "yes" to God's invitation that she be the Christ-bearer. I've been so reminded of the words of Dag Hammarskjöld:

"For all that has been, thank you. For all that is to come, yes!"

I dug a little deeper and learned many things about Hammarskjöld, and another quote that I think connects with the ability to say "yes."
"I don't know Who — or what — put the question, I don't know when it was put. I don't even remember answering. But at some moment I did

answer Yes to Someone — or Something — and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life, in self-surrender, had a goal.”

Existence is meaningful. My life, lived in self-surrender, has a goal. These are precious assertions that can be difficult to feel, think or know. Mary’s humble state, Joseph’s bold and self-sacrificing affirmation of Mary—despite all outward appearances—and Jesus’ birth in a stable, visited by shepherds, is a persistent message from God that we will find our purpose, our meaning, and our “yes!” in the common and every day around us.

May you bathe in the blessings of the ordinary as we approach the Great Feast of the Nativity.

Peace,
Rev. Jen+

You might enjoy this article about Hammarskjöld: [Click here.](#)

Upcoming Events THIS WEEK at Christ Episcopal Church

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!

An Important Message from Rev Jen

Dear Friends:

It is with a heavy heart that I write this difficult note to you. My last Sunday at Christ Episcopal Church, Xenia, will be January 2, 2022; I will finish my work with you at the end of the Christmas season on January 5.

I love the rich life and community that we have shared for more than three years, being so fortunate to combine serving Christ Church and teaching at Wittenberg. However, things have changed so much at Wittenberg that in 2020 I decided it was time to retire from the university. Not long after I began to prepare to leave Wittenberg, we learned that Chris would lose his job at Wright State.

In the midst of these unexpected and unwelcome changes, we realized that it was time for me to begin full-time ministry, while Chris also seeks new professional opportunities. In our months of discerning the various possibilities

for the future, we decided that we would start over closer to family. In April, I will begin a call at St Andrew's Church, Greencastle, Indiana.

It has been a difficult process as I have had to reckon with leaving this lovely community and each of you. This has been a place of growth, sharing, and love that I will continue to cherish. We have weathered some difficult losses together, and the unprecedented challenges of the COVID quarantine from which our church has recovered much better than many other parishes. I hold each of you individually, and this community, in my heart and continued prayers.

In the last year, Father Mike Kreutzer and Rev. Steve Cuff have become welcome faces to you both in our on-line church and in person. They will continue to serve Christ Xenia most Sundays, including taking on important services in Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday, and for some Sundays into the summer. They will also provide pastoral care and services. I've talked to the diocesan transition team and they will be in touch with Vestry and church leadership to help you find a new priest.

Christ Xenia has a strong staff, Vestry, and a seasoned and able congregation. I relish your wonderful spirit and connection with each other, and know that you will continue to be leaven for change and compassion in the city of Xenia and the surrounding area. And as we move forward, you will be in my heart and in my prayers.

God's peace to each and every one of you—

Jennifer+

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.

+++++

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. "Trimming the Tree" Jen - CECX.Priest@gmail.com

Bookkeeper "Wrapping Presents" Becky - CECX.Bookkeeper@gmail.com

Scripture Readings for December 26th

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18
Psalm 147 or 147:13-21

*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* meets on **Mondays at 6.30 in the Nickell House** and will next meet on Dec. 20th. This is the final meeting.

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'd like to raise 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, Dolores, Pat, Mark, Mike and Marilyn and Amelia - and for all who suffer because of COVID-19.

Long Term Prayer List

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

We Mourn the Passing

We pray for all who have passed into God's nearer presence.

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.



Last Week's Sermon

The sermon from last week is missing in action. Please enjoy the one from December 12th - It's one of Nikki's personal favorites!

Click the link for Rev. Jen's sermon. **[Sermon from December 12th, 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. **[November Minutes](#)**

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 book club 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/j/89632616243?pwd=S2hIWnB6ZU5UK1dqS9veDhlajNFZz09>**

Advent Thursday Night Film Club

During Advent, the entire diocese is invited to join the Advent Film Club, led by the Rev. Karl Stevens and the Rev. Jed Dearing. We invite you to incorporate your movie watching as a spiritual exercise by joining in with the Advent Film Club; watching the weekly movie selection, reading the lectionary text for the coming Sunday and engaging them in conversation by joining the Film Club on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. on **Zoom**. This will be a lively discussion engaging

both the film selection and the Lectionary lesson appointed for the coming Sunday.

Each week is a self-contained conversation, meaning you can join for one week or as many as you'd like. Here's the schedule:

December 9 [Luke 3:1-6] Wild Rose

Free w/Hulu & Kanopy, available to rent on all major streaming platforms. Runtime: 3 hrs.

December 16 [Zephaniah 3:14-20] Happiest Season

Free w/Hulu. Runtime: 2 hrs.

December 23 [Hebrews 10:5-10] The Green Knight

Available to rent on all major streaming platforms. Runtime: 2h10m.

Download the entire series booklet, written by Jed, by clicking [this link](#).

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

Christ Episcopal Church

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Xenia, OH 45385 937-372-1594

christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/christepiscopalchurchxenia/>

www.christ-episcopal-xenia.org



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