

Advent: Joyous Expectation



We begin a new Christian year on November 27, The First Sunday of Advent (Lectionary Year A), with a season filled with our eager anticipation and expectant waiting. The word *advent* derives from the Latin *adventus*, which means *coming*. Our first step into this new year is to prepare ourselves, both individually and as a community of faith, for the coming of God in Jesus, the Christ.

Of course, we associate Advent primarily with Christ's first coming as God Incarnate. However, we must bear in mind the event yet to come. One that keeps us always living in a state of joyous expectation. The Kingdom of God has not been fully achieved. We await what we boldly proclaim each time we join together for Holy Communion: *Christ will come again; We await his coming in glory.*

Two readings appointed for The First Sunday of Advent, Romans 13:11-14 and Matthew 24:36-44, remind us of our placement in the ongoing narrative of God's actions in the world. Their words offer us insight into Christ's second coming, which will bring about the completion of God's work of redemption *already begun* during his earthly life.

This first week of Advent prompts us to recall that we live with an expectation of nothing less than the restoration of all creation. In the weeks ahead, let us prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ. In addition, may we take time to open ourselves up and allow this season to help reorient our lives in the light of Christ's return.

We may struggle with how we are to conduct such preparation. We often make matters too difficult. We are, after all, speaking of a relationship with the Divine. As we look forward to the time when God's kingdom will come fully to fruition, we ought to be mindful that our vocation as heirs of this kingdom is about the here and the now, the present day. Again, we look to our two readings for direction.

With Christian hope, we receive the meaning of this season in the same way we conduct everyday life. We are mindful of the work of redemption *already begun*. The lectionary readings on the first day of Advent instruct us as to how we are to conduct our preparation, in addition to how we put on the armor of light, Jesus Christ: engage in spiritual habits and practices like worship, prayer, feeding the hungry, offering aid to the poor, tending to the sick, showing hospitality, and so on. As such, we will certainly be prepared. And the manner of all things will be well.

-- *Peace during this season,*
James+



**SUNY students are invited to our next
Dinner Event on Tuesday, Dec. 13!**

Important dates in December

Sunday, Dec 4:

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I;
10:30 a.m. – Choral Matins, Rt. II.

Sunday, Dec. 11:

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I;
10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. II.

Sunday, Dec. 18:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I;
10:30 a.m. – Choral Matins, Rt. II.

Saturday, Dec. 24:

Eve of the Nativity: Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. – Festive Holy Eucharist, Rt. II.

Sunday, Dec. 25:

The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. II. (*a said service*)
Please note service time.

TECW Christmas Coffee:

Saturday, Dec. 3, at 9:30 a.m.

The College Kitchen:

Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:00 p.m.

Vestry Meeting:

Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 6:00 p.m.

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Trinity Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes

October 18, 2022

As approved at the November Meeting

Present: William Roberts, Senior Warden; Janeil Rey, Junior Warden; Sally Ludlum; Mary Lou Vercant; Jennifer Wilkins; Virginia Becker, Treasurer, and The Reverend James Clement, Rector.

Excused: Karin Wheelock

Call to Order: Fr. Clement called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., with an opening prayer.

The Meeting Agenda was approved as given, as moved by William Roberts, seconded by Mary Lou Vercant.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Janeil Rey, seconded by William Roberts, to approve the September 20, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds

Finance: Virginia Becker reported. A motion was made by Mary Lou Vercant, seconded by Janeil Rey, to receive the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. See attached.

- Treasurer's Report: Update on this particular report to reflect The Building Fund at the end of *September* was \$611.01. The amount was the same at the end of August as well.
- A preliminary draft of next year's operating budget was presented to vestry for review: Building utilities are projected to increase next year. Janeil Rey suggested that vestry consider getting a quote or report from National Grid with regard to solar panels to reduce long-term budget expense. The recent roof repair was an unexpected project this year and was not placed in the current budget. The parking lot quote approved earlier this year is now outdated due to supply issues and the project quote became significantly higher than the original estimate. Fr. Clement will contact the contractor to renew this project next year.
- Memorial Fund Report – no updates.

Buildings and Grounds: Fr. Clement reported.

- The office printer is not functioning properly. Axiom will make a visit soon in order to conduct a printer software update on the machine.
- Hillside Painting conducted a second coat of stain and protectant on the front doors of the church. This type of work may need to be done on an annual basis since these doors receive full sun during the daylight hours. In lieu of payment for his services, Chuck Mangus requested that his invoice of \$200 be applied to a youth program at the church. Fr. Clement informed him the current College Kitchen project. Mr. Mangus asked that this amount be given as a donation to this project.
- Amherst Exterminators recently conducted an exterior sprayed for insects.

• **Additional Reports: Congregational Ministries**

Parish Outreach:

- Santa for Seniors: We continue with our collection of toothpaste for this program with the Office for the Aging of Chautauqua County.

Flower Guild: Written report from Melisa Eichmann.

- The current balance in the checking account is \$567.35.

Writing Card Ministry: Fr. Clement reported.

- Cathy Berner will take up this ministry of sending birthday cards, beginning in November.

No further reports.

Rector's Report: Fr. Clement reported.

- Diocesan Convention: The Partnership conventions will take place October 28-29 in Niagara Falls. Fr. Clement, Lisa Sedlmayer, and Jennifer Wilkins plan to attend as representatives of the parish.
- Recently held a Blessing of the Animals service on the front lawn of the church.
- The College Kitchen campus ministry hosted its first meal in Garland Hall on Tuesday, October 11. It was well attended and well received by the nearly 25 SUNY Fredonia students. He appointed Jenn Wilkins as lay-contact for this program. Fr. Clement has submitted a grant request to the Diocese for assistance with funding.
- Fr. Clement attended the October meeting of TECW.
- Fr. Clement asked vestry for thoughts on placing a sign outside of the church on All Saints' Day. He mentioned that Dan Young made a sign about this feast day last year and thinks it would be great to place it on church lawn for this occasion. Vestry agreed.
- Fr. Clement continues to conduct his pastoral, office, and liturgical responsibilities.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- Fr. Clement presented to Vestry a resolution submitted to the upcoming Convention (NY-A). In summary, this resolution calls for an end to The Partnership in the

upcoming year. After conversation, Vestry expressed commitment to The Partnership and with continued support for Bishop Sean Rowe as Bishop Provisional of Western New York.

- The College Kitchen: The next dinner event will be held in Garland Hall on Tuesday, Nov 8. The theme and menu will be Taco Tuesday, featuring Walking Tacos. Jenn and Jake Wilkins will prepare and host this particular evening.
- Stewardship Committee: Vestry appoints William Roberts and Karin Wheelock to join with Virginia Becker as this committee. A time will be set for them to work on the upcoming stewardship letter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. with a motion made by Sally Ludlum. Carried. Vestry concluded its time by reciting the Lord's Prayer together. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Jennifer Wilkins, Clerk.

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Parish Notes



Christmas Flowers

The sign-up form for Poinsettias and various Floral arrangements for the Christmas season is located in Garland Hall.

Potted Poinsettia plants are \$8.00 each. The floral arrangements for the Baptismal Font (\$55) and the Narthex (\$30) remain available. The deadline to reserve flowers and for payment is Sunday, Dec. 4. Please contact the parish office or Melisa Eichmann if you have any questions.

Holiday Decorating

All are invited to join together for the decorating of the church for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 18, immediately following the 10:30 service!

Annual Parish Meeting

Save the date! The annual parish meeting will take place on Sunday, January 29, 2023, following our worship service.

There will be one service on this particular Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (there is no 8 o'clock service). Committee reports are due in to the office by Sunday, Jan. 15. Additional information will be provided in the January newsletter.

TECW



Missing from photo are 9 more turkeys!

A huge Thank you to all of you who donated to TECW Thanksgiving Baskets 2022.

With the generous response we were able to donate:

- 12 much needed turkeys
- 7 bags potatoes
- 51 cans veggies
- 31 cans fruit
- 6 cans sweet potatoes / potatoes
- 27 boxes stuffing
- 22 gravy
- 14 jello
- 7 graham cracker crusts with pudding mixes
- 10 cans cranberry
- 10 complete pumpkin pie with milk and crust mix
- 3 juices
- 1 cherry pie mix

Rural Ministry was very grateful for everything. Any item not used in their baskets will be added to their pantry shelves which are in constant need of restocking.

Please save the date:

TECW CHRISTMAS COFFEE
December 3, 2022
Garland Hall - 9:30AM

All women are invited to join in and share some time together following a very short meeting. Please bring your Christmas Stocking Savings if you have completed it. See you on the 3rd.



Mitten Tree

During this holiday season we will collect items for the mitten tree! Donations of new and gently used hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves will gladly be accepted. Collected items will be divided between Rural Ministries and Partners in Kind. The mitten tree will be located in Garland Hall for you to place your items. Thank You!

Santa for Seniors



A big **Thank You** to everyone who contributed to our collection of tubes of toothpaste for the *Santa for Seniors* program with

the Office for the Aging. We reached our collection goal of 200 tubes for seniors residing in our region!

Christmas Family Outreach

Parish Outreach is accepting monetary donations to support a local family in need this Christmas season, which consists of many children. Donations will go towards gifts for the children, a food basket for Christmas morning and pajamas or blankets for this family.

Please place your donation in the collection plate in an envelope labeled *Christmas family* or mail your donation to the church. If using a check, please be sure to write *Christmas family* in the memo line.

Contact Karin Wheelock or Diane Sercu with questions. **Donation deadline is Sunday, December 11.** Thank you in advance for your support!

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Lectionary Readings for December:

www.lectionarypage.net

Sunday, Dec. 4

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, Dec. 11

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:4-9

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, Dec. 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday, Dec. 24

Eve of the Nativity

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, Dec. 25

The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98

Hebrews

John 1:1-14

Birthdays in December

8 Frank B. Pullano

10 Ariella Pierce

15 Laurie Weatherlow

15 Tyler Roberts

20 Jeff Kennedy

21 Tom Boyda

24 Carol Johnson

27 Bill Roberts

29 Nathan McCloskey

30 Robert Gray

30 Marilyn Maytum

Wedding Anniversaries in December

20 Marlene and Bill Raines

In Memoriam

1 Mary Jane Forster

6 Clara Wallace

8 Eugene Berhardt

17 Gene Burmaster

19 Clint Kennedy

24 Alfred, Nellie, and Audrey Turner

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Episcopal Church

11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467

Fredonia, NY 14063

www.trinitychurchwny.org

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Revd. James Clement, *Rector*

rector@trinitychurchwny.org

Donald Fellows, *Organist*

Sara Jagoda, *Sexton*

The Vestry of the Parish

William Roberts, Sr. Warden

Janeil Rey, Jr. Warden

Mary Lou Vercant

Karin Wheelock

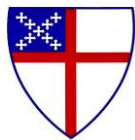
Sally Ludlum

Jenn Wilkins

Virginia Becker, Treasurer

Trinity Episcopal Church
11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467
Fredonia, New York 14063

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Trinity Tidings



The newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
Ephesians 1:2*