

CCT Newsletter
March and April
Edition

Published bi-monthly by
Christ Church Trumbull
5170 Madison Avenue
Trumbull, CT 06611

Christ Church Trumbull Newsletter

March and April 2020



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From Pastor Jane

We began Lent this year at Christ Church in such a loving way. Our first Ash Wednesday service began with children sitting at the foot of the cross wiggling and listening to the story of creation. The children and I talked together about how God made stars collide and how many steps it took to bring each of us into being. We thought about how much God must love each of us to bring us into creation. Then we thought about how God loves us even when we make bad choices. Jessy Griswold led the kids in singing the words, “your love never fails, it gives up, it never runs out on me.” Then I helped tiny little thumbs gather and impose ashes on their parents, grandparents, and each other’s foreheads saying, “Remember God made you from stardust and he loves you no matter what.”

It is a message that all of us need to hear over and over again. God loves us no matter what. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners. He sees all the good and all the bad choices and still loves us so much. This Lent many of us are using the Society of Saint John the Evangelist Journal “Meeting Jesus in John.” This journal takes us through the gospel of John and the letters of John. It too focuses on the love God has for each and every one of us. I commend the journal to you even if you only pick it up once. The journal is also available online along with videos from the SSJE brothers for each day of lent. The first day of the journal quotes 1 John 4:16 “God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.”

As many of you know we have been taking time pray about and refine our mission, vision, taglines, and values. Much of this is identity work. As we have engaged in exercises during our open forums, leadership retreat, and annual meeting, the question that drives the creation of a mission statement or even a tagline is “Who are we Christ Church?” In these various times of gathering I have been so delighted to see the creativity and message that has come out of each of these meetings. During each session, the message that has really come out is one of God’s love. Over the summer at our open forum, Pat Foster suggested the *tagline* “**Welcome Home.**” At the leadership retreat, we articulated *values* such as: **love of God, centering in God, nurturing, welcoming, belonging, close knit, friendship.** And then at our annual meeting, we created a beautiful list of potential *mission statements* and the one that received the most votes was: **We open our hearts to Christ and our arms to all.**

The vestry will continue to edit and craft these statements and we will have a chance to vote on them as a community, but isn’t it remarkable what we have to offer one another and our greater Trumbull community. We here at Christ Church have the life-sustaining, awe-inspiring, miracle working love of God to offer.

So if you haven’t come in a while, know that we are here to welcome you with open arms and if there is anything you are struggling with, I can confidently say that we are here now to walk along side you in the struggle. And if you haven’t talked about God’s love and how he is working through this place in a while, I encourage you to go out and spread the love of God beyond our four walls.

Much peace,

Pastor Jane

A note about our Music Program

Contemporary Music—March 22, 29, April 5, April 12

The Episcopal Diocese has called all churches to try something radically new. This Lent and Easter, we will be engaging in new music with the help of Jessy Griswold. With a generous donation and support from the vestry, Jessy has and will be leading us on Ash Wednesday, March 22, 29, April 5, and April 12. At each service she will lead us in three contemporary worship songs. After these five services, we will ask folks to complete a survey to help us better understand what music touches and inspires faith in our community. Trying new things can be scary and bring up many feelings. I encourage you to let go and listen and experience all the music throughout Lent and on Easter morning and let us know your thoughts. Thank you all for being willing to take risks and try new things. It is a sign of health and growth in our community.

If you are interested in the types of music that will be offered, you can look up on the following songs on YouTube or Spotify:

Shall Not Want by Audry Assad

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=m8WgHGOak1c>

Peace be Still by The Belonging Co.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dUpKZz0Nm7c>

Alabaster Heart by Bethel Music

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dUpKZz0Nm7c>

Pastor Jane

Calvary St. George's Community Supper

Christ Church Trumbull is sponsoring a community supper at Calvary St. George's on Monday, April 13th. *We will need volunteers and cupcakes!*

If you would like to volunteer to help serve on the 13th, please come to Calvary St. George's at 4pm.

If you are going to donate cupcakes (store bought is fine), please bring them to the undercroft by Sunday, April 12th.

Update on the St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Per the ECW, in light of the current health circumstances, we are going to cancel the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Dinner at Christ Church Trumbull. The ECW will plan another dinner at a later date, so please stay tuned for more information.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the parish office.

We hope you all have a very happy St. Patrick's Day!

From Todd Rossel, Our Senior Warden

Thankfully, this is one newsletter column in which I feel there is a little less to report on; that generally means there are no broken pipes, failed ceilings or faulty septic (knock wood). The state of Christ Church is strong and we are poised for a year of significant change, achievement and growth in 2020.

We were pleased by our informative and collaborative Annual Meeting on Super Bowl Sunday. Highlights were reports by Jaye of our impending work on the long-awaited Uppercroft, discussions on vision and mission statements led by Jane that started to capture our renewed spirit as a parish and a beacon for the community, and a welcome review of our [almost] balanced budget for 2020. One loose end, as our new Vestry was approved, was the open position of Clerk. While we had enough members filling the Vestry, we did not have a candidate for the Clerk role. At our February Vestry meeting, we talked over whether someone would take on the role, or if there were members willing to “job share,” or if we were just all going to have to take monthly turns taking minutes at our meetings. I am pleased to inform the congregation that one of our new Vestry members, John Goepfrich, has graciously stepped up and agreed to serve as Clerk for this year. John listened to the position description, said he would do it, pulled out his laptop and got to work right away. We were all pleased by his willingness to volunteer and we may now move forward with a full leadership team and a talented and dedicated Vestry.

For now, I am focused on supporting Jaye to get started with the Uppercroft construction and get feedback and make decisions on the initial interior work. As I write this, we just finished the Shrove Tuesday dinner and several of us walked through the space to see some of the initial framing and electrical work. Naturally, it was exciting to jump ahead and talk about next steps and where certain things were going to go and how other things were to be finished. Expect future newsletters to include pictures demonstrating our progress.

We also are looking at an intriguing possibility of allowing an after-school art education for children program to utilize some of our space for a few classes during the week. This is a potentially ideal fit, and a great way to introduce CCT to more young families (and a small revenue generator, as well). If spring classes go well, the proprietor is interested in running a summer camp here as well.

Finally, it was wonderful on January 26th to honor last year’s generous gift from Jean Ives McLean Wallace and her family with a special service, blessing and installing a new plaque which recognizes the creation of our new endowment fund named for Mrs. Wallace. The plaque now greets people as they enter the church via the narthex, mounted directly under the cross. Mary Strizek, daughter of Jean Wallace, attended the service and a picture of Mary posing alongside the plaque is below, along with a few other photos of the day.

Just looking back at these random events of recent weeks, I am reminded just how blessed we are.

Todd



Meditation Series at Christ Church Trumbull

It's not all quiet meditation at our Meditation Series. We also enjoy the company of our friends too! Join us, if you can, on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month when fellow parishioner Peter Ulisse leads us in meditation. You may find that it is just what you've been looking for.

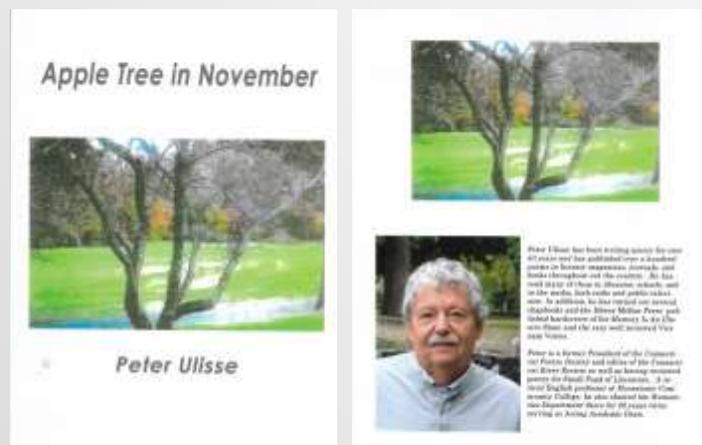


Poetry Reading at CCT!

Fellow parishioner Peter Ulisse has recently published what he says will be his "last" poetry book complete with some of his paintings and has agreed to do a reading/social event on **Sunday, June 7th**. Peter has published over a hundred poems nationally, several books, and is the former President of the Connecticut Poetry Society. This particular collection contains poems on the Teachings of Nature, children, time/eternity, pain/redemption, and fractured/healing - several themes we have talked about in our church in many different ways. He says he always tries to keep his readings "entertaining" and fun, sort of a collaborative event. We will hold it at Christ Church on either the deck, outside, or in the Uppercroft. If anyone is interested in checking the book out beforehand, you can go to Amazon and start to type in his name or the title of the book, "Apple Tree in November"- there are even some reviews!

Here's the write up on Amazon and photos of the book:

Apple Tree in November is the latest book by Peter Ulisse, former English Professor, President of the Connecticut Poetry Society, and publisher of over a hundred poems in national journals. Poems in this collection center around such topics as teachings of nature, children, space/time, and pain/redemption while utilizing various innovative techniques. For instance, certain poems are paralleled with color photos of some of his paintings to show the relationship between literature and Art, and there is an essay on the nature of poetry itself. Always conscious of his audience, the author has also included a section titled "Poet's Comments" where he reveals his personal insights on every poem in the work. The book itself is dedicated to "families everywhere" and an introductory poem describes families as fingers in a hand, each individual and unique, yet allowing "spaces" in between to celebrate both individuality and a common bond—"many fingers, one hand."



Lenten Services

Please join the Trumbull Episcopal churches

****Christ Church, Trinity Church, and Grace Church****

As we join together to worship, pray, and reflect during the Lenten Season.

Join us when you can at our worship services, Lenten Series, and also our self-guided and group discussions for *“Meeting Jesus in John.”*

More details below.

TRUMBULL EPISCOPAL CHURCHES



LENT SERVICES

Ash Wednesday Services Feb 26th

5pm Children's Service

6pm Holy Eucharist

Christ Church 5170 Madison Avenue

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service

April 9th 6-8pm

Trinity Church 1734 Huntington Turnpike

Good Friday Service

April 10th 7pm

Grace Church 5958 Main Street

LENTEN SERIES

Walking the Way with Jesus

Evening prayer, potluck dinner, program

March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 @6-7:30pm

Trinity Church, 1734 Huntington Turnpike

LENTEN JOURNAL

MeetingJesusinJohn.org

Self-guided and group discussions

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5 @ 9-10am

Christ Church 5170 Madison Avenue

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

MARCH

1-Mar	Joseph Morse	17-Mar	William Holmes
2-Mar	Rachel Brenha	17-Mar	Merna Goett
3-Mar	Ruth Mohr	18-Mar	Winnie Jordan
5-Mar	Madison Mullady	23-Mar	David Green
9-Mar	Martha Kaechele	27-Mar	Jaye Irwin
11-Mar	Robert Mitola	27-Mar	Joleen Bull
11-Mar	Louisa Rossel	28-Mar	Michael Dever
12-Mar	Harry Walker	31-Mar	Bev Van der Ploeg
15-Mar	Jennifer Stegmaier		
16-Mar	Walter Kaechele		

APRIL

2-Apr	Patrick Liganga
3-Apr	Philip Brenha
12-Apr	Mark Flader
18-Apr	Strick Woods
20-Apr	Kristine Miklus
26-Apr	Regan Dever
27-Apr	Mark Hawkins
27-Apr	Susan Vasone
29-Apr	Carol Rawlins

Please support our Altar Guild!

One way to support our Altar Guild and the beautiful flower arrangements that they create every Sunday is to sign up for *Altar Flowers* in memory of or in honor of loved ones ... or whatever you'd like!

There is a sign up sheet on the front table in the Undercroft.

Feel free to sign up for a few dates!

Thinking about becoming an Altar Server?

We always welcome new members!

There are many ways to serve. You can be a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Prayer Leader, Greeter, Counter, or even a teacher for our Church School!

If you are interested in any of these, please contact Maryanne in the Parish Office!

If you would like to provide refreshments for one of our Coffee Hours on Sunday morning, please do! There is a sign up sheet on the front table in the Undercroft.

Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services

The following are the services for Holy Week and Easter Sunday being offered at the Episcopal churches in Trumbull. Please join us!



PALM SUNDAY -- APRIL 5TH — CHRIST CHURCH

8:00am: Holy Eucharist and Blessing of Palms

10:00am: Holy Eucharist with Procession with Palms

MAUNDY THURSDAY -- APRIL 9TH — TRINITY CHURCH

6:00pm—8:00 pm: Dinner and Worship Service

GOOD FRIDAY -- APRIL 10TH — GRACE CHURCH

7:00pm: Worship Service

HOLY SATURDAY -- APRIL 11TH

Church is dark.

EASTER SUNDAY -- APRIL 12TH — CHRIST CHURCH

9:00am: Holy Eucharist with music

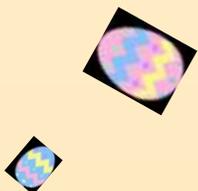
Easter Brunch between services — Please bring a brunch item and/or dessert to share.

11:00am: Holy Eucharist with music; followed by [Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard at 12:30pm.](#)

To help make our Easter Egg Hunt fun for the kids ...

Please bring in plastic Easter eggs—filled with candy, coins, or small toys —
to the undercroft by **Sunday, April 5th.**

Thank you!



EASTER FLOWERS

One way of celebrating the Easter Season is by making an Easter Flower offering to our Altar Fund. These commemorative offerings will help defray the cost of our Easter flowers and fill our altar with lilies on Easter Sunday.

Please use the form below for your offering. The standard amount is \$30, but whatever you are comfortable giving is welcome. Your offering can be mailed to Christ Church or put in an "Easter Flowers" envelope which can be found in the church, the undercroft or the parish office and placed in the offering plate at any of our services.

Please have your Easter Flower envelope in to church and/or the parish office by **Sunday, April 5th** (Palm Sunday).

Thank you!

EASTER FLOWERS

GIVEN BY _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF _____

IN THANKSGIVING FOR _____

Vestry Information

2020 Vestry Members

Todd Rossel.....	Senior Warden
Jaye Irwin.....	Junior Warden
Margaret Marcotte.....	Treasurer
John Goepfrich.....	Clerk
Bob Mitola.....	
Martine Yourieff.....	
Pat Foster.....	
Shirley Mayo.....	
Peter van Zyl.....	

Christ Church Trumbull Vestry Meeting Policy

Parishioners are welcome to attend Vestry meetings if they have a particular concern, idea or proposal that should be brought to the attention of the Vestry. A written request should be made to one of the Vestry officers or the Rector a week in advance for inclusion on the meeting agenda, along with any documentation to be reviewed in advance of the meeting. Approximately the first 15 minutes of the next Vestry meeting will then be set aside to address the parishioner's concerns, ideas or proposals. Otherwise, in the interest of covering all of the items on the agenda in a timely way, Vestry meetings are generally closed to parishioners.

Upcoming Vestry Meeting Date -- 6:30 p.m.

March 18, 2020

April 22, 2020

May 20, 2020



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

Would you like to learn more about the
Episcopal Church in Connecticut?

Visit the Episcopal Diocese website at www.episcopalcct.org
to read blogs, view photos, enjoy poetry and learn more about
upcoming events in the Episcopal Church in our state.

Sunday Servers ~~ March 15 through May 17

	March 15	March 22	March 29	April 5 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	April 12 <i>Easter—11am</i>
Altar Guild:	Shirley Mayo	Karen Godfrey	Martha Kaechele	Shirley Mayo	Karen Godfrey
Altar Linen:	Martha Kaechele	Martha Kaechele	Martha Kaechele	Karen Godfrey	Karen Godfrey
Greeters:	Karen Godfrey <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Todd Rossel <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Jaye and Jody Irwin	Karen Godfrey <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Margaret Marcotte Jody Irwin
Lay Assistant:	Susan Vasone	Sally Lundy	Tom Hawkins	Sally Lundy	Todd Rossel
Lector:	Ginnie Glassman	Martha Kaechele	Margaret Marcotte	Todd Rossel	John Holmes
Counters:	Bev Van Der Ploeg Kim Atherton	Sally Lundy <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Jody Irwin John Holmes	Sally Lundy Todd Rossel	Bev Van Der Ploeg Kim Atherton
Refreshments:	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Easter Brunch
Chalicer at 8am Service	Ray Hofbauer	Margaret Marcotte	Ray Hofbauer	Margaret Marcotte	Easter—9am Ray Hofbauer

Palm Sunday—Sunday, April 5th
Easter Sunday—Sunday, April 12th—9:00am and 11:00am worship services
Easter Brunch—Between the services in the undercroft
Easter Egg Hunt—Following the 11:00 a.m. service in our church yard

	April 19 <i>Morning Prayer</i>	April 26	May 3	May 10	May 17
Altar Guild:	Martha Kaechele	Shirley Mayo	Karen Godfrey	Martha Kaechele	Shirley Mayo
Altar Linen:	Karen Godfrey	Karen Godfrey	Shirley Mayo	Shirley Mayo	Shirley Mayo
Greeters:	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Jaye and Jody Irwin	Margaret Marcotte Karen Godfrey	Todd and Jen Rossel	Kim Atherton Bev Van Der Ploeg
Lay Assistant:	Ginnie Glassman	Susan Vasone	Todd Rossel	Sally Lundy	Tom Hawkins
Lector:	Peter Ulisse	Pat Foster	Ginnie Glassman	John Holmes	Peter Ulisse
Counters:	Jody Irwin <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Bev Van Der Ploeg John Holmes	Todd Rossel Margaret Marcotte	Sally Lundy Bev Van Der Ploeg	John Holmes Kim Atherton
Refreshments	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Pat and Diane Foster	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Chalicer at 8am Service	Ginnie Glassman	Margaret Marcotte	Ray Hofbauer	Margaret Marcotte	Ginnie Glassman

Parish Calendar -- MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The 1st Sunday in Lent Worship 8 & 10:00am Spiritual Growth Series at CCT 9am to 9:45am	2	3	4 Lenten Series at Trinity Church 6pm—7:30pm	5	6	7
8 The 2nd Sunday In Lent Worship 8 & 10:00am Spiritual Growth Series at CCT 9am to 9:45am	9	10	11 Lenten Series at Trinity Church 6pm—7:30pm	12	13	14
15 The 3rd Sunday In Lent Worship 8 & 10:00am Spiritual Growth Series at CCT 9am to 9:45am	16	17	18 Lenten Series at Trinity Church 6pm—7:30pm Vestry Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	19	20	21
22 The 4th Sunday In Lent Worship 8 & 10:00am Spiritual Growth Series at CCT 9am to 9:45am	23	24	25 Lenten Series at Trinity Church 6pm—7:30pm	26	27	28
29 The 5th Sunday In Lent Worship 8 & 10:00am Spiritual Growth Series at CCT 9am to 9:45am	30	31				

Parish Calendar -- APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Lenten Series at Trinity Church 6pm—7:30pm	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday Worship 8 & 10:00am	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service at Trinity Church 6pm	10 Good Friday Service at Grace Church 7pm	11 Holy Saturday Christ Church is dark
12 Easter Sunday Worship at 9am and 11am Brunch between services 12:30pm—Easter Egg Hunt for the kids!	13 Calvary St. George's Community Supper 4:00pm	14	15	16	17	18
19 2nd Sunday In Easter Morning Prayer Service Worship 8 & 10:00am	20	21	22 Vestry Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	23	24	25
26 3rd Sunday In Easter Worship 8 & 10:00am	27	28	29	30		