



NOVEMBER TIDINGS

Volume 5 Issue 11

November 2023

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A Reflection from your Priest-in-Charge

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

[John 14:27]

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In a volume of story meditations titled *Taking Flight* Anthony De Mello tells the story of an old man who would sit very still in church for hours at a time. One day the priest asked him what God talked to him about. "God doesn't talk. He just listens," the old man replied "What do you talk to him about?" asked the priest.

"I don't talk either," said the old man. "I just listen."

This fable reminds us to find a space of silence amidst the bombardment of unbearable images of war from Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine, of the crowds at our own borders, of the posturing of our congressional leaders, and of the unfolding news of the mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine.

We have already received the gift of a peace beyond understanding. We do not need to seek it. We do not need to be discouraged by its elusiveness. We do not need to bemoan the ways so many of us abuse it or squander it. We have been given the peace of Christ.

Perhaps more importantly, we have been given the capacity to share it.

I believe that there is nothing more important than to grow into this peace and to teach our children to grow into it. It is a truism that peace begins within each person, that there will be peace around us only after there is peace within us.

In our restlessness and outrage, *let's just listen.*

In exploring alternative models for ministry, *let's just listen.*

In considering the wisest stewardship of our building, *let's just listen.*

In admitting how much we do not know, *let's just listen.*

In our impulse to blame, *let's just listen.*

In our dreams and hopes for our children, *let's just listen.*

Peace is a gift, not a given.

Our only purpose in our brief lives is to awaken in each other the peace that the world cannot give.

We have been promised that we can do this. *Let's just listen.*

Mother Judith



Update on Our New Neighbors at the Super 8 Motel in Sturbridge.

As highlighted in October, unhoused families are now living at the Super 8 Motel in Sturbridge until they can move to permanent housing. I volunteered to be the "point person" to receive and share information for Holy Trinity from the area coordinator, Mary Carpenter.

We no longer need to collect donations. Read on.

Many have contributed essential items that the families needed (Thank you!!). Collection sites were set up, especially the ecumenical site at the Federated Church in Sturbridge. The state has now organized and centralized collections for the motels in our area. The National Guard along with the planners in Worcester have decided to make Seven Hills on Hope Avenue in Worcester the ONE main drop-off site. Donations may be dropped off **ONLY** on Mondays and Wednesday from 9am-1pm. People will still be living at the Super 8 but the distribution to the motel will come from this centralized site.

An informational flier is available by request (email the church) and in a previously sent parish wide email notice. The Federated Church drop off is closed and the collection site in Southbridge will also stop receiving items.

The newcomers now have the following support:

- Health care through MassHealth is now provided.
- EBT cards (food stamps) with a stipend of money on the card for items not normally covered.
- WIC for families with infants so parents can buy formula.
- Work permits are on the agenda, so that families can start earning an income.

If there are any questions, please reach out to me and I will try to get answers.

Susan Howland, howlands@charter.net 508.612.3198



6—Barbara Kalber
 8 – Paige Spooner
 8—Carolyn Wynkoop
 17—Hope Wilson
 23—Lana Pieczynski
 23 – Josh Spooner
 25 - Eileen DeMings

STEWARDSHIP BREAKFAST

The Vestry cordially invites you to the
 Stewardship Breakfast and
 In -gathering of Pledge Cards:
Sunday, November 19th
 after the service



Praying Hands Ministry—November 2023



Our Praying Hands Ministry makes prayer shawls and lap blankets for anyone in need of prayer and comfort. Our prayers are “woven” into the shawl/ blanket.

There are baskets with blessed prayer shawls for adults and children at the back of the church. Shawls can be taken for anyone in need of prayer, love, and comfort. A card is attached to write in the person’s name.

Recently a parish member shared a story about taking a shawl to one of her students who was struggling and hard to reach. Shortly after receiving the shawl the student started to “turn around” and be more engaged in the class. The Holy Spirit at work! If you have a prayer shawl story, please send it along at the email address below. There are patterns and information on our website www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org under the Parish Ministries tab. For more information contact Susan Howland, howlands@charter.net 508.612.3198

Susan Howland, coordinator



Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child

We will support Girl Scout Troup 11507 in their collection of Christmas boxes to donate to Samaritan’s Purse for families throughout the world. Shopping lists are available in the Parish Hall. We ask that the boxes be filled by **November 5th**, and they will be blessed during the service on **November 12th**.

Winter Coat Closet

The Coat Closet will be open Saturdays from October 28 to December 16th.

Hours: 9:30—11:30 AM

Donations of gently used, warm winter coats for men, women & children are needed. Please bring on Saturday mornings if possible.

Contact Chris in the office for more information.



Mission Plate ~ November & December

During the months of November and December the Mission Plate will be accepting donations for The Episcopal Church of Navajoland. I have contacted their office in New Mexico for information regarding their expected needs over the winter. It gets very cold on the high plateaus of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. I anticipate our donations might be used to purchase coats, fuel, water and food. I will keep you informed when I hear back from them.

Suzy Sharp, Mission and Outreach Committee

Faith Formation: Children and Youth

Family Worship: 9:30 am Children and Youth will lead the service

November 5th All Saints Sunday

December 3rd 1st Sunday of Advent

VBS Sundays: 9:30 – 10:30 am

November 19th Stewardship Ingathering

December 17th Preparing for Christmas & Epiphany

Children's Chapel: 9:15 am

November 12th & 26th

December 10th & 31st

Youth Formation: Grades 7-12

Meetings after Family Worship: November 5th and December 3rd to plan fellowship and service events

Adult Formation

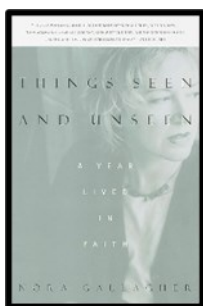
The Chosen: Episode 3—Wednesday November 15 5:30-7 pm @ Bethlehem Lutheran

We will share a simple supper of soup, bread, and dessert.

We are partnering with Bethlehem Lutheran and the Federated Church of Sturbridge for monthly viewing and discussion of Season 1 of this popular video series about the life and ministry of Christ. Robin Yates will facilitate discussion. We will meet for 8 sessions (September – May), including some Zoom sessions during the winter months. Watch for more information. The series can be seen on Amazon Prime, Netflix, and <https://www.angel.com>

Lunch & Learn Thursday November 2nd 11:30am-1:00pm The Gospel of Thomas

The Gospel of Thomas is a collection of sayings by Jesus that was discovered among other manuscripts in Egypt in 1945. Some of these sayings also appear in the canonical gospels. The Gospel of Thomas gives us insight into the cultural diversity of early Christianity. The central theme is how to live according to the teachings of Jesus. The text can be found online at www.holytexts.com and copies are available in the parish hall. No need to buy any books. No homework required! Bring your lunch and your curiosity.



HTEC Reading Group

November:

Nora Gallagher, *Things Seen & Unseen* [Vintage Books, 1999]

Discussion: Thursday November 30th @ 5pm

As we prepare to begin a new liturgical year, we thought this meditation by Nora Gallagher would guide us to look back and to look forward. Whether writing about her brother's battle against cancer, talking to homeless men about the World Series, or questioning the afterlife, Gallagher draws us into a world of journeys and mysteries, yet grounded in a gritty reality. She braids together the symbols of the Christian calendar, the events of a year in one church, and her own spiritual journey, each strand combed out with harrowing intimacy.



Intergenerational Formation & Fellowship

International Dinner & Cabaret

Saturday November 11th 4:30-7:00pm

Rose Reith and Lorraine Brumskine are organizing this event.

Watch for the opportunity to sign up to give a performance, bring food or beverages, and to set up, serve, and clean up.



Preparing for Advent – Wednesday November 29th, 5:30 – 8:00pm

@ Bethlehem Lutheran

Following the model of our Family Evening in Lent last spring, we will gather for a simple supper, explore together the meaning of Advent, and complete a service project. We will close with Compline.

Food Pantry: Spices for Holiday Cooking

In November our donations will go to the Bridge Fridge in Southbridge. Our focus will be on spices and nonperishable food for holiday treats and feasts. Please see Karron Lacey for more information.

Vestry Highlights: October 11, 2023

Resolved:

- Accepted the 2023 Staff Reviews
- Designated Roselda's Kitchen at the First United Methodist Church of Southbridge to receive the Free Will Offering for the Blue Shades Clarinets Concert on December 10th
- Agreed to support Girl Scout Troop #11507 with their project for Samaritan's Purse
- Agreed to have our 2023 Mutual Ministry Review at our November 8th Vestry meeting

Discussion:

- Discussed ways to inform the congregation about serving on Vestry and to invite candidates
- Planning for the Parish meeting on October 15th and the zoom meeting with representatives of other churches on Wednesday October 18th.
- Susan Howland will be the contact person for the "New Neighbors" program for residents of the Super 8 Hotel in Sturbridge
- What have we done well?
Youth project making sandwiches for the Cathedral in the Night; prayer partner cards; Christmas cards for the military; *The Chosen* discussion group; Blessing of our pets





NOVEMBER 11 FROM 4:30PM-7:00 PM

At Holy Trinity Church in the Undercroft



BRING A CULTURAL DISH & DESSERT TO SHARE!



This is a potluck dinner. Please bring enough to feed 5 people. Beverages provided. You may also wear a native costume, if desired. If you have a special song, poem, one-man monologue, or comedy from your heritage, please share!

Bring a friend or family member—the more, the merrier!

RSVP on the table at the back of the church by November 5th

Any questions, please see Lorraine Brumskine (917) 676-0754

Sundays in November: Gratitude Month



*They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit"*



[Jeremiah 17:8]

November 5	All Saints Sunday Family Worship Daughters of the King Rededication 10:30-11:30 Teens (Grades 7-12) meet downstairs
November 12	24th Sunday after Pentecost Stewardship Reflection by Nancy Waugh Blessing of the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes 9:15 Children's Chapel 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:15 Choir Rehearsal
November 19	25th Sunday after Pentecost Stewardship Ingathering Vestry Hosts a Stewardship Breakfast for Coffee Hour 9:30-10:15 VBS Downstairs 9:30 Holy Eucharist 11:15 Choir Rehearsal
November 26th	Christ the King Sunday 9:15 Children's Chapel 9:30 Holy Eucharist 11:15 Choir Rehearsal



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday November 22nd 2023 7 pm
Hosted by the First United Methodist Church of Southbridge

Looking Ahead:

Sunday December 10th	2:00pm Blue Shades Clarinet Concert
Sunday December 24th	9:30am Holy Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
	4:00pm Holy Eucharist for the Eve of Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord
Monday December 25th	9:30am Holy Eucharist for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

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Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

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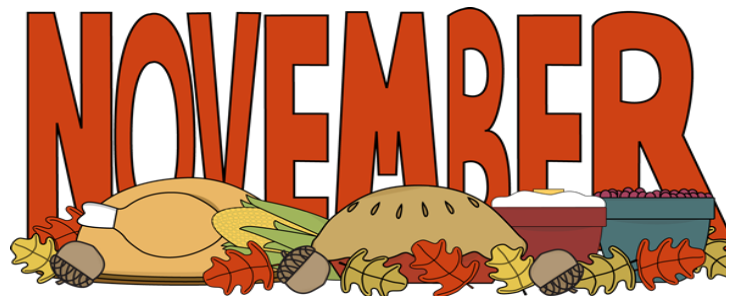
**The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

**Priest –in-Charge
The Reverend Judith Lee**



Website



Facebook



Tithely—Giving