COMMENT

Christ Episcopal Church CORNING, NY

The Mission of Christ Church is to offer hospitality, healing and hope in the name of Jesus Christ.

Vol. 56, No. 1, Jan. 2025

Sunday Worship
8 a.m. & 10 a.m. In-person
Tuesday Worship
12:00 Noonday Prayer via Zoom

Staff
The Very Rev. Troy Preston, *Rector*
Kristen Mason, *Secretary*
John Sosa, *Sexton*
Jamie Smith, *Organist*

Vestry
Anne Galvin, *Sr. Warden*
Bill Scheidweiler, *Jr. Warden*
Richard Murray
Ashley Scott
Christopher Walters
Lee Kent
Joni Makowiec
Bobby Rockwell
Andrea Bookbinder
Chris Desrochers
Chris Wentzel

Diocesan Delegates
Candice Hill
Patty Campbell
Bonnie Tyo
Marion Ivy, *Alternate*
Lizz Jones, *Alternate*

Finance Chairperson
William Scheidweiler

Treasurer
Barbara Cook

Endowment Advisor
Alex Ognenovski, JD

Clerk
Patricia Campbell

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Office Hours
Monday - Friday, 9:00-Noon

Contact Father Troy
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C: 607-769-3083
E: troy.preston3373@gmail.com

This morning, as I was getting my 12-year-old off to school, I received an email from Bobby Rockwell. The email contained the poem "Christmas Bells", by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The poem was written during the Civil War after hearing the Christmas bells chime and the words "peace on earth, good will to men" from Luke 2:14. Longfellow found the message of peace and goodwill out of place amid the war and his own personal struggles. Although the poem explores the difference between the violence and injustice that exists in the world and the optimistic message of the bells, the poem ultimately conveys hope that the right will prevail. Sometimes we all need that reminder and reassurance. Whether it be 1863 or 2024, the message, truth, and hope of Christmas remain. May we rest in that hope and encouragement this Christmas season and beyond.

Very Troy

Merry Christmas,
Troy+

CHRISTMAS BELLS

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

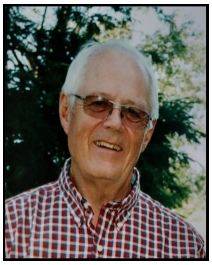
And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

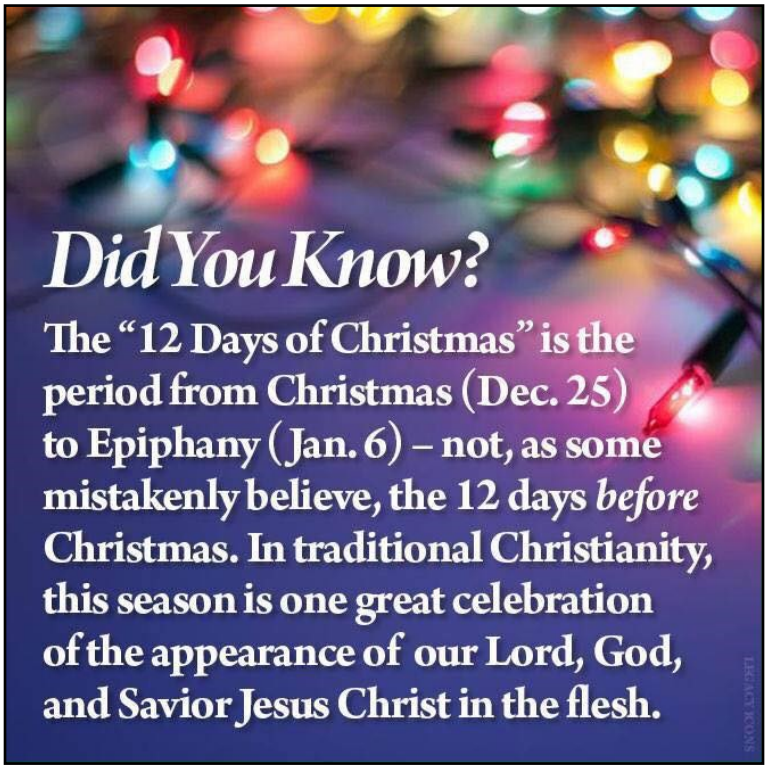
NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

If you wish to have a pastoral visit by telephone, in-person, or through Zoom, please call the church office. Father Troy would be delighted.

Home Touch is provided to our homebound parishioners, as well as to the residents of several area nursing homes. If you would like to receive Home Touch on a weekly basis, please contact the church office at 607-937-5449.



Stephen Morley died on December 6, after a lengthy illness. Father Troy officiated at Steve's service, in Pennsylvania, on December 14. Love and prayers surround the loved ones of this cherished member of the Christ Church family. May Steve rest in peace and rise in glory.



Kristen and Father Troy helped **spread a little holiday cheer** on December 10, at Stewart Park, on behalf of the folks at Christ Episcopal Church. In addition to the items pictured, five families were provided the means necessary for food and gifts this Christmas.

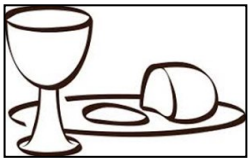
Don't forget to sign up donate **altar flowers**!
Link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0845A5A928A1F4C43-52885290-2025/158963393#/

The **Christ Church Ringers** sparkled at Vitrix Hot Glass Studio. People traveled all the way from Rochester just to hear them. The 50th Anniversary of Sparkle in Corning's Gaffer District was truly a night to remember!

Don't forget to **like us on Facebook!**

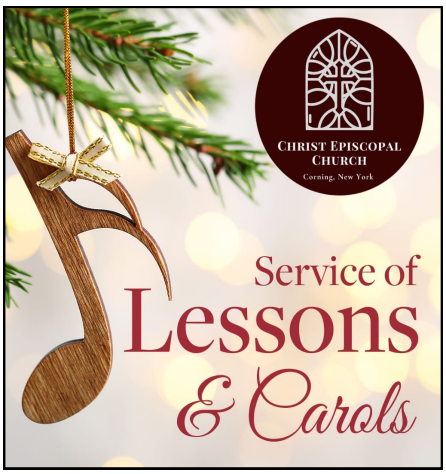
Sunday Attendance Report	
December 1	79
December 8	86
December 15	95

Don't forget to sign up donate **communion elements**!
Link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0845A5A928A1F4C43-52885588-2025/158963393#/



It is the most wonderful time of the year!

Lessons & Carols will be held at 10 a.m. on December 29. There will be no 8 a.m. service. Alexia Hulme will be our guest musician.

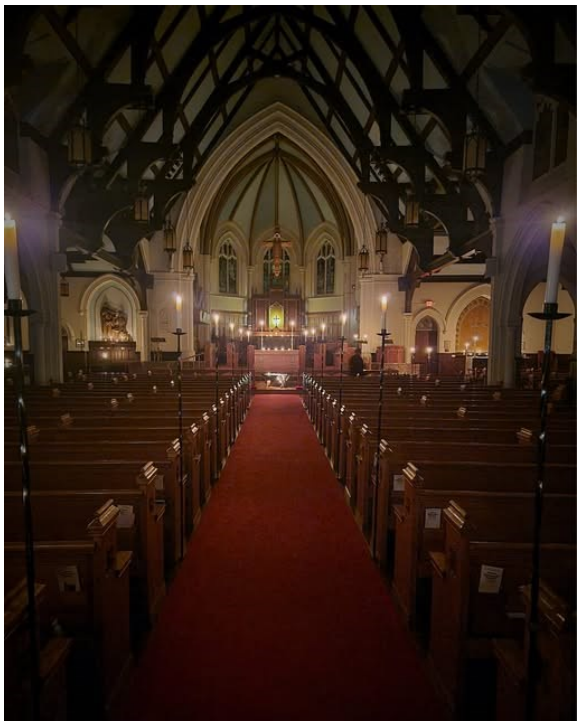


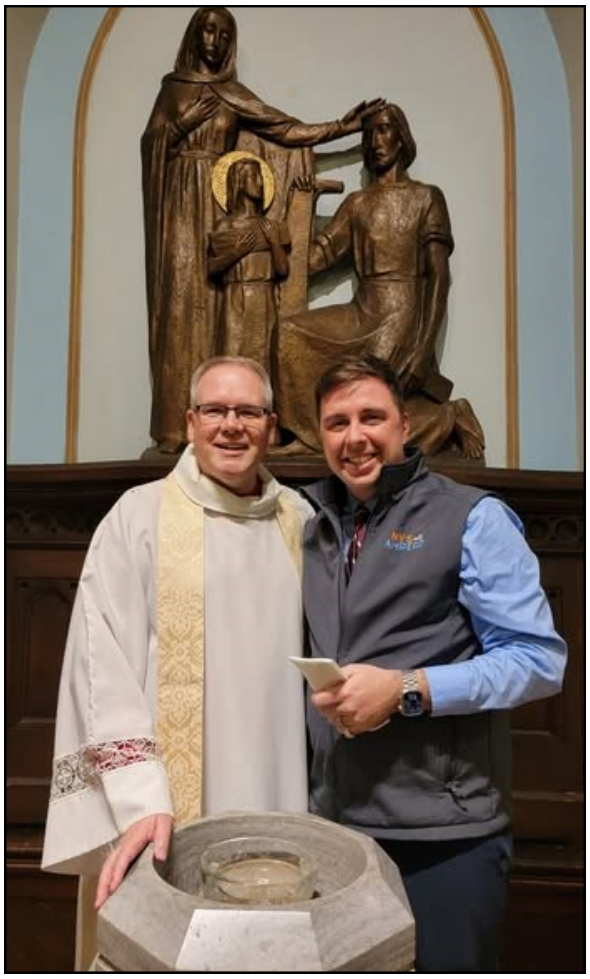
Advent Rest Stop: Even in the waiting, God is with us was held on December 11.

This was a wonderful opportunity for deep prayer, the silence was indeed golden...Thanks to all who made this possible!
-Cynthia Kopcsay

It was a beautiful service and a perfect time for reflection and prayer. Thank you!
-Heather Bliss Overton

The Rev. Kit Tobin will be celebrating with us on January 5, while Father Troy visits his grandchildren.





In Holy Baptism **we welcomed Max Young,** into the Body of Christ - the Church on December 5. Congratulations, Max!

Don't forget to sign up to host **coffee hour**!
Link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0845A5A928A1F4C43-52884912-2025/158963393#/

HERE WE COME A CAROLING...
Please join us Friday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m. for a Caroling Party! We'll gather in the Houghton Lounge, warm up our voices, and depart for some neighborhood caroling. We'll return to hot cocoa and cookies. All voices are welcome! Come help spread the Christmas spirit.

Join in the fun of **decorating Christ Church, Corning** for Christmas, Sunday, December 22, 2024, immediately following the 10 a.m. service. Grab a cookie from hospitality hour and help deck the halls!

On December 6, the folks at **Christ Episcopal Church rang the bells** to help raise money for the local social services programs provided by the Corning Salvation Army. Many thanks to Candice Hill; Diane and John Fee; Rich Murray and Hannah Murray Smith and her kids; Anne Walters, Tamriko, and Sam; Father Troy and Debbie Flint; Anne Galvin; and Marie, Ben, and Simon Blouin. The kettle was really full and heavy by the end of the day! Also, a special visitor dropped by on his way to the Kris Kringle House and thanked us for giving our time to the community.

Great job!

Christ Church Cares Collection - December 1: Well done, Christ Church Corning. Many area children will benefit from your generosity.

Christ Church Cares Collection - December 8: There are going to be many happy creatures at Paradise Garden Animal Haven.

Christ Church Cares Collection - December 15: The Twin Tiers Baby Bank is going to receive an abundance of diapers, wipes, and other needed items.

CHRIST CHURCH CARES COLLECTIONS

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Each week during the Advent season and into the New Year, **Christ Church is collecting different items to assist our neighbors throughout the area.** Please participate by placing the requested items in the little red wagon. It is just one way to express that Christ Church truly does care.

Upcoming Collections:

December 22 – Canned Goods for area food banks

December 29 – Canned Goods for area food banks

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS & INFORMATION

Birthdays

1/1 Richard Grzybowski
1/6 Anastasia Castilone
Audrey Hood
Bennett Hood
Rigby Hood
Mary Volpe
1/8 Christopher Herrmann
Sophie Herrmann
1/11 Mary Lee Fairbrother
Jessica Hood
1/12 Nancy Grant
1/14 Jane Dillon
1/15 Cerena Crowl
Kevin Cusick
1/18 James Kirk
Brooke Kutka
1/21 Adrian Blouin
Michael Sellers
1/22 Sheila McLean
1/26 Pat Nolan
1/27 Richard Berg
Serge Minko

Anniversaries

1/2 Chris & Anne Walters

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the office.

Altar Flower Donors

1/5 T. Preston & B. Cook
1/12 L. Bayer
1/19 **NEED VOLUNTEER**
1/26 **NEED VOLUNTEER**

Communion Elements

1/5 T. Preston
1/12 **NEED VOLUNTEER**
1/19 **NEED VOLUNTEER**
1/26 **NEED VOLUNTEER**

Coffee Hour

1/5 **NEED VOLUNTEER**
1/12 **NEED VOLUNTEER**
1/19 **NEED VOLUNTEER**
1/26 Christ Church

The following parishioners, families and committees will be prayed for at our Tuesday noon-time services in January:

January 7: Janet Hallahan, Brendan Hammond, Doug Osgood; Ken & Kathy Miller, Paul & Dianne Denson, Ed & Mary Lee Fairbrother; the Yehl, Curran, and Yoganathan/Rajaratnam families; Staff.

January 14: Julia Hertl, Bonnie Tyo, Maisie Houghton; John & Katharine Van Zanten, Richard & Linda Franklin, Tim & Amy Doutt; the Underwood, Herrmann, and Kutka/Balthazor families; Altar Guild.

January 21: Sheilah Prevost, James Kirk, Patricia Campbell; Chuck & Martha Tober, Richard & Verna Freer, Ken & Dena Scott; the Wentzel, Koenig, and Scheidweiler families; Bell Choir.

January 28: Ted Heagle, Pauline Morley, Lois Butler; Ed & Mary Franklin, Troy & Amanda Erickson, Rug & Sara Altmansberger; the Blouin, Cole-Teeter, and Desrochers families; Missions.

Continue to remember those who are ill or recovering: Jan Farnsworth, Ted Heagle, Bobby Rockwell, Beth DiLauro, Sandy Young, Mary Volpe, Mike McCarthy, Gretchen Wood, Patty Pinkston, and those on our Prayer Chain.

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PayPal

Giving just got a little easier.
Visit www.christepiscopalcorning.org to learn more.
Please note that a 2.59% + $0.49 fee does get applied to the church.

JANUARY ONLINE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR CHRIST CHURCH

Sundays at 10 a.m.

Subscribe to us on YouTube for all our broadcasted services. You may also look for the link posted on our Facebook page before each service.

YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEPDBaceNux_FzdUi1bRpZA

Tuesdays at Noon

Zoom Service:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82804939353?pwd=c0ZwUFVHaWxzVVg0MFh1cUt6OGhkQT09

Meeting ID: 828 0493 9353 **Passcode:** 1225 **Telephone:** 1 646 876 9923

***Comment* is published 10 months of the year. The following teams prepare each edition:**

Editors & Layout: The Very Rev. Troy Preston & Kristen Mason

Proofreaders: The Very Rev. Troy Preston & Kristen Mason

Folders: Kristen Mason

The newsletter is distributed electronically, except to those who do not have computer access. Please contact the Church Office with any changes to your email or home addresses.

The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of *Comment* is January 9.

We Are On Our Way To A Brand New Year!

Annual Meeting Information

In accordance with the parish's By-Laws, the Annual Meeting of Christ Church will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, beginning at 10 a.m. with the service.

The remaining business portions of the meeting will get underway following the service. We encourage everyone to stay and listen to the presentations on the 2024 finances, endowment, and 2025 budget.

Vestry Nominations Accepted

The following nominations have been accepted for positions on the Vestry beginning in February 2025. Anne Galvin is seeking re-election to a two-year term as Warden. Seeking re-election to a three-year term for Vestry are Ashley Scott and Rich Murray. Nominated for Vestry (three-year term) is David Blouin. Seeking re-election as a District Delegate (three-year term) is Candice Hill. This year's Nominating Committee consisted of Rug Altmansberger (chairperson), Lisa Herrmann, and Bill Scheidweiler. The Vestry accepted the above nominations at their December 10 meeting.

Our Bylaws state that "for a period of 14 days following notification to the parish (which is this mailing), members of the congregation may make nominations through the church office." The deadline for additional nominations is Thursday, January 2.

A picture and short bio will be provided in the next newsletter to be mailed on January 16.

2025 STEWARDSHIP CANVASS UPDATE

As of December 18, we have received 70 pledge cards totaling $170,520. Below is a list of the households who have pledged their financial support of Christ Church for 2025. We appreciate and thank you for your support. If we missed your name and you have made a pledge, we beg your forgiveness and ask that you notify the office immediately. 2025 pledges are still being accepted.

Marcia Adamy
Leslie Bayer
David & Marie Blouin
Lois Butler
Robert & Jo Ann Cole
Jim & Michelle Coots
Nancy Doutt
John & Diana Fee
Richard & Verna Freer
John & Lynda Gangeme
Janet Hallahan
Carole Herrlich
Vincent & Candice Hill
Chip Jones
Richard Kurchey
Linda Leibhart
Dan & Pat Nolan
Pat Pinkston & Robert Ranger
Sheilah Prevost
Bill Scheidweiler
Martha & Chuck Tober
Chris & Anne Walters
Uma Yoganathan
Jennifer Zimmermann

Rug & Sara Altmansberger
Richard & Alexandra Berg
Andrea & Dana Bookbinder
Patricia Campbell
Mary Jay Connor
John & Zandra Crowl
Carol Drake
Sandy & Mary Franklin
Richard & Gale Galusha
Parker Grayson
Esther Hauber
Sandy Herron
Cathy & Phil Hubbard
Lizz Jones
Dan & Barb Larson
Joni & Mike Makowiec
Susan Peck
Loretta Preston
Linda Reimer
Carlo & Ashley Scott
Bonnie Tyo
Chris & Abbey Wentzel
Tom & Tracey Yorio

Sharon Arnold
Kris Beykirch
Jane E Brown & Sergey Minko
Barbara Clark
Barbara Cook
Jane Dillon
Jan & Howard Farnsworth
Richard & Linda Franklin
T.J. & Anne Galvin
Richard & Rhonda Grzybowski
Edwin Heagle
Julia Hertl
Marion Ivy
Lee Kent
Sheila Laughlin
Pam & Mike McCarthy
Katherine Perchik
Troy Preston & Kevin Hillman
Bobby Rockwell
Rob Shaw
John & Katherine Van Zanten
Gretchen Wood
Sandy Young

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
Hebrews 13:16

Advent III
Gaudete Sunday
(meaning "rejoice")

A complete rose-colored set of vestments and paraments were blessed on Sunday, December 15, 2024. These liturgical items have been given by Sheilah Prevost in memory of her daughter, Letitia Fisk Gibson. We thank Sheilah for her generosity in making this possible.

The photograph was taken by Alexandra Berg at the beginning of the service.

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