

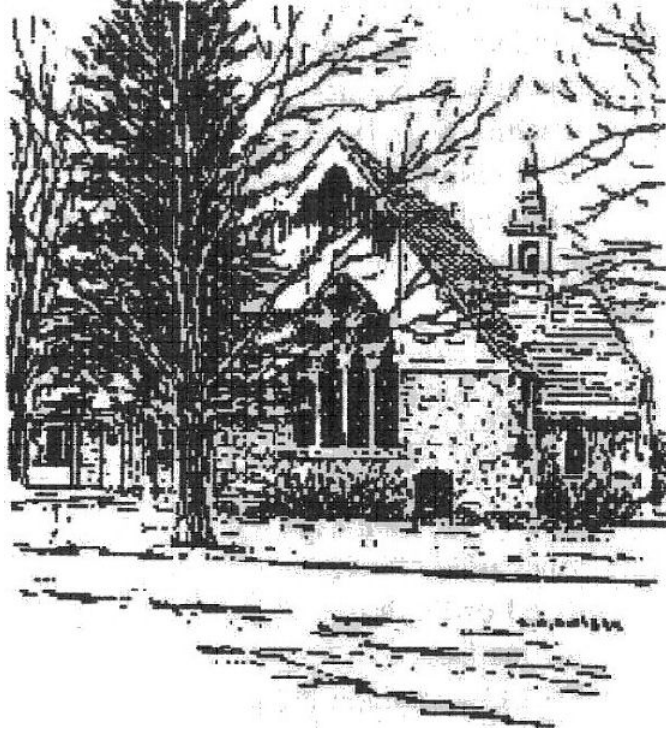
CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

GIDEON'S TRUMPET

Volume 10

December, 2019

Number 11



PASTOR'S PAGE

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I am sitting here in the rectory on a brisk Friday morning contemplating our upcoming seasons within the church. First, we look at Advent. Ideally speaking, this is a season in which we look forward. We look forward to remembering the first coming of Jesus as a humble babe born into poverty with none of the fanfare that the messiah was expected to arrive with. The other looking forward is to that time when creation will be remade new so that heaven and earth become one.

Yes, that can be a heavy process if one spends too much time on it. I don't suggest you do, but perhaps spend a little bit of time.

There is something that is a bit of a problem in our modern world that we really should address. 50 to 60 years ago the Christian faith was in many ways simply a part of culture in the United States. It was normal for “everyone” to go to church on Christmas Eve. In fact, many ways, folks would be looked at oddly if someone did not attend a Christmas Eve service.

Today, that is no longer the same. We are in what many refer to as a postmodern world and that we are in a post church era. In our modern world, the ones who spend their “holidays” in church are now the ones viewed as a certain oddity.

So, what about saying Merry Christmas? In the modern world, cultural competencies are spoken of all over the corporate world. To be culturally competent means to be respectful of other cultures. It does not mean that that we have to necessarily agree with what they believe or practice. It does mean that we may have to at times respectfully disagree with some of their beliefs or practices. This disagreement does not mean that don’t like them as a person or that we could not even share a meal and exchange thoughts or ideas.

As a Christian, my beliefs are that I am celebrating the birth of my Saviour. That is what “Christ’s Mass” or Christmas is about. I don’t mean it as a disrespect to you if you are not a Christian. The same way if a Jewish person were to wish me a Happy Hannakah. I’m not Jewish. I don’t celebrate Hannakah. If they think enough of me to out of their culture wish or give a blessing over me that in terms of Cultural Competence, I would accept that and thank them. The same with someone saying Happy Kwanza or any other midwinter celebration that they may be engaging in.

Okay, so that being said, do I ask of any of us to be “getting into people’s faces” and shouting Merry Christmas? Absolutely **not**. I would ask, though, that you considering wishing others a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays—honoring our own beliefs and showing respect for theirs.

Blessings and peace to all

Father Frank Lockwood

DOLLARS AND SENSE

As I look out on this grey day at the early snow, I wonder at God's timing. I know He has a plan but sometimes I think maybe He is way too early. Looking out today, I think Oh my goodness I've got to get my act together for Christmas. It is not so much shopping as it is putting my schedule together. As most know, I belong to a boating group and in the off-seasons, social events are really planned (in the northeast, boating is only a "summer thing").

So here I am looking out my window by noting the dates and locations of the events. Too many but so far, none on the same day. That's why I travel so much as the area I belong to goes from Canada along the Hudson River to NYC, half-way up Connecticut and of course my own in Pittsfield. Now to get back to Church.

Mary Young has started our Stewardship Campaign and even mailed the time, talent and tithe forms and pledge cards for us to prayerful review. If you didn't get one, I know Mary has some more so let her know – I even have some. I know calculations will begin to form the Church budget. I'm also thinking of things that I can give of my time and any talents I may have so that I can, (using the phrase), "Be a Blessing" to the Church. I think I've already received my return blessing by assisting Debi Gallucci with Sunday School. It is a definite blessing for me! Debi has a wonderful way with her charges. The best part is sitting there and watching the kids who are so creative and nice!

Our Christmas Child boxes were just filled with lots of little things for children all over the world. I'll deliver the boxes soon to the collection point in Pittsfield for shipment. How super it is to have such generous parishioners who donated to this project. Another blessing we have at our Church is that we share with both our community and the world.

At the writing of this, I'm looking forward to my turkey day! Friends and I celebrate with absolutely too much food and laughter as we look back on over 50 years of friendship. We have been forever friends – celebrating the holidays together. A true blessing to me to have friends for so many years.

Now for the weather update, my grandmother used to tell me to watch for the full moon in December since the weather will change after. I don't know if she was right or not, but the moon was just full and the cold seems to have settled in – is the snow coming soon? It will be lovely for the gifts of sleds, skis, and other winter stuff. But I personally would like to do

without the shovels. Remember our Christmas Eve service will be at 7:30 PM. But no matter, with all my heart I wish you all the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of Holidays.

Don't forget to join your parish family for service on Sunday – and then come for coffee or breakfast at Jimmy D's after. We do laugh a lot – and enjoy time with one another.

God's Love and Blessings to All!

Susan Darcy

PRAYER CONCERNS

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
The Right Rev. William Love, Bishop

Daniel Herzog

Rev. Frank Lockwood

Rev. Canon Clinton Dugger

Deacon Randolph Lukas

Deacon Leslie Groneman

Pope Francis

Fr. John

Deacon Peter

Metropolitans of Eastern Orthodox Churches

Bishops of Lutheran Synods

Archbishop of Canterbury

Missionaries

United States Government

President Trump

Governor Cuomo

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Senator Daphne Jordan

Senator Charles Schumer

Congressman Anthony Delgado

Assemblyman Jake Ashby

Supervisor Meg Robertson

PRAYER CONCERNS (Cont'd)

Ann DeVost	Kimberly Harrington
John & Teri Koepp	Richard Jones
Roberta Page	Kristen Thompson
Edgar LaCombe	Melissa
Vince Flanigan	The Rev. Christian Agunwamba
Lois Johnson	Marie
Nathaniel	Michael D.
Pat Ruby	Kyle
Heather Kromer	Bennett
Rose G.	Scott
Katrina	Terry
Janis	Jessi
Angela B.	George Ertel, Jr.
Martin	Peter Guiler
Adrian	Margaret
Rich	Ralph
Joanne Papucci	Courtney
Scott	Al & Jeanne Mayer
Mary Ann H.	Eddie
St. Mark's Church – Philmont	Storm Riders
Michael	Jane & Freida
Janice C.	Sue H.
Cliff Myers	Theresa Hoffman
Jamie	Barkat Curtin-Pollack
Martin	Carol & Beth M.
Karen McKeon	Gail S.
U.S. Military – Evan, KI and families	
Vestries and ministries of Christ Church Cocksackie and Church of Our Saviour	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

14 - John Spoto

COMMUNITY HAPPENING

Community-wide Tree Lighting Program sponsored by the LVPA will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. . Time to share Carols, food, visit from Santa and welcome to the Holiday season.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Stewardship Campaign

Mary hopes you all enjoyed our Stewardship program this year, learning about the stewards of the parish from long ago and the recent past. Maintaining our parish both the physical plant and the purpose of sharing God's love to the valley is a responsibility Jesus calls to all of us. If you have not turned in your Tithe and Talent envelope yet, please do so soon.

Bible Study

Bible Study will be on hiatus from Saturday, November 30, 2019 and will to restart on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.. Our journey through Genesis continues: As I write this we are learning about Jacob's family and the 12 sons and their family squabbles. We might have spent vacation in Egypt, not sure as we are getting into how the tribes of Jewish history were established.

Church of Our Saviour Giving:

Back Pack Program: Money to purchase food for hungry children from NLCS: Just a reminder to submit your gift to the back pack program by the end of the year. Just write back pack program in the memo line of your check.

Shoebox Ministry: The parish has sent off 16 shoe boxes to this ministry sponsored by Billy Graham Ministries which share the love of Christ to children all over the world. Our

boxes contained gifts, hand written cards and a picture of our Sunday School. Debbie Gallucci will be tracking our boxes for us and we can know what part of the world they go to this year.

Needy families: Church of Our Saviour partnered with Christ Church Coxsackie and the Storm Riders to collect donations of food, toys and money for four needy families in Greene County. Many of us joined in the program and if anyone still wishes to donate please give your donation to Father Lockwood by Sunday, December 8th.

Church of Our Saviour is sponsoring Christmas gifts for 15 students from NLCS who may not have a Christmas otherwise. In the back of the sanctuary is a basket filled with holiday ornaments. Choose one or two and purchase something for the student. Each ornament gives the age, sex, size and Christmas wish for the student. Please wrap them and put the ornament on the package. We need them to be return to the church by Sunday, December 15th so that Mary can get them to the school for distribution.

Vestry News

The vestry is beginning to put together the budget for 2020. If you have or see something that needs to be addressed please speak to a Vestry member so we can address it.

We are getting prices as we look for a new stove for the rectory, to fix the lock on the front door of the rectory, Fire proof cabinets to store our important papers, and an audit of our books.

Please review the prayer list that you receive in the bulletin with the first service of the month. Do you see a familiar name, do they still need to be prayed for, if not please let Mary Young know so we can update our list. Mary has reviewed the list for those who will receive the Trumpet, we are removing inactive members from the list.

Nominating Committee: Eugenia Browning and Mary Young will be asking for people who would consider serving as members of the Vestry. We have to open seats and can add a third person to the Vestry if there is an interest. If you are interested and we have not approached you please contact us.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8th at 9:00 a.m..

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter deadline for the January issue will be ***Sunday, December 15th***. If you have any news to share, please send it to Kris Smith at pioneer03@aol.com.

Advent

Advent begins on Sunday December 1st and goes through Sunday, December 22nd. Join us each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. as we prepare our hearts to receive the joy of the birth of our Saviour.

Holiday Services

Greening of the Church: Sunday, December 22nd. Join us after the 8:00 a.m. service to transform our sanctuary into a glorious place to worship as we decorate it for Christmas and start to sing the beautiful carols. After we complete the transformation we are invited to Rich and Rich's for brunch. If you need directions just ask Mary.

Tuesday, December 24th at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service complete with music, lights, candles and action as the parish participates in seeking the birth place of Our Saviour.

Wednesday, December 25th at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day service to be held at CHRIST CHURCH COXSACKIE and at 2:00 p.m. Christmas Dinner at CHRIST CHURCH COXSACKIE

ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 25, 2019

Delivery begins at 1:00 p.m.

Dinner and take out 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Free for everyone.

Contact Jo to RSVP or with questions

(518) 791-3676

70 Mansion St., Coxsackie

Healing Service

To be held on Friday, January 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Plan to come as we come to the Lord to start the New Year as a healed parish and parishioner. Jesus says: to knock and ask and it will be given unto you as is the will of God. Join us as we ask to find God's will for us in 2020.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2020 after the 8:00 a.m. service. Please plan to attend as we vote on vestry members and the budget for 2020. Anyone who needs to submit a report for the Annual Meeting please submit it to Kris by Thursday, January 2, 2020. Thank you!

Deanery News

Please look at the Cathedral Web site for the times and dates of the music programs offered by them.

Look at the Christ The King Web site for special programs held during the holidays.

Christ Church Hudson will be having a Taize service during December, please check the Web site for the day and time.

St. Paul's in Kinderhook will have a healing service on Saturday, December 28th. Please see their Web site for the time.

The next Deanery meeting will be Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. here at Church of Saviour.

Diocese Events

Guided Meditation Through the Poetry of T. S. Eliot

A group meets monthly on Saturday mornings from October, 2019 through May, 2020. A spiritual journey for those seeking growth through poetry, personal written response, and the company of the group.

Handel's Messiah

To be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral.

Lessons and Carols

To be held on Sunday, December 22nd at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1 – Advent begins

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Cookies and Crafts

Saturday, December 7 –

No Bible Study

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Tree Lighting Program at LVPA

Sunday, December 8 –

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Saturday, December 14 –

No Bible Study

Sunday, December 15 – ***Newsletter Deadline -Please send to Kris at***

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

pioneer03@aol.com

Saturday, December 21 –

No Bible Study

Sunday, December 22 -

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

After service Greening of the Church

Tuesday, December 24 – ***Christmas Eve***

7:30 p.m. Service

Wednesday, December 25 – ***Christmas Day***

10:00 a.m. Service at CHRIST CHURCH - COXSACKIE

Saturday, December 28 –

No Bible Study

Sunday, December 29 -

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

COMING UP:

Thursday, January 2 – ***Annual Reports are due to Kris (pioneer03@aol.com)***

Friday, January 3 –

7:00 p.m. Healing Service

Sunday, January 8 –

9:00 a.m. Vestry meeting

Sunday, January 19 –

After 8:00 a.m. service – Annual Meeting

Vestry

Sr. Warden	Elizabeth Sheffer-Winig	(518) 766-6343	(01/2020)
Jr. Warden	Mary Young	(518) 794-7538	(01/2021)
Members:	Tom Stone	(518) 794-7762	(01/2020)
	Richard Dauchy	(518) 794-0210	(01/2021)
	Eugenia Browning	(518) 794-8321	(01/2022)
Clerk:	Eugenia Browning	(518) 794-8321	
Deanery Delegate:	Richard Dauchy		
Diocesan Delegate:	Mary Young		