

**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR-
PO Box 827 Lebanon Springs, NY 12125**

GIDEON'S TRUMPET DECEMBER 2022 VOLUME 14 #6

Covid Update

The Diocese has stated that each Church may establish its own Covid protocols. Our Vestry has voted to return to the full Eucharist. We may now go to the altar for the bread and wine, however, this is optional. If you wish Father Lockwood to come to your pew, please let him know. The “Peace” will still be exchanged from our pews. No hugging for the time being. We will continue to monitor Covid activity in Columbia County and update as necessary.

All Regular Church Services Begin at 8:30 AM

January 8, 2023	8:30 AM	Epiphany Service with Music
January 22, 2023	8:30 AM	Teaching Sunday – in lieu of a sermon, we will meet in Fellowship Hall after service to learn about the liturgy, its development and use.
January 29, 2023	8:30 AM	Annual Meeting – following the 8:30 AM service.
Weds evenings	5:30 PM	Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

Thanks to all who donated altar flowers...The Church looks wonderful!

Money Needed for Sanctuary Repairs:

We plan to paint and repair our Sanctuary in 2023. Please think about donating to our Building Fund. Also, as we all know, the price of fuel oil has increased, so please keep that in mind. Thanks again for all your generosity during 2022. With your help we are continuing to provide worship and fellowship in these difficult times.

Vestry Notes:

Music Update: Earlier in the fall a part of the organ's amplifier blew -- thankfully the breaker worked and there was no fire. Vestry has voted to repair the organ.

Buildings and Grounds: The Vestry has repaired the back porch step of the rectory. In the spring the rectory garage roof will be replaced. The vestry is reviewing the condition of the cellar due to the water which continues to run through it, and we want to be sure there is no mold buildup. Tony Winig continues to help us keep our facilities safe and properly cared for. Thank you Tony!

Bible Study: Bible Study has moved to Wednesday evenings at 5:30. We have grown to 8 participants . We bring food and share a light supper. The study starts about 6pm, and is available on Zoom – links are in the Sunday readings schedule.

Teaching Sunday: January 22, 2023, 8:30am. In lieu of a sermon, parishioners will meet after service in Fellowship Hall to learn about the liturgy, its development and use.

Last November 30th Father spoke to us after service about how the lectionary came to be and how certain readings are chosen. We compared the first Lectionary book used by the church with one we use now, as well as a more recent version. It makes more sense now to see what readings are printed in our bulletins.

Annual Meeting: January 29, 2023 – following the 8:30 AM service.

At the Annual Meeting the parish reviews events of the past year via reports from various committees. It also reviews the budget from 2022 and approves or disapproves the budget for 2023. The priest gives a report of how the parish is doing and the plans for the coming year. This will be a covered dish brunch and all are invited. You must be a member of the parish to vote. There are two Vestry seats open, as well as a Diocesan Convention Delegate and a Deanery Delegate open. Please see Elizabeth Winig if you are interested.

Deanery: Services for the Deanery Parishes and the Cathedral are listed on their websites. The Deanery will host a listening session in February -- details to come. The next Deanery meeting will be in the spring. Date and time to be announced.

Drug Awareness Program: The Vestry sent \$102 to Columbia County Sheriff's office to help teach children about drug awareness and violence prevention.

Trunk or Treat: On October 28th in Shatford Park, New Lebanon residents gathered to provide children with a safe way to celebrate Halloween. Misty decorated Father's truck and parishioners gave out candy. Much fun was had by all. This is a great event for local children...likely close to 200 children attended.

Church Windows: On October 16th we hosted the New Lebanon Historical Society. A history of the Church and our stained glass windows was presented.

Mission Projects:

Christmas Mission:

1. Town of New Lebanon: Parishioners donated money and a check was given to the town of New Lebanon for needy families at Christmas. The town also accepted donations of toys, games, clothes through its website.
2. Christ Church Coxsackie: A check was sent to Christ Church Coxsackie for the two needy families they support at Christmas.
3. NLCS: Gift cards were purchased by parish members for specific children and were distributed to the children on December 11th.
4. Christmas Dinner at Christ Church Coxsackie: Food was donated to Christ Church to supplement the Christmas dinner they provide to their town as part of their outreach mission.

Backpack Program: The church again participated in this program: Children who meet the income guidelines are provided with food to eat over the weekends or holidays when school is not in session. The cost for a year of backpacks is \$228. We generously purchased 6 backpacks this year

Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry: We packed 11 boxes to send to children around the world to celebrate Christmas.

Food Pantry: We continue to collect food for our neighbors who need assistance. A food basket is located in the back of the sanctuary. Eugenia delivers the food twice a month to Charlie's Pantry for distribution.

From the Senior Warden – Elizabeth Sheffer-Winig

As I sit and watch the snow fall I am drawn back to memories of Christmases past. As a teen I remember walking to Christmas Eve service with my parents as the snow fell softly around us. The church was decorated and the music beautiful. As a mother I recall Christmas excitement as my babies thrilled in the lights of the tree and Santa's pending arrival. My parents always hosted Christmas Eve celebrations as my siblings and I married and had children. The cousins played and had fun while my brothers and I reverted to childhood teasing. A tradition emerged of a birthday cake and singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. Then the Christ Child would be laid in the manger of my mother's crèche, which I have and put up every year. In this Christmas time let us remember the birth of our Lord and Savior and sing a Happy Birthday to the Light of the World.
Merry Christmas from Tony and me.

From Father Frank Lockwood

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Christmas is fast approaching. I am now fully one month post marriage. So much happening it is amazing. I have thought much about numerous articles to write. Some about faith and some about social justice and some about any other number of topics. Yet, as I opened my computer my mind went blank about what to write. So, instead, here is a bit of goulash.

Thank you to all for the support with our wedding. It was amazing. So much of my life fitting together in one “room” and yet, no conflicts or struggles. The dancing, the laughter, the joy, all of it combined to make for an amazing night. I truly felt held up and supported by you all. I also know that Misty felt all the love that you have and the support that goes along with it. One of our mutual friends commented about how much she looked like a princess as she came down the aisle.

All goes well with the rectory and combining of the two households. We continue to work on sorting through much of the extras in furnishings and figuring out storage space. The décor is best described as definitively eclectic. Misty, for those who do not know, is an avid collector of Disney products. Mickey and Minnie are set up throughout the house in contrast to icons that I was gifted from past mentors as well as motorcycle gear. Then add to this the Grinch items for the Christmas season and the house becomes even more colorful

The only disturbance in the home is the struggle that Jasmine is going through adjusting to the addition of Misty’s cats. Jasmine has taken to hiding in my upstairs office. She appears to be eating and drinking water and doing some playing on her own but will not come out of the room. I am hopeful that she might return to her playful self sometime soon. Any advice for helping the adjustment would be appreciated.

Now, Misty’s cats on the other hand are absolutely loving the new home. They are more affectionate than they used to be when living in the apartment Misty was living in. They are enjoying running around and playing a lot.

The period from November to January is such a busy time. I sometimes feel so overwhelmed with all that takes place during this time. Couple that with how difficult the holiday season is for me relative to my history and this is not necessarily my best season. So, thank you in advance for your patience with me. In conclusion, I pray that this finds you well and that you have a truly blessed Christmas. May we enter into this new year with renewed joy and hope for what it is that may come next.

In the love of Christ,
Fr Frank

Congratulations to Father Lockwood & Misty Wonderful Wedding November 12 at Church of Our Saviour

The wedding was well attended and all agreed that it was a great celebration!





Prayer in a Time of Transition

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for this, your diocese of Albany. Inspire and sustain us in this time of transition.

Incline our hearts to do your will, and so direct us in your ways that the leader you are raising up to be our Bishop will find here joyful disciples, making disciples, united in faith, unflagging in hope, and steeped in mutual charity.

In your mercy, accept our repentance, and grant us peace; look with patience on our enthusiasms; and pour rich gifts and grace upon all who are entrusted with the ongoing work of your church; so that, with diligence and charity, we may discern correctly and walk righteously in your ways.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

