

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

GIDEON'S TRUMPET NOVEMBER 2024 VOLUME 16 #3

Church Calendar:

Events:

Bible study every Wednesday starting at 5:30 with a meal and study starts 6pm except when there is Vestry meeting

Celebrate All Saints Day 11/3 8:30 am

Trivia night 11/16 sponsored by the Stephentown Library at Fat and Fowl

Vestry meeting 11/20 6pm

Valley Faith Community Thanksgiving service 11/24 4pm Stephentown Federated Church

Thanksgiving service 11/26 7pm St. James in Chatham

11/28 Thanksgiving Day

Advent begins: 12/1

Greening of the church after the service on 12/22 with coffee hour

Longest night service 12/22 4pm Stephentown Federated Church

Christmas Eve service 12/24 3pm at Church of Our Saviour

Christmas day take out meal Christ Church Coxsackie 12/25 1-3pm

Epiphany Service 1/5/25 8:30 am

Vestry News:

Father Lockwood and Mary Young and Tony Winig have met with the Valley Faith Community group and will be meeting monthly to work together to share our love of Christ with each other and the community. Events will be published in each churches newsletter and those will be shared.

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Bitsy will sign us up for a survey being taken by the National Church, each parishioner will each get an email, and she asks we complete the survey and send it back in.

Holiday giving:

Mary will contact the school for names of students in need for Christmas gifts

We will plan on making 12 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse on 11/24 and Mary will deliver them to the collection point.

The School Backpack program for food from the Regional Food bank is \$243 per backpack, this feeds a student from elementary school for the weekends during the school year.

Mary delivered the school supplies we had collected on 9/16, the school thanked us for not forgetting the High School students.

Various sizes of LED light bulbs were placed in the sanctuary and the Vestry reviewed the lighting, we chose 75-watt bulbs for the first two rows and 100-watt for the last row. Thank you to Tony Winig for the purchase and installation of our new lighting.

Richard Mayer showed the Vestry how to operate the computer to do a Zoom service and then send it to You Tube for when he is not here. Instructions are on the computer and were printed off, they will be with the computer.

Thank you to Tony Winig for cleaning out and resetting the prayer garden, Father would like to do services there occasionally, watch for a date in the spring.

Due to increased commitments on Saturdays, no further Saturday morning coffee meeting at Mavericks will be scheduled for the rest of the year.

All Saints Service: We will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday Nov. 3 at 8:30 am, if you are interested in giving a remembrance to someone you love, give Richard the name or names by 10/27 and he will put the names on the service program.

Richard asked if the church would like to sponsor a team for the Trivia night on 11/16 cost \$150. Anyone interested can contact Richard Dauchy.

Thanksgiving Prayer service 11/24 at Stephentown Federated church will include prayers from any church that is there and music by the choir of the Federated church and St. Joseph's church. Contact the Stephentown Federated church if you want to be part of the choir. Nonperishable goods will be collected and distributed between the town's pantries.

Longest night on 12/22 at the Stephentown Federated church will be a prayer service to celebrate the coming of Christmas and the light of Christ, refreshments will be served after the service.

We are changing the time of the Christmas Eve service to 3pm on 12/24 with music and worship. Plan to join us.

Once Christ Church determines what food items, they need for Christmas dinner we will place a box in the back of the church.

Mary and Eugenia will go through the supplies we have for Samaritans Purse and see what is still needed. Cost to mail them is \$10 per box.

Bible study: The Bible Study group has started the Book of Enoch which is part of the Apocrypha. Everyone is welcome either in person or on Zoom.

The Bishop's visit was glorious time, we had a wonderful service, message and time to meet and greet with the Bishop and his wife. Many ideas were discussed, and the Vestry continues to brainstorm about ideas to bring the work of Christ to the town. Do you have idea, please bring it to one of us. We do lots of compassionate ministry, just as Jesus asked of us. Do you have an idea for a justice ministry, see reading from the Forward Day by Day, Tuesday 10/15.

Vince Teachout will be doing some courses on the security of the internet, including email communication. Details below

From Vince Teachout- Computer Security Classes

After having given 5 workshops on security (and 3 more scheduled, see below) I have come to the conclusion that I do not need to borrow the church facilities and equipment to offer/film classes. Turns out I'm mostly screen sharing, and for that my own laptop and zoom account are working great. HOWEVER:

1. If you all would LIKE an on-site live class(es), with or without a Zoom component, and you think people will show up, I'd be over-the-moon thrilled to offer them. Let me know.
2. Anyone from the church is very welcome to join any of the remaining scheduled zoom workshops (Installing secure messaging, email, and browsers). No RSVP needed, just show up on time. Feel free to share the link with anyone you think needs it, and if you want to attend, but these don't work for you, let me know, and we'll either schedule another workshop, or I'll work with you (free) one-on-one. Thanks!

Remaining pre-scheduled workshops:

Zoom Schedule for the remainder of the week. Let me know if you want these tools but can't make any of the zooms.

Time: Fri, Nov 01, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Time: Sat, Nov 02, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Time: Sun, Nov 03, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Link information for all the above workshops:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81517331967?pwd=yvmnFiDEOjRSaGjbgS1KILwDCNw8fv.1>

Meeting ID: 815 1733 1967

Passcode: TurnTide

If needed, additional 1:00pm workshops will be scheduled for Sat., Sun (Nov 2, 3). Format is a short overview at beginning, but mostly a workshop on how to locate and install secure communications software.

Programs:

Charlies Pantry: Our members give nonperishable food items and household supplies as well as support the fuel fund. A food basket for donations is located in the back of the sanctuary. Eugenia delivers the food twice a month to Charlie's Pantry for distribution. This Pantry is open to the community in need on Saturdays.

From the Senior Warden

We have all had our journeys of faith. Maybe we started at a young age with going to Sunday School and sitting with your parents and grandmother in church. Maybe we had little to do with faith until some life-altering event changed our perceptions of what faith means. I think we all have moments or days or months of wondering why we have faith. I have gone through all of those phases. Raised a Methodist, I attended Sunday School where my beloved grandmother Mimi was the head teacher. I sat with her and my parents in church on the Sundays I wasn't in the Junior Choir. As a teen I was elevated to the Senior Choir and spent my junior and senior high school days among the leaders of the church. I drifted away from faith in college and as a

young, married woman until one of my babies had a seizure and was hospitalized for a week. I turned back to my faith to help me and give me strength through that terrible time. I stayed on the path of faith, but I kept searching for a home. The church of my youth was too far away. The church in Brainard was my respite until it wasn't. I attended St. Stephens in Pittsfield, which was good. But then I found my home at Church of Our Saviour at a time when I and my children were going through a time of chaos and hurt.

My faith remained strong through the years of my children growing up. Priests came and priests left. But priests do not define your faith. What is in your heart, your head, your soul is YOUR faith, YOUR belief. In January 2019 as I laid in the ICU bed with machines beeping and booping around me, my faith was confirmed. I had survived a horrific accident. Tony had survived the accident. God was present in my hurt and fear and sent reassurances of my healing through my dreams and through the hymns I sang in my head and heart. Jesus never left me.

Bishop Williamson's closing line in his sermon was, Jesus never leaves you. This is truth. This is faith. My faith is assured. How is your faith?

From Father Frank Lockwood:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Happy autumn to you!

Recently I spoke during a sermon that I would like to teach on the topic of arrogance versus confidence. Why would I need to teach on this? Well, for Christian's it would be so much better for us to be confident in our faith rather than any arrogance.

Jesus asked Peter, "But who do you say I am?" Peter responded with "The Messiah". Jesus then says that ".....on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." By this, some have interpreted it to mean that Peter is the "rock", yet, I would disagree.

What I see is this as Jesus referring to the profession of himself as Messiah as the "rock" and that professing such should mean that the gates of hell could not prevail against this profession. So, why then do we as Christians panic about other people's beliefs? If I, as a believer, trust that Jesus is the son of God and that he cannot lie, then should I not trust that "hell" has no power against such faith?

To be clear, though, such faith is meant to be humbling and not loaded with disdain or arrogance or whatever else. The point is that I am able to interact with others who may believe very differently than I without fear and thus without having to constantly argue with them to prove I am right.

I was not always like this. Truth is, when I was younger I was desperate to be right so that all the “nay sayers” would get theirs and have to apologize. One event that began to change this for me was when I quit smoking cigarettes. All my friends smoked them while I decided to quit. A few asked me about not smoking around them and this led to a revelation. It isn’t about you or your actions, it’s about me and my commitment to no longer engage in the practice. This was so freeing and terrifying at the same time. It meant I was not able to rely on excuses to go back to smoking. It meant I had to own my actions associated with quitting and for better or worse own the results. The freeing portion came as I discovered that my quitting without modifying my environment meant that such typical excuses for going back to smoking no longer existed. I get it. Not everyone is able to start out that way. Some people have to modify their environment in order to initiate and sustain change. Paul talks of this using the example of eating meat and how it might lead to those who are newer in the faith to fall away because of the way in which they viewed the practice. “All things are lawful but all are not profitable” 1 Corinthians 10:23.

To give another example, when working as an addictions counselor, one person on my caseload identified as a Satanist. To be fair, he was not the movie version sacrificing virgins and the like, but a follower of the modern version in which personal pleasure takes priority. He understood that this was not my faith. We began talking about spirituality and I emphasized that we are not going to discuss religion but merely having a spirituality that would promote sobriety and healthier choices in his life. I felt no fear or anxiety or intimidation as we spoke. I knew what he believed. He knew what I believed. In the end, his choices are his own just as mine are my own. One final example I will offer up is about a pastor who ministered in Salem, Massachusetts. Guy Miller and his wife Tana began working in Salem in 2011. They ministered there for 10 years before being called to other work. They report never being afraid and using faith to openly listen to others’ stories and be there for them.

So, as we move forward, I pray that your faith be strengthened to the point that in God’s perfect love, all fear is cast out and that we can be available to sit with whomever God puts in our path.

In the love of Christ,
Fr Frank



Trunk or Treat...October 25- Thanks to Misty for Wonderful Decorations
We gave out candy to 250 kids.....WOW

Discussions after Church with Bishop and his wife



Mary and Bitsy with Bishop Williamson

