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Ballston Spa NY YouTube

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**December 24 (Sunday)**

**Advent 4 (One service in morning)**

**9:00am Service and Children's Christmas  
Pageant**

**Christmas Eve Services**

**4:30PM      8:00PM      11:00PM**

**Christmas Day Service   December 25 at 9am (Monday )**



**CHRIST CHURCH**

November/December 2023

Dear Friends,

The Forward Day by Day had a study a few months ago about a father who went to his Rabbi asking for help for his son. "What can I do about my son? He ignores the Jewish ways. He does not eat kosher. He is dating a gentile. He no longer observes the Sabbath. I must bring him back. What can I do?" The Rabbi looked at the man and said, "Love him more than ever."

We so easily focus on the wrong we see in others. Such judgment rarely produces health. The way of Jesus, is to love them more than ever. As we approach the Christmas season, is that what the message of Christmas is about? Despite our own failings and wayward ways, God loved us so much that He came amongst us. A gift of grace. Unconditional love given even when it's not in our mind, deserved. We need to accept that gift and then in return, share that gift of grace with others. Struggling with someone? Love him more than ever.

In His Name

*Father Derik Roy*

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
15 West High Street  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020



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Calendar

NOVEMBER 9,10,11 - NOAH’S ATTIC CHRISTMAS SALE  
9:30AM-4:00PM

NOVEMBER 19 -DELIVER ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING  
BAGS TO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

November 23 - THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE 10:00AM



Take an hour of this Thanksgiving holiday to give thanks to the one who blesses us with all we have.

DECEMBER 1 - DOK 1:30PM to  
prepare the Christmas gifts for the shut ins and residents of Good Shepherd

DECEMBER 3 - BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

DECEMBER 10 - FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

DECEMBER 10 & 11- LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 13 MISSIONS TOY GIVEAWAY

DECEMBER 17 - DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

DECEMBER 24 - SUNDAY -9:00AM CHILDREN’S  
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Greening of the Church -following our 9:00am worship, we will join the Altar Guild in decorating the church for Christmas.

December 24 Sunday- Christmas Eve Services  
4:30PM 8:00PM 11:00PM

December 25 at 9am Christmas Day Service

Ongoing

Sunday Worship - 8:00AM & 10:00AM  
The 10:00AM service is available on our YouTube Station.

Wednesday Mornings - Holy Eucharist 9:15am

Wednesday Mornings - Study Group 10:00am in Fireside Room

Wednesday Evenings - Men’s Zoom Bible Study 7:00pm - Come join our Wednesday evening men’s zoom Bible Study led by Deacon Bill Pearson. Each Wednesday the upcoming Gospel reading for Sunday is discussed. If interested, contact the church office at 518-885-1031 and leave your email information so that Deacon Bill can send you an email zoom invitation.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Bag

Organized by First Presbyterian Church  
22 West High St., Ballston Spa  
518-885-5583, ballstonpres@gmail.com  
www.ballstonpresby.org


Thank you for volunteering to provide a basic Thanksgiving meal for a family in our community! Below is the list of items to include in the bag. If providing a gift card, please put it in an envelope inside the bag.

- 1 \$10 gift card to a local grocery store
- 2 bags/boxes of seasoned stuffing mix
- 2 boxes /bags of instant mashed potatoes
- 2-3 cans of gravy (no glass please)
- 3-4 cans of vegetables
- 1 can cranberry sauce (jelly or whole)
- 1 boxed dessert mix

Please deliver your completed bag(s) and gift card to First Presbyterian Church on Sunday \*November 19\* between the hours of 11:30 am – 2:00 pm.



Noah’s Attic Annual  
Christmas Sale  
Thursday-Friday-Saturday  
November 9-10-11  
9:30am ~ 4:00pm



It has been busy at KidsFirst. Our enrollment has increased by 15 children since July. We are working hard to fill our classrooms.

Our Trunk or Treat was a great success. Thank you to our families and employees who helped make the day special.

We have started collecting food items for Thanksgiving for our November Mission. In December our mission collection will be toys for the toy give-away.

Watch for the KidsFirst Float in the Ballston Spa Holiday parade. We would love for your help in decorating the float the weekend after Thanksgiving.



November Birthdays

- 1 Sheri Popkoski  
Chris Lehmann
- 2 Luke Demling  
Brandon Ruiz
- 3 Michelle Mattice
- 4 Marcus Vary
- 5 Jan Bornheim  
Aaron Bogue  
Alexandria Aquirre  
Allison Ott
- 6 Suzanne Newton  
Wendy Schmidt
- 7 Justin Miner
- 8 Christine Martin
- 10 Taylor Russell
- 12 Donna Lanning  
Zachary Greenspan
- 15 Kristin McCabe
- 17 Joseph Koster
- 18 Abigail Doud
- 19 Theresa Polson
- 21 Dawn Davis Marks  
Don Rohr
- 23 Lynne Crimi  
Dorothy Quick  
Donna Christensen
- 24 Donna Travis  
Jeff Smith
- 27 Melayna Robinson
- 28 Joe King  
Christine Osgood

December Birthdays

- 2 Ethan Dumovitz
- 3 Barbara Wood
- 4 Cheryl Bloomer
- 5 Joyce Reed  
Daniel D’Amico
- 6 Katie Barno
- 9 Aiden Campbell
- 10 Jeanne Speer  
Paula Ruiz  
Mark Skanes
- 11 Garry Campbell  
Amelia D’Amico
- 12 Molly Favour  
Lori Peer  
Jake Baker
- 14 Lily Livingston
- 16 Tim Russell
- 17 Mariella D’Amico  
Charlotte Skanes
- 19 Kaleigh Lanning  
Pete Champagne
- 20 Dominic Garrant
- 21 Kaleigh Izzo
- 22 Elizabeth Byrnes  
Oliver McCabe
- 23 Donna Sausville
- 24 Hannah Cook
- 29 Sarah Thomas  
Susan Olszewski
- 30 Margaret Cook
- 31 Adam Bonanno  
Elaine Iannon  
Amy Aguda-Tanah

Anniversaries

November

- 4 Ryan and Molly Favour
- 15 Rachel and Chris Montalbaro
- 18 Ryan and Elizabeth Odasz
- 20 Alan and Carla Greenspan
- 23 Al and Peg Moser
- 29 Chip and Sue Ann Dubois
- 30 Donna and Richard Duffy

December

- 18 Mike and Desiree Drindak
- 23 Sheri & Ted Popkoski
- 27 Curtis & Joanne Niemeyer

Keep in your Prayers

Erin, Tim, Gary, Bert, Barbara, Deacon Bill, Noel, Curtis, Carla, Brodyn, Dorothy, Terry, John, Ann, Joshua, Jayne, Owen, Jason, Ted, Deacon Gil, Ron



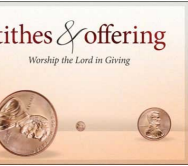
2024 Giving Envelopes

This year the envelopes will be renumbered.

If you have had your envelope number forever and wish to keep it, PLEASE, let Jeanne Speer know as soon as possible. Otherwise, next year you will have a new number.

If you no longer wish to have envelopes because you give online or through your bank, please let me know. If you give through your bank, I will give you a new number to have the bank use as your account number.

If you are new to the church and wish to have envelopes, please let me know. You can put a note on collection plate, call the office at 518-885-1031 ext 100, or email jspeercec@msn.com. Be aware that we will not be mailing the envelopes out due to the cost. They will be in the Welcome Center in December and January for you to pick up.



Financial Giving

Offering envelopes will be available in the Welcome Center in December and January. If you are new to the church and do not have envelopes please email Jeanne (jspeercec@msn.com) in the office with your name, address and phone number and envelopes will be provided for you.

How to make financial contributions to the church.

There are a number of ways you can do this:

Check – Send your check to:

Christ Episcopal Church ,15 West High St  
Ballston Spa, New York 12020

Use your Giving Envelopes and place your contribution on the plate on Sunday.

Bill Payment – Set up a Bill Payment through your bank using the above address as the vendor. It would also be helpful if you include your envelope number. ( I will give you a new number to use) This option should be free for the donor and allows us to identify where the contribution comes from.

Give on-line. Please find the give online app at the top of the webpage. Click on that app and there are directions to tell you how to give online. Please note that a small percentage of your giving goes to pay the online fee.

We offer special prayers and officially welcome our new members:

Pete Champagne, Robert David, Sara Nicholas, Kate VanBuren, David Webb and Carol Wilkerson

Bishop Update

We have a new Bishop. Bishop Elect Jeremiah Williamson and his family will be joining our Diocesan family January 1 and his consecration as Bishop will take place February 24.

Bishop-Elect Jeremiah has written to say:

Friends,

This morning, I woke up to wonderful news: the required majority of bishops and standing committees with jurisdiction have consented to my election as your bishop! The Episcopal Church recognizes what we have known: God has called us together — for a purpose, for a mission, for a holy future.

Each new step (and this was an important one) has me buzzing with excitement. I am ready to discover what God has in store for us. I believe that the Giver of all good gifts is ready to bless us richly. February 24 is the date of the consecration. I know it will be a Spirit-filled event that will propel us into our next chapter. I look forward to celebrating us, the “us” that God has willed and the Church has affirmed.

Quilting Ministry

SEWers NEEDED!!! The quilting ministry is busy all throughout the year and we need additional men or women who are willing to help make quilts. You do not need to have experience with quilting but a basic ability to operate a sewing machine is helpful. All materials, thread and batting are provided. We support each other with making quilts and are happy to help new members learn the process. If interested, we meet the third Saturday of each month from 10:00-12:00 in the church hall. Our next meeting will be Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

Wednesday 10:00am Study Group

Our December Studies will be:

December 6 - The Shepherd  
- Dallas Holmes of the Chosen

December 13 - The Messenger  
- Dallas Holmes of the Chosen

December 20 -Why Christmas - Nicki Gumbel

Blessing of Animals

Sunday, December 3 at noon

Traditionally the blessing of animals takes place around the celebration of St. Francis of Assisi in early October. We missed that time; however, it is never too late to bless our pets and give thanks for the joy they bring us. Following our 10:00am service at noon, we invite you to bring your beloved pet(s) to our parish hall for a simple service of The Blessing of Animals. Invite friends and fellow animal lovers.

Christ the King - Inspired Leadership Conference

December 9 - 9:00am-4:00pm

A day of in-person workshops to help equip both lay and clergy leaders. Watch for more information.

Friendship Sunday - December 10

A special Sunday to invite an unchurched friend to join us for worship at either our 8:00am or 10:00am worship service. On that Sunday we will work extra hard at welcoming visitors, and showing as best we can that we are indeed: A loving community seeking to know Jesus Christ and make Him known.

You will be hearing more about this in the weeks to come. We pray you will begin now to pray about someone you would like to invite. Your invitation may in fact be the bridge that brings them to God and a changed life.

Christ Church Lessons and Carols

December 10 at 4:00pm and Monday , December 11 at 7:30pm



We will be celebrating its 30th year! Amazing! Inspired by an Anglican tradition created in England in 1880. We

have a unique approach focusing on carols from Celtic, African, American or Shape-Note traditions. Our musicians play a wide range of acoustic instruments to accompany vocal soloists and ensembles. The event is anchored by parishioners, John Kirk and Trish Miller. Other church members participating are: our music director, Kristin McCabe, Claudia Roberts-McCabe and Theresa LaGattuta-Bruno, along with other guests. This year we hope to invite many past guests as we celebrate our 30th year.

Sunday, December 17 - Deadline for Christmas Flowers

We will have beautiful flowers to ornament our sanctuary during the Christmas season. You may make a donation for Christmas flowers and designate your gift in memory of or in thanksgiving for someone. The Christmas flower donation envelopes will be in the Welcome Center or you may mail your donation and information to the church office:



Christ Church  
15 West High Street  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Christmas Eve and Christmas

This year the fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. Thus in the morning we will be holding one service at 9:00am. At this service, our yearly Children’s Christmas Pageant will be held.

The Greening of the Church will take place following the 9:00am service and pageant.

Our Christmas Eve services will be- 4:30, 8:00 and 11:00pm. Christmas Day service will be at 9:00am.

## **Christmas Pageant**



We will soon begin rehearsing for our Christmas Pageant during Sunday School. This year our pageant will be held in person on Sunday, December 24th at 9 a.m. If your child would like to be involved and does not currently attend Sunday School (held during our 10:00 service), please reach out and we will let you know how your child can participate! Email Kristin McCabe at [McCabePianoStudio@gmail.com](mailto:McCabePianoStudio@gmail.com) with any questions!



## **Choir**

Our 10:00 service choir rehearses weekly at 6:30 pm on Sunday Evenings in the sanctuary. Anyone who likes to sing is welcome to join us!

Our 8:00 service choir will begin rehearsing after church on Sunday, November 12.

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School is off to a great start! Our youngest crew (PreK-Grade 4) continues to meet during the 10am service for a lesson and small activity. Please join us anytime!

Our Middle Kids (Grade 5 - 7) are enjoying the new quirky videos and projects with the Connect curriculum. Our class meets at 9am on Sundays and new students are welcome anytime!

Finally, our Teen Sunday School is studying Joseph and forgiveness. They are about halfway through the study. Attendance varies because of family schedules but each lesson is self contained. Students are always welcome and can drop in anytime. Come join us on a Sunday at 9:00ish!

We are looking forward to 2024 and wishing everyone a most blessed holiday season.

## **Missions for November**

During the month of November we will be collecting for the Charlton School for Girls. On Sunday, November 19, we will welcome Matt Shaughnessy from Charlton School for Girls to explain the mission of the school.

## **Missions for December**

### **Toy Give Away - December 13 & 14**

December Mission offering will be dedicated to our annual Toy Give Away. This year we, along with support from Toys for Tots and our local community, will once again distribute toys to those families struggling financially. If you would like to help, these are the ways:

Contribute money via mail, offering plate or online giving (under Missions) with your gift clearly designated for the Toy Give Away.

Bring toys to the church

Volunteer your time to help the day of the distribution.

Order on Amazon at this link: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/3UWsnjJ?ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_un\\_un\\_pnHlvkq5A1yne](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/3UWsnjJ?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_pnHlvkq5A1yne)



### **Food Pantry Update**

We have had a busy fall in the Food Pantry. As a result of becoming a Food Pantries member, we now are receiving deliveries from the

Regional Food Bank on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We typically receive 3000 pounds of food each time! In addition, Capital Roots and other organizations also donate to the Food Pantries so we have been receiving diapers, baby food, and all kinds of fresh produce twice a month as well.

We are also using software now to keep track of our clients. This digitalization will help us keep more accurate records and help us to more easily get data needed to apply for grants.

Once again in December the Hannaford in town will be donating money to the food pantry for every reusable bag sold. So if you need them - please buy at Hannaford at 3 Via Rossi Way in Ballston Spa.

We are always looking for volunteers. We especially need people to unload the truck on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cathy Roy at [cathyroy2007@gmail.com](mailto:cathyroy2007@gmail.com)

## **Altar Guild**

Have you ever sat in church and looked around and wondered, What do all the different colors during the church year mean? What are all those elements on our Altar and credence table each service represent ? What do they all mean, and who places them there?

As many of you know, and for those new members of Christ Church, our Altar Guild plays a very important part in the everyday happenings at all our services. The weekly and sometimes daily set ups for our various services is taken care of by 4 teams of Altar Guild members. The dressing of the Altar, having the various items in place for Holy Eucharist, the changing of the liturgical colors according to the season, other occasions that arise in our church daily or weekly are just a small part of the teams' work.

Most of our work is done in the Sacristy, and carried out to various areas of the church. This is also where all the items and supplies are stored that we use on a weekly basis. It is also the room where Fr. Roy and our Deacons, and other members who serve on our Altar, vest.

Being part of Altar Guild, serving on a team, is not only a tremendous help to our Clergy and Staff in general, but a very uplifting personal spiritual connection between oneself and our "God".

We invite you, encourage each of you, new and long time members, to join one of our teams. I am reaching out to all of you. If you feel you would like to know more about how our Altar Guild works, become a member or just a substitute, WE NEED YOU. We have a great group (women and men) on our teams, willing to work with and help train you.

If you are interested and would like to learn more about being an Altar Guild member, please feel free to contact me, or speak to me in church. I would be more than happy to guide you around, explain any questions or concerns you may have.

Thanking you for your consideration,  
Barb Wood, Altar Guild Director  
518-309-3208 or 518-791-8045



As the new church year unfolds, the Daughters of the King are behind the scenes praying for our clergy and

parish family, as well as the ministries of Christ Episcopal Church. Prayer is our main focus and over the years we have prayed for countless parishioners and their families as they have endured illnesses and losses or celebrated happy events. We also perform service throughout the church year in a variety of ways. Our members individually participate in various ministries within the parish, and we also serve as a chapter. Last year our chapter service activities included providing cards and small gifts at Christmastime for parishioners who are no longer able to attend services, helping with funeral receptions, tidying up the church burial plot at the Ballston Spa cemetery, participating in prayer walks and spearheading the Lenten Devotional booklet. This year, we plan to continue serving in these ways, and we also helped with making Anglican prayer beads for parishioners. In addition to prayer and service, we meet for devotional time and are blessed by sharing our faith walk with one another.

In May 2024, we will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reinstitution of the St. Agnes Chapter of the Daughters of the King at Christ Episcopal Church. Of the 10 members admitted to the Order in May 2004, 6 are still active members (Dc. Lynne Crimi, Julia Duchesne, Christine Martin, Elaine Pearson, Andrea Breslin, and Tammy Boyd). Over time, we have admitted new members, have had to say 'goodbye' to others and currently have 16 women on our roster. We welcome all women of the parish. If you are interested in learning more about DOK, and how to become members of the Order, contact Dc. Lynne Crimi or Tammy Boyd ([totallytb17@gmail.com](mailto:totallytb17@gmail.com)) for information. We would love for you to join with us as we move forward into the next 20 years!

## **Parish Prayer Walk - All Are Welcome!**

January 6

Please join us as we pray for our parish properties and ministries. We will gather in the Parish Hall and move through the various ministry spaces inside and throughout the properties.