



**Christ Memorial Church**

**December 2020**

## *Main Spring*

**From The Rev. Jane A. Beebe**

When I was a chaplain intern at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, for some reason I seemed to be called into more “code blue” situations than any of the other students. I even wrote a poem about code blue that begins:

***Is it the blue of the night sky an endless altar cloth for stars?***

I just spent time with a family keeping vigil in a hospital room. At about dawn I noticed light coming in the window that illuminated the blue nose jewel on a young woman’s face. Though the night was long, the morning brought good news for the family. I thought of other overnight vigils: the Holy Family after Jesus was born, the blue of Mary’s robe.

Blue is such a lovely color in whatever manifestation it is used: French blue, cornflower blue, sky blue, navy blue, sea blue. This time of year the sky often becomes a deep blue after the sun sets and when the stars begin to appear. Sarum blue is one of the options for the liturgical color at Advent. It seems to evoke the color of the night sky. Advent is the short season when we light candles, one more each Sunday, until we finally light a white candle for the Christ child. Nature does us one better with the Geminid meteor shower, and this year the Christmas star! Saturn and Jupiter will overlap on December 21, and will look like a particularly bright star.

The darkness of deep blue somehow seems less harsh, a beautiful backdrop for the Light that is to appear.

***“The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)***

## Greetings from the Senior Warden/Sunday

### UTO

We have little blue boxes and envelopes on hand for your daily

Thanksgiving.

If anyone would like one, please let me know. For myself, I find if I have the little blue box on my desk, it reminds me each day to say Thank You and drop a coin inside. Amazing how those coins add up and a year.

*Sandi Nurek*

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### EPISCOPAL CALENDARS AND FORWARD DAY BY DAY

I still have a few Episcopal calendars for 2021 left and also November, December and January Forward Day by Day booklets – both large and small. Please let me know if you would like any of these. I can mail them to you if that's the easiest.

*Sandi Nurek*

With everything going on today with covid, and the new regulations. I have noticed something missing when I have to go out and do things. We are constantly being bombarded with what to do, wear your mask, wash your hands, don't touch anything, use hand sanitizer, all to keep us safe.

There are other things as well. Stay home if possible, don't gather in large groups, no singing near other people. (That's a tough one on a school bus). Usually at this time of the year I play the Chipmunks Christmas CD for the kids. (I have been told no Christian Christmas music, so the chipmunks it is)

This year on the bus is very different from all the other years. The children don't talk like they used to. I went from an almost full bus to less than 20 children per route. There is no music this year because they might sing along and its not allowed, they aren't far enough apart for singing.

I have also noticed when I go to stores people don't talk like they used to, there are no festive greetings, what used to be normal behavior is absent as well. Everyone just going about their business as quickly as possible to get done and go home.

In the Bible, many times we read about what happens when people turn away from God. Sickness, disease, plagues, a lot of bad things. I have also noticed out in the world nobody mentions God anymore.

Has God been forgotten? Are we so wrapped up in safety procedures that we have turned away from God? We need to trust God now more than ever! God can help us all through times of trouble. All we have to do is trust Him along with all the safety procedures, and we will all come through this.

As we prepare for the birth of our savior, remember this is a time for celebration, (even if it is on ZOOM). Jesus is the reason for the season! Let's not forget that.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*Cheryl Vosburg*

## Altar Guild

This year has been a challenging one, to say the least. Although we have not been able to attend Church services physically, we have continued to change the colors and keep the Sanctuary Candle constantly lit. With Rev Jane's help, she has still been able to bring us together as a group each Sunday and we are eternally grateful. We have already entered the Advent season and soon the Christmas season. Our colors are now a beautiful purple. (My Aunt Violet's favorite color, bless her soul). Before we know it, we will be changing the colors to white for Christmas Eve, with red bows in the windows and red bows on the outside wreaths and setting up the creche.

I would like to put up a few poinsettias and try to get pictures. Although, I will only be getting a few this year (not 16 as in the past), if you wish to remember a loved one with a small donation towards the poinsettias, please let me know. These can be mailed to the Church address at P.O. Box 43. Any donation, no matter the amount, is gratefully appreciated. Please be sure to include the name of your loved one so we can update our list, which will be included in the bulletin (or anonymous if you wish). Any money received above and beyond the cost of the Poinsettias will be used to cover future Altar Guild purchases of candles, wafers, wine, Altar flowers etc.

With God's blessing, next year will prove to be a happier, healthier year for all of us.

God bless you all.

*Sandi Nurek*

Directress in progress



**Christmas Basket Preparation**  
For more pictures, go to  
[christmemorialnbm.com](http://christmemorialnbm.com)

## A PRAYER WHEN LIFE IS DIFFICULT:

### READING FROM PSALM 118: 1,14,17, AND 19

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His steadfast love endures forever!...

The Lord is my strength and my might; He has become my salvation...

I shall not die, but i shall live, And recount the deeds of the Lord...

Open to me the gates of righteousness, That I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

Prayer: What does the future hold, Lord? What will become of me? Why do I find more questions than answers? Where are you, Lord? Do you care? Send me your Spirit/ Give me confidence in your great promises and unwavering hope in your lavish mercy. Let me into the future where you are. Grant me a living faith and, by the strength of your arm, lighten my load. Cheer my heart, sustain me by your mighty power, and lead me in the paths of your own choosing.  
Amen!

I was reading an article in a CareMail from [stphenministries.org](http://stphenministries.org). I was feeling kind of low and this helped me feel much better. When we ask questions of God we must do it slowly and with meaning. He is with us and hears us. These types of things help me through my darkest days and nights. Give it a try and see how God loves us ALL right where we are in life.

Have a Merry Christmas to everyone.  
With love, Mary Martin

### An eye witness account from New York City, on a cold day in December, some years ago:

A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!'

'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks.. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes.

She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him.. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now.'

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her.

**'Are you God's wife?'**





For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing...

We will be together soon. Stay healthy!

MERRY CHRISMAS!

### PLEDGE LETTERS

The pledge letters and pledge cards have been either hand delivered or mailed out. After reading the letter, please let me know if you have any questions.

The pledge envelopes have already been received. Anyone wanting their envelopes, please let me know. We can arrange a way to get them to you. Or we can hold them until we are back in Church.

Thank you to all for your faithful giving.

Sandi Nurek

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawls and other knitted/crocheted items are available to pass along to bring joy, hope and as an expression of letting others know we care. There is an appropriate note to accompany each item.

Here is the current inventory L-R and measured in inches.

- ◆ Afghans (2). Approx 70" long by 44 wide
- ◆ Prayer Shawl variegated. 66L / 26W
- ◆ Brown Shawl 44L / 30w
- ◆ Lap Robe blue/ brown 40x40
- ◆ Prayer cloths Small. 4x5 \* (there are several of these in various colors)
- ◆ Prayer cloths Largest. 9x10 \*

\*Prayer cloths have a cross design knitted in

If interested call

Ginny Grenier

508 867-2296 Or

774-230-3360

with questions.



## CHRISTMAS EVE

There will be one service on Zoom at 4:30 p.m. on December 24. Eric Ingram will be playing Christmas carols on the guitar before the service proper begins.

Please let Eric know your favorite carols!

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Sunday, January 24, 2021—Annual Meeting of the Church**

*Christ Memorial Church  
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*508-867-2789*

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