



CHRIST CHURCH

# The Messenger

PO Box 1246 • 320 Pollock Street • New Bern, NC

[www.christchurchnewbern.com](http://www.christchurchnewbern.com)

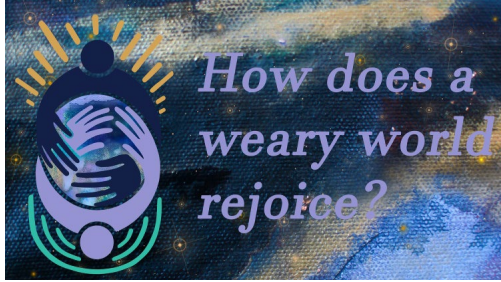
December 15, 2024

252.633.2109



## The Longest Night: A Worship Service for the Weary

Grief, loneliness, and longing are emotions many of us experience daily, sometimes for years, sometimes for a season. We carry these burdens, often quietly, without really talking about them.



At this time of year, it can seem as though we are the only ones without an easy smile and endless good cheer. Holidays alone, or without those we've lost, make us want to retreat from community. Christ teaches us that together we are stronger. Join us on Thursday, December 19th at 5:30 pm in the chapel for Eucharist and a worship service focused on The Longest Night.

Although the season of Advent is joyful for so many, we also know that the holiday season can be drenched in fatigue, grief, and loneliness for many of us. Let us gather together as a community to draw near to God and to allow space for healing and prayer. We are stronger together.

## Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant (3pm on Dec. 24th) is a "Come As You Are" event. Children -- birth through 5th grade -- are invited to dress up as whatever they would like. Everyone is welcome! (That includes costumes of any kind, except no masks/weapons).

We do have some additional costumes for anyone to borrow. If you have grandkids, nieces, nephews or other family who will be at church, we will give them a role. If you would like a speaking or more active role please contact Hannah ([hannahhutchens@christchurch-newbern.com](mailto:hannahhutchens@christchurch-newbern.com)), and let her know! As always, any questions please feel free to ask!

## Year-End Business With the Church Office

For 2024 financial purposes, the final date to submit any checks or cash with the church office is December 20. Online transactions must be completed by December 27, as they take a few business days to post. We appreciate your cooperation.

## Advent Lessons and Carols

Join Us for

# 2024 Advent Lessons & Carols

At Christ Episcopal Church



Wednesday, December 18, 2024

7:00 pm

320 Pollock Street in Downtown New Bern

## Greening of the Church

9 am - 12 noon

Saturday, December 21

Come help us beautify the interior of Christ Church for the Christmas season. Please drop in any time. All ages welcome.

[simswayt@embarqmail.com](mailto:simswayt@embarqmail.com)

# Performances by our Children's Choirs

**Cherub Choir** will perform at the 8:30 am service today, December 15th, and on Christmas Eve at the 3:00 service. They are preparing two songs to sing: *Michael Row Your Boat Ashore* and *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. Rehearsals are Sundays at 9:45 am in the Sunday school room.

**Ukulele Club** will also perform today at the 8:30 am service and on Christmas Eve at the 3:00 service. They are preparing two songs to play with the Cherub Choir, as well as Christmas-themed songs on TAB (tablature). Final rehearsal is Wednesday, December 18 in the Music Room.

**Choristers** will perform at today's 11 am service. They will wear robes and perform choral works with the piano.

## Christ Church Young Adult / Families Outing

The Christ Church Young Adult/Young Families group is planning a movie outing! Join us at the Bear Town Cinema on the afternoon of Sunday, December 22nd. We will be seeing *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. All are welcome. More details coming soon, but we know this season is busy so put this exciting adventure on your calendar today and plan to join us on the 22nd.

## Foyers Christmas Gathering

We are all invited to the home of Nancy and Joe Russo to spread some Christmas cheer and enjoy the holiday decorations.

**DATE:** December 21

**TIME:** 5-7 pm

**PLACE:** 3803 Burlywood Lane in Carolina Colours

**BRING:** Beverage of choice, Glassware, Appetizer to share

**RSVP** to [eparlett4@gmail.com](mailto:eparlett4@gmail.com).

**FOYER  
GROUPS**



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

**We love because he first loved us.**

*1 John 4:19*

# Advent InGathering

For many years, Christ Church has provided gifts for the children of incarcerated citizens. We have partnered with Angel Tree to identify families, and parishioners have been unbelievably generous in providing for those children. Over the past several years, we have provided gift cards to the parent or guardian to ensure the child receives the gifts they most need and want. This year, our efforts will look a little different. Thanks to the generosity of so many people at Christ Church, we will not need to do a collection for Angel Tree. The families counting on our support will have it due largely to a surplus from last year's collection. Camp Hope is another ministry we support that is primarily with and for those affected by incarceration. We are grateful for the ongoing support from Christ Church to provide a camp experience at Camp Trinity for local young people. At this time, we are in a good financial position with regard to Camp Hope.

Our history of support for those in the prison system spans many years and reaches in multiple directions. Given the generosity of all of you, we are able this year to turn our efforts in new directions. This year's collection will benefit two areas of ministry with those who are incarcerated: Tried by Fire/My Sister's House (<https://triedbyfireinc.org/>) and Prison Fellowship (<https://www.prisonfellowship.org/>). Tried by Fire/My Sister's House is a newer ministry for women coming out of prison and has a history of recent support from Christ Church. Prison Fellowship is a national organization that operates in prisons in Eastern North Carolina.

If you would like to donate to our Advent InGathering please take a tag from the Christmas tree in the reception area. Each tag has an amount on it as well as a code. Please add your name and the code on your tag(s) to the signup sheet, which can be found on the table to the left of the tree. We will be accepting funds throughout the season of Advent. Payments can be made online, or by placing cash or checks in the box in the reception area. Please be sure to check your name off the list when you have returned your donation.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to one of the clergy or a member of the Vestry.

## Holiday Backpack Blessings

*December 16, 17, & 18*

Ho Ho Ho! 'Tis the season to be merry! And to share the blessings of the season with those for whom a nourishing and festive holiday meal may not be a reality! What an opportunity we have to make things a little cheerier for our Backpack Blessings families in Jones, Craven and Pamlico Counties and to be the messengers of God's comfort, peace and provision right here in our own backyard!

Sign up [here](#) to come and help set-up, pack boxes and bags or distribute the food boxes to our Backpack Blessings families. Packaging and distribution location is Morris Hall at Garber Church. We are blessed to be a blessing!



# In peace we pray to you, Lord God

## For parishioners who have requested

**prayers:** Mike Pridgen, Mary Hasell, Betty Jane Bonapartian, Janet Anderson, Bob Kohn, Susan Rivenbark, Warren Meadows, Hal Cameron, Joe Mansfield, Barbara Odderstol\*, Jim Keeter, Evelyn Hunter, Kathy Blanchard, Pat McCotter, Ralph Cowan, Vicky Allen, Lindy Emory, DJ Bessack, Carol Kross, Rena Knott, Mike McCulley, Betsy Primavera, Robert Lane, Vickie Evans\*, Joan Kunkle, Margaret Scott\*, Jim Gruenebaum, Myra Lewis, Sandy Valentine\*, Geoff Wood, Charlie Henke, Ken McCotter, Bob Nelson, Liz Praul, Cathy Monid, Rosie Wood, Betsy Phillips, Nicholas Pridgen, Margaret Phaup, Pat Robinson, Pat Holmes, Cathy O'Brien, and Charles Peterson.

**For our friends and families:** Liesel, Niels, Bambi, Jake, Don, Cristina, Barbara, Jeff, Nancy, Jean, Carly, Richard, Corey, Jane, Seb, Gloria, Greg, Cheri, Katie, James, Danny, Nancy, Ashleigh, Vaughn, Elizabeth, Denni, Rebecca, Alex, and Emery.

**For refugee families and those seeking asylum.**

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Trinity, Chocowinity

*\*These parishioners live out of the area but have requested to remain on the Christ Church prayer list.*

*In an effort to keep our prayer lists current and accurate, names of friends and family members will normally remain on the list for six months. If you would like to add or remove someone from the list, please contact [Betsy Downard](#).*



## REQUESTS FOR PRAYER



### Christmas at Christ Church

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**

3 pm: Children's Pageant & Eucharist  
7 pm: Eucharist Rite II  
10:30 pm: Choral Prelude  
11 pm: Eucharist Rite II

**WEDNESDAY,**  
**DECEMBER 25**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**

10 am: Eucharist Rite II

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

10 am: Christmas Lessons & Carols with Eucharist

*The Offices of Christ Church will be closed December 25, December 26, December 27, and January 1.*

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Please note that not all weekly church events are listed here. If there are no changes to your regularly scheduled event, it might not appear below. The entire Christ Church calendar can be found at [www.christchurchnewbern.com/calendar](http://www.christchurchnewbern.com/calendar) and in the Sunday morning email. Signs with the complete calendar are posted on the kiosk in the Reception Area and the bulletin board across from the Library. Daily calendar signs are posted on the church's exterior doors.

### **Sunday, December 15**

8:30 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)  
9:45 am: Sunday School for All Ages  
9:45 am: Coffee Hour (Parish House)  
11 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / [Online](#))

### **Monday, December 16**

1 pm: Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Conference Room)

### **Tuesday, December 17**

7 am: AI-Anon Meeting (2nd Floor Living Room)  
8:30 am: Eucharist (Chapel)  
6:30 pm: Small Wonders NA Meeting (Pelletier Room)

### **Wednesday, December 18**

1 pm: Endowment Board Meeting (Library)  
6:15 pm: AA Meeting (Harrison Center)  
7 pm: Advent Lessons and Carols (Nave)

### **Thursday, December 19**

5:30 pm: The Longest Night Service

### **Friday, December 20**

*Final day to conduct 2024 year-end church business by mail or in person*

### **Saturday, December 21**

9 am: Greening of the Church Interior  
5 pm: Foyers (Offsite)

### **Sunday, December 22**

8:30 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)  
9:45 am: Sunday School for All Ages  
9:45 am: Coffee Hour (Parish House)  
9:45 am: Christmas Pageant and Acolyte Rehearsal (Nave)  
11 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / [Online](#))  
12:15 pm: Christmas Pageant and Acolyte Rehearsal (Nave)

## 2024 Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings

Today is the last day to make a loving tribute to remember or honor someone this year with a Christmas Flower. Order forms are available on the table in the Reception Area. The cost is \$40.00, payable to Christ Church (write "Christmas Flowers" in the memo area of the check.)

# THE GOODS

## Be Aware of Scams!

Too many of us have gotten suspicious emails or texts purporting to be the Rector asking “can you do me a favor?” The fraudulent originator of the email will then ask you to purchase gift cards (Target, Ebay, iTunes, Walmart, Google Play, etc.) and send them a picture of the back of the card. That’s the part that has the gift card number and PIN that will help them make an online purchase.

These scams often impersonate the person or persons at the top of the organization. It doesn’t just happen to clergy. There are plenty of documented cases of CEOs and Executive Directors from non-profit and for-profit groups. The Rev. Suzanne Hood has also been impersonated once or twice.

To reiterate what we have said on countless occasions, no one on the Christ Church Staff will ever send an email or text asking individuals to purchase gift cards. In those events where we might need something, we always name what we need directly in the first communication and why we are asking you specifically to do it. “Busy with the rigors of ministry” is not a reason.

This scam is part of an international crime syndicate, and there is not much we can do except to not fall for it. Here’s how you can help: As soon as you receive a questionable email or text, forward it to [communications@christchurchnewbern.com](mailto:communications@christchurchnewbern.com). That will alert the Communications Coordinator along with the Rector, the Associate Rector, and Director of Church Life. We will send a parish-wide communication via email and text message so we’ll all be able to better know what’s going on.

Other things you can do:

1. Make sure the Rector’s cell phone number is in your phone: 252.571.6892. If you get a text from someone saying it’s him but it’s not from that number, it’s fraud, and you should ignore it or delete it.
2. Read these emails closely. They are often riddled with poor grammar and punctuation.
3. Check the email address. Emails from the staff of Christ Church will be from “@christchurchnewbern.com”. The fraudulent emails never have that as part of their email address.
4. Who is it from? When an email goes out from the Rector of Christ Church, it comes from Paul Canady. Not “The Rev. Paul Canady,” not “The Rev. H. Paul Canady III.” We are very intentional for it to just say “Paul Canady” since the scammers like to add other things to his name.
5. When in doubt, please call the church office at 252.633.2109 to confirm.

## Where Can You Plug In?

- **Worship:** To volunteer for our December Services, click [here](#). For more information contact Sarah Risty Davis at [sarahristydavis@christchurchnewbern.com](mailto:sarahristydavis@christchurchnewbern.com).
- **Volunteer Receptionists:** Reserve your December shifts [here](#). January shifts can be found [here](#), and February shifts can be found [here](#).
- **Coffee Hour:** We appreciate our Coffee Hour hosts and are always seeking volunteers to host our weekly 9:45 am Coffee Hour. For more information and to volunteer to host or provide snacks, click [here](#). Many thanks to Randy and Joanie Bogle for hosting this Sunday and providing snacks.

## Publication Deadlines

- *The Crown* - the 15th of the month prior to publication
  - Weekly (Sunday) email: noon on Thursday
  - Thursday email and printed *Messenger*: noon on Wednesday
- Please send all pictures, articles and questions to [communications@christchurchnewbern.com](mailto:communications@christchurchnewbern.com).

## Lil Pantry

The shelves of the Lil Pantry are bare. Please consider donating some food and drink items. Examples include: small bottled waters/juice boxes, ready-to-eat canned items with pop tops, crackers, and breakfast bars. Items can be placed into the pantry or on the shelves of the white bookcase in the Parish House kitchen area.

## Contacting Clergy

Have a question, thought or good news to share? Schedule a meeting with Paul or Suzanne. Use [this link](#) to schedule a meeting with Paul or call 252.633.2109. You can reach Suzanne at 252.631.5862 or [suzannehood@christchurchnewbern.com](mailto:suzannehood@christchurchnewbern.com).

## Sunday Altar Flowers

If you would like to give flowers in remembrance or thanksgiving of someone or something, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex, call the church office, or sign up online at <https://www.christchurchnewbern.com/give>.

Please send all memorial or thanksgiving details to [communications@christchurchnewbern.com](mailto:communications@christchurchnewbern.com). The cost is

\$40 per Sunday.