

CHRIST CHURCH

The Messenger

PO Box 1246 • 320 Pollock Street • New Bern, NC
www.christchurchnewbern.com

December 17 - 24, 2023

252.633.2109

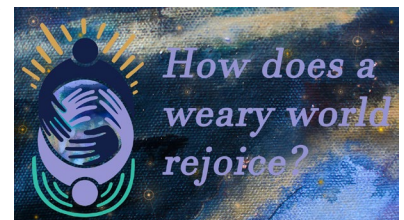


Advent Lessons and Carols

Join us tonight at 5:30 pm to experience the story of the coming of Christ as told through music, singing and scripture. The Nine Lessons are the same readings each year. The music is a response to and reflection of those readings, expressed via choral anthems and congregational hymns. We invite you to come experience this beautiful tradition with us tonight.

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 21st 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. Music featured in this service are selections from *The Book of Sounds*, written for piano by German minimalist composer, Hans Otte. The meditative nature of these pieces help bring an awareness to the relationship between sound and silence, and they allow space for the listener to find stillness and peace within.

Let us gather together as a community to draw near to God and to allow space for healing and prayer. We are stronger together.

Join us for
2023 Advent Lessons and Carols
 at Christ Episcopal Church

Sunday, December 17
 5:30 pm
 320 Pollock Street, Downtown New Bern

From the Church Office...

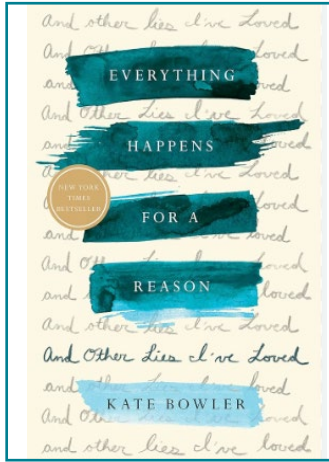
- During the weeks before and the week after Christmas, the church's office hours will be 9 am - 3 pm, Monday - Thursday and 9 am - 12 noon on Friday. *Please note that the office is closed December 25 and 26.*
- During the week between Christmas and New Years, most classes and gatherings, including Tuesday morning Eucharist, are canceled.
- The deadline to submit cash or check payments to the Financial Office is **12 pm, December 28.**
- Online payments must be set up with start and/or end dates of **December 27** on your account. These can take several dates to transmit, so confirm that your payment date shows no later than **December 29.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Online Payment Deadline
 12 pm: Cash/Check Deadline

Woman's Book Study

On the second Tuesday in January, the Women's Book Study will begin reading *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. Copies of the book are available for purchase at the reception desk (\$15.00).

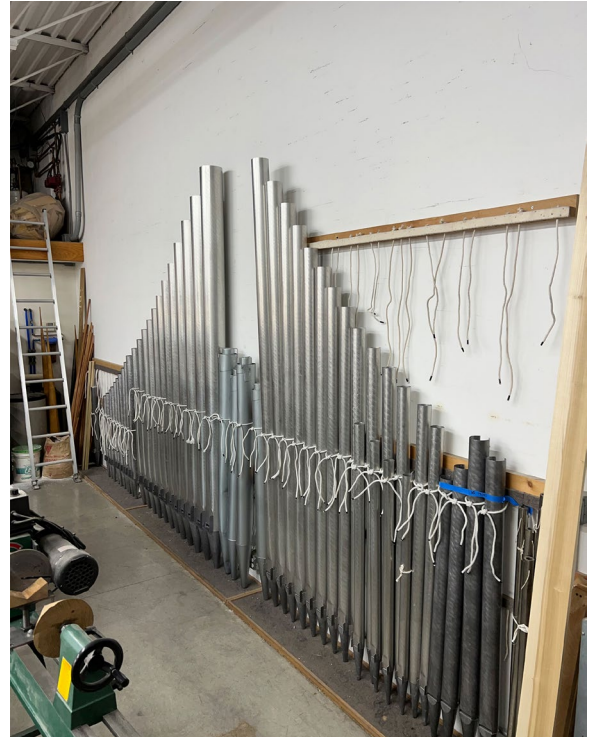


Bowler is an Associate Professor of American Religious History at Duke Divinity School. This memoir details the emotional, spiritual, and physical journeys she took after being diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer at age thirty-five. Kate was stripped of certainty only to discover that without it, life is hard but beautiful in a way it never had been before.

Join us on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:00 am in the 2nd Floor Living Room, as we explore uncertainty in our own lives and the gifts God has for us in the midst of it. Women of all ages are invited to attend. We open our time together with prayer, followed by reading the book aloud, and discussing. No preparation is necessary. You can join the group at any time.

Organ "Sneak Peek"

In anticipation of our organ's arrival in early 2024, we are previewing some photos of the building progress. Look for more pictures and explanations in the January issue of *The Crown*.



Christmas at Christ Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

10 am: Advent 4 Eucharist Rite I

3 pm: Children's Service & Pageant

7 pm: Eucharist Rite II

10:30 pm: Choral Prelude

11 pm: Eucharist Rite II

MONDAY,

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

10 am: Eucharist Rite II

SUNDAY,

DECEMBER 31

10 am: Christmas

Lessons & Carols

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

In peace we pray to you, Lord God

For parishioners who have requested prayers:

Mike Pridgen, Mary Hasell, Betty Jane Bonapartian, Champ Mitchell, Janet Anderson, Bob Kohn, Susan Rivenbark, Warren Meadows, Hal Cameron, Joe Mansfield, Barbara Odderstol*, Jim Keeter, M. Carolyn Lawson, Evelyn Hunter, Katherine Gill, Kathy Blanchard, Pat McCotter, Ralph Cowan, David Watrous, Vicky Allen, Lindy Emory, DJ Bessack, Carol Kross, Carol Athing, Rena Knott, CB Evans, Mike McCulley, Willis Stevens, Betsy Primavera, Mollie Bales, Robert Lane, Sheridan Holstein, Judy MacDougall, Vickie Evans, Joan Kunkle, Margaret Scott*, Jim Banks, Jim Gruenebaum, Ann, Kaye Frampton Brown, Myra Lewis, Sandy Valentine, Eugene Simon, Frank Rice, Bruce Baker, Geoff Wood, Maggie Bagg, Charlie Henke, Patty Willis, Peter Mnatzakanian, Darrin Embrey, Tony Embrey, Caroline Schnoebelen, and Ken McCotter.

For our friends and families: Liesel, Niels, Trinity, Mary, Ann, George, Anne, Bruce, Nancy, Lynda, Mike, Connor, Stephen, Inez, Ed, Karen, Bob, Cortney, Craig, Larry, Eleanor, Julie, Denni, Santa, Teresa, Monika, Margie, Laurissa, Paul, Stephanie, Pam, Ellen, Kate, Corey, Stephanie, Bambi, Justin, Judy, Nancy, Paula, Kelly Ann, Lois, Laurissa, Martha, Melissa, Melissa, Anna, Dave, Elle, Halle, Mariya, Laura, Mary Ann, Billy, Bob, Ted, Rosemary, Bill, Naomi, Carol, Joseph, Jimmy, Grant, Eunice, William, Marie, Melanie, Sylvia, Aline, Rose, Rosemarie, Shelly, Susie, Larry, Anne Marie, Ginny, Lisa, Louise, Selma, Jackie, Kathi, Julia, Ardean, John, Peggy, Patty, Margaret, Jackson, Julie, Butch, Jim, Joan, Wes, Gerry, Mandy, Jim, Larry, Hamp, Belinda, Brittany, Laura, Norman, Claudia, Cathy, Don, Al, Sue, and Kristy.

For our deployed military: Lt. Christopher Miller

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.*

If you would like to add or remove someone from the list, contact [Betsy Downard](#).



REQUESTS — FOR — PRAYER

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 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 17

8:30 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

9:45 am: Sunday School for All Ages

11 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / [Online](#))

12:30 pm: Vestry Meeting (Pelletier Room) - **DATE CHANGE**

12:30 pm: Stephen Ministry Meeting (Library) - **LOCATION CHANGE**

5:30 pm: Lessons and Carols (Nave)

Monday, December 18

6 pm: Vestry / Staff Christmas Party (Parish House)

Tuesday, December 19

7 am: Al-Anon Meeting (2nd Floor Living Room)

8:30 am: Eucharist (Chapel)

6:30 pm: Small Wonders NA Meeting (Pelletier Room)

Wednesday, December 20 - No Rector's Bible Study

6:15 pm: AA Meeting (Harrison Center)

Thursday, December 21

5:30 pm: Longest Night Service (Chapel)

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

10 am: Eucharist Rite I (Nave / [Online](#))

3 pm: Christmas Pageant and Eucharist (Nave / [Online](#))

7 pm: Christmas Eve Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

10:30 pm: Choral Prelude (Nave / [Online](#))

11 pm: Christmas Eve Eucharist Rite II (Nave / [Online](#))

Christmas Pageant Info

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! If you have grandkids, nieces, nephews or other family who will be at church, we will give them a role.

We will have an Open Costume Closet Day today after the morning services. The closet will be at the end of the children's Sunday School hall for those that would like to borrow one of our costumes. You can also be creative and make your own At-Home Traditional Costumes. For those who will be dressing in non-traditional Nativity Costumes, we have two rules: no weapons of ANY Kind (that includes light sabers) and no masks (not even for our superheroes). As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact Page Litfin, pagelitfin@christchurchnewbern.com

8:30 Choir Notes from Jackie

We are looking for more singers to join us in the 8:30 Choir - there is a particular need for more men. If you love to sing, whether it's with a group or alone in your car, we'd love to have you! No previous choral singing experience is required, and you do not have to be able to read music in order to participate.

This is a fun group that is committed to supporting worship at the 8:30 service through fellowship in singing. Practice is on Tuesdays from 5:30 until 7:00 pm. Please consider joining us!

THE GOODS



Pray Gratefully | Serve Responsibly | Give Generously

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE AS OF 12/13/2023

Pledge Amount Received: \$779,158

Number of Pledges Received: 194

In a stewardship message last year, a quote from Bob Goff was shared. It said something like “We are not reservoirs, but rivers.” The love we receive from God fills us and nurtures us, but it is not to be stored in us. The love of God is meant to flow through us and into the hearts of others.

Likewise, the resources that come into Christ Church through your financial gifts are not stored but flow into, through, and beyond the doors of the church. The pledges you so generously commit to Christ Church keep the reservoir filled and flowing out into the community programs so important to the people of New Bern. Our faithful parishioners and volunteers are the current that keeps that river flowing. We are so grateful!

As 2023 comes to close, please, if you haven't done so already, take a look at your personal resources for 2024 and send in your pledge. “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2Corinthians: 7-9) Be of good cheer!

Heavenly Father, during this season of giving, help us open our hearts to all and let love flow freely into the hearts of others. We remember those in need, physically and spiritually, and ask that you help us as individuals and as the body of Christ Church to reach out in the name of and to the glory of God. Amen.

To make a pledge for 2024, visit

<https://www.christchurchnewbern.com/stewardship>.

You can also stop by the Reception Desk or call the church office to pick up a pledge card.

NOTE: If you have already pledged, 2024 pledge envelopes are available in the Parish House.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another

John 13:34b

Where Can You Plug In?

- **Worship:** Volunteer to serve in our upcoming services. December services can be found [here](#). For more information contact Sarah Risty Davis at sarahristydavis@christchurchnewbern.com.
- **Volunteer Receptionists:** If you can help us answer the phones, welcome visitors, and complete odd jobs here and there, we'd love to have you! Click [here](#) for December dates.
- **Coffee Hour Hosts Needed:** We are looking for hosts in order to make Coffee Hours happen. To volunteer to host a December coffee hour, click [here](#). Dates for 2024 can be found [here](#). Hosting instructions are included on the Sign-Up Genius page.
- **Interfaith Refugee Ministry** is so grateful for the continuing support of Christ Church for over 30 years. We are happy to report that we are back to receiving more refugees than we have received the past few years. Our number of individuals since October totals 43, with 19 more expected by the end of the year. Although we have been able to stockpile many items, we are in need of the basics to furnish a home. This includes gently used bed sheets and blankets (twin, full and queen sized), gently used pots and pans, and new personal hygiene items. These items can be dropped off to 1913 Trent Blvd., New Bern, NC 28560, or purchased online and shipped to our office. We can also use gift cards in any amount. Thank you for helping us welcome the stranger.
- **RCS Seeking Volunteers and Clothing Items:** Religious Community Services is looking for a few extra volunteers this season for their clothing boutique. To start the volunteer process, visit <https://bit.ly/RCSvolunteer>, and then call RCS at 252.633.2767 to schedule a volunteer orientation. RCS is in need of the following NEW clothing items for men, women, boys, and girls: socks, underwear, winter hats, and gloves. In addition, they are looking for gently used shoes for men, boys, and girls and coats for all ages and sizes. Clothing can be dropped off at RCS (919 George Street) or delivered to Terry Brubaker (terrytb49@gmail.com).
- **Angel Tree** is a Christian prison ministry in which Christ Church has participated since 1984. The children we serve live in Craven and Pamlico Counties and have at least one parent who is currently incarcerated. The prisoners sign up for this program through the chaplain at their prison. With the funds that are raised, we send gift cards to the parents for him/her to purchase presents. We have received very positive feedback from the families, and they are overwhelmed by the generosity of Christ Church. We are hoping to raise at least \$5,000. If we receive extra funds, we plan to send grocery gift cards, as well as give gift cards to our GIG children. You can send a check to Christ Church (note Angel Tree in the memo line) or pay [online](#). Call Ellen Chance at 252.259.5214 with any questions.