

St. Peter's Connect

A newsletter from St. Peter's Community in Hebron, Ct.

An Advent Message

From *Your Connect Committee*



Begin this Advent season with an intention to slow down and embrace a practice of prayer and reflection. Advent Word is an inspirational online Advent calendar by Forward Movement. It features daily prompt words that encourage reflection, spiritual growth and Godly inspired action. Each day during Advent, you will receive a word along with a meditation and visual image inspired to help us connect more deeply with our faith. *What is God calling us to do?*

Here is where we invite all of us to step away from perfection. If you miss a day, God, Jesus, and Spirit all understand. We are all practicing.



Families and friend groups of all ages can do any of these activities. Talk with your kids and teens about the words and capture their thoughts if they are too young or busy to do so themselves. Partner with a friend(s) and collectively share your inspirations.

Join our community of prayer this Advent season. As we await the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, let's find daily moments of reflection to help us stay centered on our faith, connected to others, and to God. *What are we being called to do?*

Sign up for daily meditations at www.stpetershebron.com.

Be still, then, and know that I am God
 Be still, then, and know that I am
 Be still, then and know
 Be still,
 Be.

From Psalm 46, Verse 11

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An idea for a Thanksgiving Prayer

This lovely prayer was shared at our recent Founders' Community Potluck.

My Symphony

To live content with small means: to seek
elegance rather than luxury;

And refinement rather than fashion; to be
worthy, not respectable;

And wealthy, not rich; to study hard, think
quietly. Talk gently,

Act frankly; to listen to stars and birds, to
babes and sages, with open heart;

To bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await
occasion, hurry never; in a word,

To let the spiritual, unbidden, and unconscious
grow up through the common.

This is to be *my symphony*.

By: William Ellery Channing (1780-1842)
American Unitarian Minister

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Weekly Meetings

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Sunday School: | Sun at 10am |
| Balance Class: | Mon at 10:30 am |
| Weekly Weeders: | Starts in spring |
| Connect: | Mon at 2pm |
| Choir Practice: | Wed at 6pm |
| Weekly Virtual Coffee Hour: | Wed at 10am |

Monthly Meetings

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Building/Grounds | 1 st Tues at 7pm |
| Finance | 2 nd Thurs at 11am |
| Vestry | 3 rd Thurs at 6pm |

St. Peter's Connect is published by St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron, Ct **860-228-3244**
By the St. Peter's Connect Committee and frequent contributors: Gayle Katja, Kathy Kniep, Cathie Litwin, John Loge, Candace O'Shea, Kath Talbot and Steve Wells. Let us hear your thoughts!

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Book Study Group

Several years ago, I went to Fr. Ron and asked him if I could start a Book Study Group. And today, there continues to be a lot of interest in spiritual study. Our group meets on Mondays 11:30 – 1:00 for 9 or 10 weeks. We have a group in the fall and one in the spring.

Our group has become a sacred one in a safe place. We relate a lot stories in our own lives and the group trusts that the other members will not share what they have heard outside the group.

At this point, the members are suggesting books they have read or heard which is wonderful. Choices are discussed with Fr. Ron in advance. Selected books are available from online seller sites.



Joyce Agnew, Gayle Kataja, Judy Banks, Deacon Donna Gray, Nancy Matejek, Father Ron, Betty Close, Trisha Beatty, John Loge, Victoria Fisk

New members are welcomed! Stay tuned for information about our spring study group. Please reach out to me anytime, Deacon Donna Gray.

St. Nicholas Fair 🎄

Our beloved St. Nicholas Fair is just around the corner, and we need your energy and enthusiasm to make it shine! ***How can you contribute?***



Christmas Decorations: Donate your decorations, lights, trees that are **in good condition**.



Baked Goods: Help us by baking seasonal cookies, breads, cakes, and pies. Jams, jellies and relish are always popular.



Christmas Baskets: Our Christmas raffle is a big draw. What will your theme be?



Worker Bees: Yes, we need your help! Contact Marcia & Chuck Eaton: 860-614-7202

Calling all Angels, Shepherds, Kings and Animals!

St. Peter's pageant is a delightful way for children of all ages to experience the true meaning of Christmas. St. Peter's Christmas pageant makes participation easy as our focus is on engaging youngsters in this beautiful recounting of our Lord's birth.

Invite your neighbors, your friends, your grandchildren. It is not necessary to be a member of St. Peter's for children to participate. *We invite all children!*

The pageant will be held on Dec. 21 at our 10:00am service. Brief rehearsals will be held after each 10:00am service in Advent. Please see Erika Baez (860-501-8965).

----- Love Is The Way -----

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✨ A Sacred Surprise: The Lord's Prayer Carving Finds a New Home

At our recent tag sale, amid the books, bake goods, and bric-a-brac, one item quietly stood out—a large ¼-inch wood block, intricately carved with the full text of the Lord's Prayer. No note, no name, no price tag. Just reverence etched in grain.

The craftsmanship is stunning: each word delicately inscribed with care and precision, transforming a humble piece of wood into a devotional masterpiece. Whether the donor intended it as a gift or simply hoped it would find the right hands, it certainly did.

Thanks to a thoughtful reframing, this beautiful carving now hangs in our all-purpose room, where it offers quiet inspiration to all who pass through. It's more than décor—it's a reminder of faith, mystery, and the generosity that flows through our community.

Submitted by Kathy Kniep

To whomever shared this treasure: thank you. Your anonymous gift has become a cherished part of our church home.



Take a look – It's hanging in the Multi-Purpose Room!

Founders' Day Community Potluck

A great success! 65+ parishioners gathered for a scrumptious meal, a little history of our parish, and much laughter and sharing of stories. We loved the costumes!

Pictured here: Governor Samuel Peters (Father Ron), Master of Ceremonies (John Loge), parishioners (Chuck and Marcia Eaton, John and Sue Ostrout).

Stay tuned for more parish get-togethers!
We are already planning one for January ❤️



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“Music Moves Hartford”



Join us for a moving concert and carol sing on December 13 at 2:30pm. “Music Moves Hartford” is Christ Church Cathedral’s musical group formed primarily by those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. Participating in such a choir builds community and hopefulness.

For us, it is an opportunity to share in the true meaning of Christmas with love and fellowship while enjoying a fabulous concert!

St. Peter's Mission: Project Hope

Each year, hundreds of our neighbors face the prospect of homelessness. Often housing crises are precipitated by job loss, health emergencies, or severed relationships. Those who are chronically homeless live with physical disabilities, mental health challenges or substance abuse. For many, the cost of housing is simply out of reach. Project Hope’s comprehensive services help individuals overcome homelessness and reclaim their lives.



In support of their mission, St. Peter’s provides dinner for 36 once a month during the cold season of November – April. To learn more about, see Candace O’Shea (860-918-3295).

Community Food Banks Need our Support!

Sadly, the need in our community is growing. Rising food costs mean more of our neighbors are struggling. With the holidays approaching, help is critically needed.

Locally, HIHS supports not only Hebron, but area towns as well – especially Columbia and Lebanon families as their food bank hours are limited.

Food Items Needed

Canned meat (tuna, chicken, spam)
Pasta and sides
Hearty soups, Chili
Cereal, oatmeal
Canned fruit
Canned sweet potatoes
Stuffing mixes, gravy

*Consider donating
several of one item
versus one of
different kinds.*



Donations collected at St. Peter’s in November will go to the Marlborough Food Bank. December contributions go to the Columbia Food Bank. Financial contributions to HIHS (Hebron Interfaith Human Services) can be mailed to P.O. Box 634, Hebron, Ct 06248

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Ringling Out Our Faith for 200 Years



During the holidays, one of the most recognized symbols of the season are bells. We see them in movies. Who could forget Clarence getting his wings in the 1946 classic, **It's A Wonderful Life** or the iconic image of Santa's sleigh bells and the innocence of childhood in the iconic 2004 **Polar Express**? We hear them in the music of the season from the 1950 Silver Bells or the much older Jingle Bells dating back to 1850 to celebrate Sleigh races in Medford, MA by songwriter James Lord Pierpont.

In our own village of Hebron, we have a bell that has rung out for nearly 200 years. Our St. Peter's church was built in 1826. In 1831 the bell tower was added. The bell was cast by George Holbrook Bell company of East Medway MA. George Holbrook was considered the third major bellfounder in America, after Aaron Hobart and Paul Revere.

The bell needed to be replaced in 1921. A new bell was cast by McNeeley Bells of Waverly, NY. The Meneely Bell Foundry established in 1826 by Andrew Meneely was one of the greatest bell makers in American History. More than 65,000 bells were cast under the Meneely brand between 1826 and 1951, when the business closed.

For all these years the bell has greeted the town on Sunday mornings announcing a new day and ringing out our faith. It reminds all within hearing of it to observe the Sabbath and give thanks for the God's abundance of our lives. Especially, in this frantic world in which we live hearing the clarion call of the bell is an invitation to pause, slow down and give thanks.

In our spiritual lives, the sound of bells serves as a beautiful reminder to gather in worship and praise. They invite us to come together and focus on our Creator. When we hear the call, it is God gently nudging us to come closer and deepen our faith. Worship is not just a gathering; it is a celebration of God's goodness, love, and grace. In this holiday season may we give thanks for the abundance of love bestowed upon us as represented in the joy and magic of bells.

Submitted by Cathie Litwin

St. Peter's Outreach thru the Year

As a parish, we continue to experience God's abundant blessings. It is our mission to share those blessings with others. In 2025, we are grateful to have been able to support numerous, local non-profits through direct donations:

AHM Youth Service, HIHS Food Bank, Marlborough Food Bank, Andover Food Bank, Colchester Food Bank, Columbia Food Bank, Project Hope, WAIM, CODE, Hebron Town Center Project, United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue, Tara Farm Rescue, and Oak Hill/Hemlocks. We are grateful to all who contribute towards our missions.

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From the Altar Guild

What is the Tabernacle and the meaning of the Sanctuary Candle?

In the Anglican Church, the **Tabernacle** is often a lockable, attractive “box” used to store consecrated communion hosts and consecrated wine. These elements are also known as the “reserve” sacrament and are used in the church service if the priest should realize he needs more hosts than what he consecrated during the Eucharistic Prayer, and for taking communion to the sick or those unable to attend, perhaps due to immobility.



The term “tabernacle” is a reference to the Old Testament Tabernacle, which housed God’s presence among the Israelites. In this context, it is a symbol of God’s real presence on Earth with humankind.

The sanctuary candle ideally should be placed very near to the Tabernacle as the reserve sacraments are the holiest thing in the church when we are not there. It is the time-honored tradition of recognizing Christ’s eternal presence in the church, in Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. It is a sign to those praying that Jesus is truly present.



The only day of the Liturgical year the candle is not lit is Holy Saturday when Jesus is removed from the Tabernacle as a reminder of His absence when He was in the tomb after His death on the cross.

When our much anticipated altar area reconstruction is completed, our Tabernacle and sanctuary candle will finally have a place of honor and respect, given it’s significance.

At St. Peter’s, parishioners may request that the candle burn on a particular Sunday in remembrance of their loved one, a meaningful way to recognize our continued love for those who have gone before us. The best way to reserve your desired date is to e-mail Claire at :

office@stpetershebron.com or simply call her at 860-228-3244 (there is no longer a sign up sheet in the back of the church). Please call or e-mail. *The next issue will highlight the different Liturgical colors used in altar vestments.*

Submitted by Cathie Litwin

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St. Peter's Episcopal Church
30 Church Street, Hebron, Ct
06248 860-228-3244

Label

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Christmas Memorials



At St. Peter's, we remember those we love who have died or honor those who are still living with our Christmas Memorials. Memorial cards can be found in the church. Funds received help pay for music, flowers and other seasonal items. For those unable to be in church, to include your loved ones, please call the parish office at 860-228-3244.

St. Peter's Nov/Dec Calendar

Nov 30: Advent 1 (**Hope**): Services at 8am and 10am
Nov 30: Women's Group St. Nicholas Fair Craft Making; Phelps Hall at 1:30pm
Dec 6: St. Nicholas Fair
Dec 7: Advent 2 (**Peace**) Services at 8am and 10am
Dec 13: "Music Moves Hartford" Concert at 2:30pm
Dec 14: Advent 3 (**Joy**) Services at 8am and 10am
Dec 20: Greening and Decorating the Church at 10am
Dec 20: Project Hope Dinner Preparation
Dec 21: Advent 4 (**Love**) Services at 8am and 10am
Dec 21: Christmas Pageant at 10am service
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm
Dec. 25: Christmas Day Service at 10:00am
Dec. 28: Lessons and Carols Service at 9:00am
Jan. 4: Feast of the Epiphany at 8am and 10am



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