



News from Christ Church January 18, 2023

Dear friends,

I was going to have [ChatGPT](#), the tool that can write anything you ask in a believable human tone, write you a little intro to this newsletter to see if it folks liked it better than my normal writing, but the servers are overloaded during this morning time slot where I sit down and think about our weekly newsletter. A couple weeks back, I toyed with ChatGPT for a few minutes -- I had it write an epic poem in iambic pentameter about a recent triumph I had in a trivial argument (don't ask), along with a short Shakespearean-style play about how much I loved my dog.

You can't turn anywhere on the internet right now without commentary on the advent of an age where anything you read or see might have been created by the beta version of our future android overlords. Personally, I'm a word person; I cling to my manuscripts in the pulpit, editing endlessly until forced to stop by the beginning of the service. As a kid, I never took to the abbreviated styles of communication via text. I do literally sit for an hour or more to think about this newsletter, of all things. Emails have always taken me an embarrassingly long time to compose. It's not an intelligence problem, but it is possibly an ego one.

Ego — the self, Latin for "I" — is a complicated thing in Christianity. It is the human self that is both exalted and depraved, a paradox of love and hate, something to be cherished and something to be forsaken, even crucified. John the Baptist says he must become less so that Christ may be greater, and the Psalmist wonders aloud, "Who am I that You are mindful of me?" It must always be both.

What's interesting to me is that every step we take in technological advancement, from writing to labor to art and beyond, seems to focus on individual eradication and not individual dignity. As our society has become hyper-individualized, our tech has increasingly become a way to erase the self. "The two great aims of industrialism — replacement of people by technology and concentration of wealth into the hands of a small plutocracy — seem close to fulfillment," [wrote Wendell Berry in a 2012 essay](#) I now leave with you all as recommended reading in our new age.

But if we are unable to hold the Christian paradox of ego and are instead hastening to the creation of a collective self — despite Star Trek's repeated warnings! — a word of advice: tell Siri "thank you" now and again.

faithfully,

Christ Church book club

January 24, 6:30 p.m., Christ Church parish hall

Our January selection is Sue Monk Kidd's *The Book of Longings*, a tale about a woman in the first century who finds her voice and destiny after encountering a young Jesus.

Women's group gathering

Thursday, January 26, 6:30 p.m. at Louise Schultz's home - [19 Stony Creek Ct](#)

Women of Christ Church are invited to a craft project and social night. Supplies provided for a Valentine's Day craft, or bring something of your own. Bring a dish and/or beverage to share. Text Louise at (845) 641-4482 if you can attend.

Do you want to receive notifications about upcoming gatherings for the women's group? Contact Louise via phone [or email](#). A group chat and/or email group will be created to communicate upcoming events.

Episcopal Youth Community

Wednesday, January 25, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

All 6th-12th graders are invited to EYC! We will meet at the Christ Church parish hall for a build-a-burger dinner and games. [Please RSVP to Joanne O'Keefe](#) if you can attend.

Annual meeting

Sunday, January 29, noon

The annual parish meeting will be held following the 11:00 a.m. service on 1/29. Lunch will be served. We'll discuss the past year, receive the budget for 2023, and elect our new vestry members. All are invited to attend, and members are especially encouraged in order to establish a quorum. Members eligible to vote are those who have attended in-person worship at least three times in 2022 and who are givers of record.

Jazz Vespers

Sunday, February 5, 5:00 p.m.

On the first Sunday evening of every month, join us for an innovative take on an ancient service of evening prayers. All are welcome.

Confirmation classes

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m., January 14 - February 15

In preparation for our bishop's visit on Sunday, Feb. 19, Amber continues to lead a confirmation class for anyone interested in being confirmed, received, or reaffirmed in our Episcopal tradition.

Community Breakfast

Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Christ Church continues to serve breakfast to anyone who wants or needs it. [You can volunteer for the coming weeks by signing up here!](#)

Evening prayer on Zoom

Thursdays, 7:00 - 7:30 pm

[Click here for link](#) If you are interested in leading the service or reading the lessons, please [email Charlotte Trott](#).

Pastoral care

Our pastoral care team for January is led by Charlotte Trott. Feel free to [email Charlotte](#) with any pastoral care needs that might arise.



THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAYS
9:30 to noon
shop + drop
your donation = somebody's treasure

Vestry: Chris Loftus, Senior Warden; Bill O'Keefe, Junior Warden

Elena Chavez Carey, Billie Gallo, Linda Garcia, Steven Greh, Elizabeth Houlton, Sharon Kelly, Gaye Murphy, Erick Storckman, Simon Turner, Abbie Opper (treasurer)

[Website](#)

[About](#)

Sundays at Christ Church

9:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, in-person and livestreamed to Vimeo and the Parish Hall

10:00 a.m. - Coffee hour

11:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with choir



Check our weekly
sermons Podcast here!

Christ Church, Warwick | 50 South Street, Warwick, NY 10990

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