

The Messenger

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY
OF CHRIST CHURCH,
DUANESBURG, NEW YORK

◆
Fall 2025



Rector's Reflections Going Home

Over the next few weeks, God willing, we will be going home. We will leave the temporary worship setup in the Parish Hall, we will cross the 'carpark' and services will recommence in the church.

During one of our recent site visits we went into the church to look at an item of work the contractor had finished, the building was cold, dark and lifeless. Plywood sheets were in place across the openings, the lights were covered with black plastic bags and the organ was enveloped in a black protective cloak to keep out the dust. It didn't feel like home - there was no warmth, little light and it felt lifeless. However, over the next month or so we will start making it our 'home' again; we will turn on the heat, the windows will be reinstalled and life will come back.

God is in the business of bringing us home - he sent his Son, Jesus, so that we might find our way back home to Him. Jesus also said he was preparing a mansion for us,

and that he will one day come back to take us home to be with him and the Father forever (John 14). But in the meantime, we find our home in the church, the Body of Christ. We have a beautiful building we call church, our physical spiritual home to which we will soon return, but ultimately the home we all share is with Jesus - the place of true warmth, light and life. My favorite Christian singer songwriter, Michael Card, sums it up well:

*Though you are homeless
Though you're alone
I will be your home
Whatever's the matter
Whatever's been done
I will be your home

When time reaches fullness
When I move My hand
I will bring you home
Home to your own place
In a beautiful land
I will bring you home*

Blessings on our Journey Home,

Alistair

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Fall Birthdays

11/1 Daniel Menzies, III
Tim Fischer
11/3 Ryan Moses
Drew Palluti
Nellie Kosier
11/6 Sarah Langston Dodd
11/7 Cheryl Lennox
Zachary Therrion
11/11 Kyle Rudolphsen
11/14 Cindy Skala
11/15 Chris White
11/21 Christopher White
11/22 Jenna Sayles
11/26 Cindy Creasy
11/28 Sadie Powers
Sarah White
11/29 Jeffery Hunt
Harrison White
12/1 Billy Chandler
Philip Sayles
Drew Gregg
12/2 Linda MacDougall
Patrick McHugh



12/4 Barbara Greer
Heidi Bonacquist
12/5 Tom White
12/6 Steve Schrade
12/7 Anthony Denny
12/13 Zachary Sayles
12/14 Rick Lucia
Nancy Vogel
12/22 Quinn Walsh
12/24 George Featherstonhaugh
12/25 John Iseman
12/29 Jill Brandoline
12/31 Brendan Walsh
1/6 Wyatt Moller
1/8 Elaina Denny
1/17 Judith Doell
Sasha Elliott
Skylar Iseman



Fall Anniversaries

11/12 Nancy & Jeff Guntert
11/28 Art & Camille Crandall
12/15 Kevin & Nora Barker

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(See Matthew 14:14-21)

11-24-1999

HONESTLY JESUS, YOU GIVE ME 5 PIES
AND 2 TURKEYS AND EXPECT ME TO COOK
FOR THE 5,000 GUESTS YOU'VE
INVITED?!?

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157th Annual Diocesan Convention Report

by Deacon Debbie Beach

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love," (Ephesians 3: 16-17)

These verses from Ephesians were the theme for this years Diocesan Convention which was held at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center (SLC) in Greenwich, NY. This was done as a cost saving measure for the diocese. Bishop Jeremiah, the Convention Committee, Canon Rev. Meghan and the staff at the SLC went above and beyond to rise to the occasion!

As some of you may know I attend convention to participate in the best ministry there is! Driving the golf carts! It is a great way to meet people and enjoy a good conversation! However, one down side was it was a wee chilly on Saturday but I learned the hard way a number of years ago at Camp of the Woods so I came prepared!

I would like to thank the Christ Church delegates, John & Sandra Weiler, Cindy Creasy and Elizabeth Iseman for attending. I do apologize for not remembering to take a photo of everyone! The business meetings involved elections, presentation of reports from various ministries within the diocese and presentation of the main resolutions which included the finances for the diocese and SLC, which are looking brighter than in years past.

One of the main resolutions for the Loaves & Fishes Outreach Ministries be recognized as an official ministry of the diocese. Following a presentation by Gail Truchard, Director, this resolution was overwhelmingly approved! This is an amazing ministry and if you would like to learn more, our own Heidi Bonacquist can fill you in.

Another main resolution was concerning the Constitution of the Diocese of Albany.

"Be it RESOLVED, The Constitution of the Diocese of Albany (2026 version), as presented in this Convention Book, be adopted; and be it further, RESOLVED, in accordance with Article X of The Constitution of the Diocese of Albany (2011 version), if approved by a majority vote, The Constitution of the Diocese of Albany (2026 version), shall lie over until the next annual meeting of the Convention, and if then approved by a vote by orders, the Constitution shall be amended accordingly." There is more information in the 2025 Convention Book regarding the changes to the Constitution (p. 32-37). The resolution was passed.

The resolution which resulted in the most discussion and amendments was regarding becoming a "Sanctuary Diocese": Committing to Provide Radical Hospitality for the Newest New Yorkers. The amended resolution, which included establishing a committee to review the feasibility of carrying this out, was passed with 60% of those present voting in favor. The nonamended resolution can be found in the 2025 Convention Book (p.39).

I have left my copy of the 2025 Convention Book in the parish hall. The amended version of the aforementioned resolution can be found stapled to p.39.

There will be a meeting after church on November 23rd downstairs in the parish hall to discuss these resolutions and attempt to answer any questions you may have.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



- SHOE BOXES AND LABELS ARE IN THE PARISH HALL
- THE LADIES AUXILLARY COVERS SHIPPING COSTS; HOWEVER YOU CAN MAKE A DONATION IF YOU WISH

COLLECTION DATE: NOV. 23TH



The Poetry Corner

by Camille Crandall



Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Erie Canal

It was referred to as “Clinton’s Ditch” or “Clinton’s Folly,”
But 200 years ago the Erie Canal officially opened, by golly!

With DeWitt Clinton taking its maiden voyage on the Seneca Chief,
He traveled the 363 miles from Buffalo to Albany and down the Hudson River
To New York City with much relief.

Upon completion of this 10-day trip, DeWitt Clinton poured a jug of Lake Erie
water into the New York Harbor with a commemorative motion.
To symbolize the uniting of the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean.

On the return trip, the Seneca Chief carried a vessel of water from the sea,
Which, upon arrival, was poured into the Great Lake Erie.

This engineering marvel took 8 years to complete.
It still is considered a remarkable feat.

Do you remember back in school singing the old folk song about the Erie
Canal?

It goes like this:

I've got a mule and her name is Sal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.
She's a good old worker and a good old pal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.

We've hauled some barges in our day
Filled with lumber, coal, and hay.
And every inch of the way we know
From Albany to Buffalo.

Low bridge, everybody down,
Low bridge, 'cause we're coming to a town.
You'll always know your neighbor,
And you'll always know your pal,
If you've ever navigated on the Erie Canal.



Food Insecurity and Volunteering at a Food Pantry

by Deacon Debbie Beach

*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
(Mahatma Gandhi)*

*"Service is what prayer looks like when it gets up off its knees and walks around in the world."
(Michael J. Graham, S.J.)*

When I worked in Schoharie County, I had one family who often experienced food insecurity. I knew the family well enough to have the mother tell me how hard it was to ask for help; how embarrassing it was to ask for help. Luckily my program was in a cooperative relationship with Head Start, which had access to a food pantry. We developed a system which allowed the family to maintain their dignity. Once a month I would write in the child's notebook, "Is everything okay?" The response would be a simple "yes" or "no". If the latter, I would let the administrator of Head Start know and she would pack a box. As I provided home based services to a younger child in the family I could deliver the box. One time the little boy helped unpack the box. Every item he pulled out, he would verbally label and then kiss! His mother and I laughed especially when he found a big bottle of his favored condiment of ketchup which received more than one kiss! This was one of the sweetest, yet heartbreaking events to witness as he was only 3 years old.

A few years ago, I started volunteering on the last Saturday of the month at St. John's food pantry located at One Church Street in Johnstown. It is open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00am – 12:00pm.

When the guests arrive, they pick up a number and when it is their turn to register, they are given choices from the refrigerator/freezer section. Then a staff person guides them through the items on the shelves, which includes a special section for the children, where they again have choices and the quantity depends of the size of the family. In the summer months local farmers and gardeners with an abundant harvest, donate fresh fruits and vegetables.

When I volunteered on October 25th sadly, they broke a record no one wants to break. We served 35 families for a total of 105 individuals. Usually, I can handle the refrigerator and freezer section by myself and that day, it took two of us. I usually go into the store room once or twice to restock something, but I lost track of how many trips I made. The one freezer started beeping because it was 2 degrees over what was programmed as we were opening it so much. This has never happened.

Sadly, in this country of abundance, food insecurity has always existed. I fear the number of people who are currently facing food insecurity will get worse before it gets better.

Finally, why do I do volunteer at the food pantry? Well, Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12 about the different gifts we receive, mine is that of a helper, a caretaker. It is joy to me. I receive far more back than I could ever give!

We have other members of our congregation who serve local food pantries and I pray I can convince them to write about it. So, stay tuned!

Our Lady of Fatima Food Pantry

Judy Brietenstien contacted Brenda Rowley at the Our Lady of Fatima Food Pantry in Delanson and they are in need of the following:

- Pancake mixes and syrup
- Cereal
- Hearty soups
- Peanut butter
- Any non-perishable items would be appreciated

Bring items to Church on Sunday, December 7th



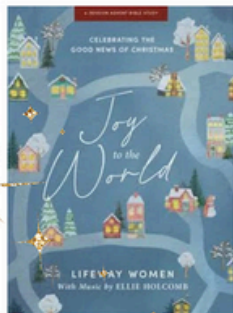
We are just finishing a seven week study of the entire Bible! Seamless is a study that covers the people, places and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the larger story of Scripture. Looking at the entire Bible can be intimidating, but the wonderful sense of humor of the author and her ability to give us an overarching understanding of the basic layout and meaning of God's word was remarkable! The group loved the study and now feel more comfortable with the Old Testament and how it connects with the New Testament!

Women's Bible Study

Join us for a 5 week Advent Study -

Joy to the World!!!

In this 5-session Christmas Bible study, you'll spend the weeks of Advent learning to celebrate the good news of great joy found in the Christmas story. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth to save us from our sins and sorrow and to make right our relationship with God. And He will return to finish setting everything right.



**You will need to purchase the book
Joy to the World by Lifeway Women
Available on Amazon**

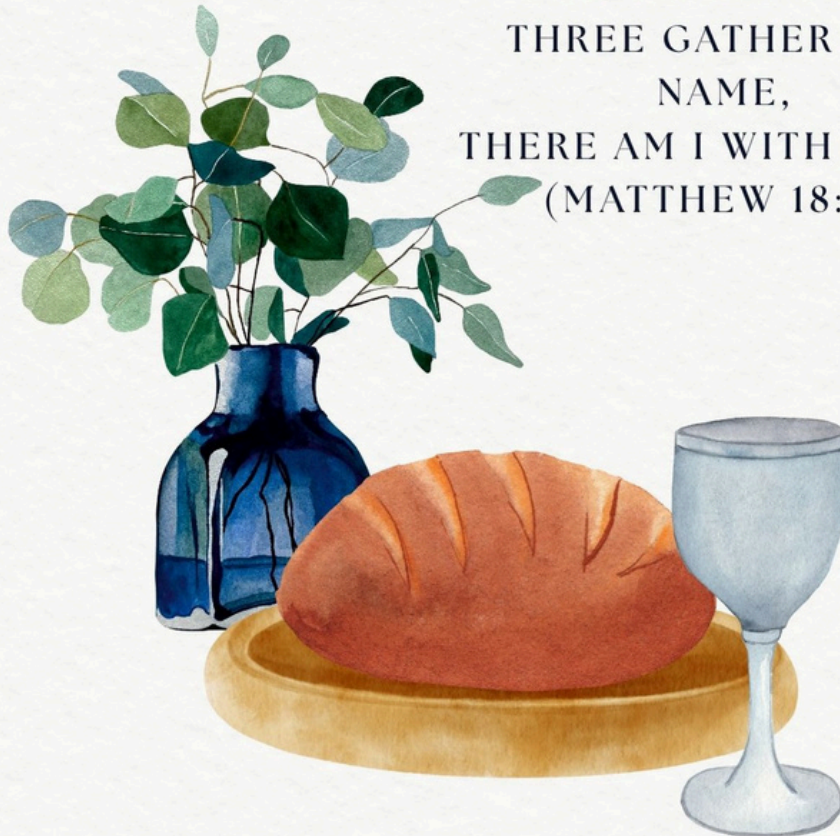
**See Deacon Debbie if you need
assistance purchasing a book.**

**For more information contact
Nancy Palluti
npalluti@gmail.com
OR
Heidi Bonacquist
Heidibonacquist@gmail.com**

Join us in
person or on
Zoom
Thursday
evenings from
7-8:30
Starting
November 13

Mid-Week Eucharist

“ FOR WHERE TWO OR
THREE GATHER IN MY
NAME,
THERE AM I WITH THEM.”
(MATTHEW 18:20)



YOU ARE INVITED TO
CHRIST CHURCH'S
MID-WEEK EUCHARIST

Date: Thursday, Nov. 13th

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Christ Church parish hall

Lunch will be provided following
the service

Please RSVP to Deacon Debbie

at 518-669-1898 or
runndeac@gmail.com



Christ Church Movie Trip

When: **Saturday, Dec. 20th at 12:30pm**

Where: Regal Theatre at Colonie Center

20 seats were reserved and 11 are filled.

**9 seats left available on a first come,
first served basis!**

The cost is covered by Christ Church!

Please let Deacon Debbie know if you are
interested in going and how many would be
attending

via runndeac@gmail.com only!

CHRIST CHURCH	518-895-2383
https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchDuanesburg www.ChristChurchDuanesburg.org	P.O. Box 92 Duanesburg, NY 12056
<p><i>Christ Church is a worshipping community of friends, joyfully serving, encouraging and healing others in Jesus's name.</i></p>	