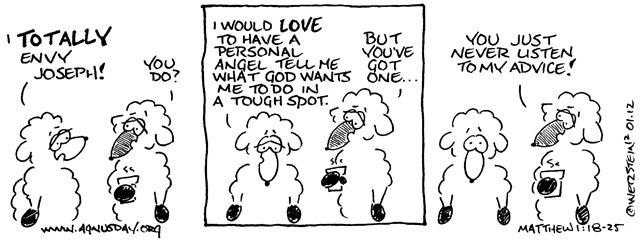
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 22nd, 2019 at 10:00 am**

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**



*"Agnus Day lectionary comic appears with the permission of*[*www.agnusday.org*](http://www.agnusday.org)*"*

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**INFORMATION FOR NEWCOMERS: WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH!**



Our motto is true whether you're here for the very first time

or you've been a member for decades –

**There is a place for you at God's Table!**

The worship service has two main parts: the Liturgy of the Word, which includes Scripture readings and a sermon, and the Liturgy of the Table, which is also called Holy Eucharist or Communion. You will notice moments in the service when people stand, kneel, bow, and make the sign of the cross -- all of these are completely optional. You are encouraged to participate in every aspect of worship, according to your comfort level.

Children of all ages are welcome to stay in worship. There is Nursery care available for babies and toddlers downstairs.

All who seek Christ are welcome at His Table for Communion. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward and request a blessing. If you wish to receive communion in your pew, please notify the ushers. And if you need a gluten-free wafer, just let Rev. Maggie know.

Most Sundays, Myra Dean Banion provides personal prayers at the station to the right of the communion rail during the distribution of the Sacrament. All prayer concerns are confidential. The clergy are also available for prayer following the worship service, if desired.

If you have not been baptized, or if you have questions about Holy Baptism, please talk to Rev. Maggie and/or Deacon Rick after the service -- the people of Christ Church would love to walk with you to your baptism and beyond!

**THE WORD OF GOD**

(\*please rise as you are comfortable)

PRELUDE: Prelude on “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” – Veni Emmanuel/arr. Callahan

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: “O come, O come, Emmanuel” Hymnal 56

\*OPENING ACCLAMATION FOR ADVENT

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

\*COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the

thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily

magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\* Kyrie **Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.** Hymnal S96

#### **Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.** (front section of the Hymnal)

#### **Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

#### **Lord, have mercy, have mercy.**

*(During the song, any children who wish to attend Children’s Chapel may follow the acolyte out.)*

\*COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.***

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### \*THE RESPONSE Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a **flock; \***  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the **cherubim.**

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Ma**nasseh, \***stir up your strength and come to **help** **us.**

3 Restore us, O God of **hosts; \***  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be **saved.**

4 O Lord God of **hosts, \***  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your **people?**

5 You have fed them with the bread of **tears; \***you have given them bowls of tears to **drink.**

6 You have made us the derision of our **neighbors, \***and our enemies laugh us to **scorn.**

7 Restore us, O God of **hosts; \***show the light of your countenance, and we shall be **saved.**

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right **hand, \***  
the son of man you have made so strong for your**self.**

17 And so will we never turn away from **you; \***give us life, that we may call upon your **Name.**

18 Restore us, O Lord God of **hosts; \***  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be **saved.**

\*THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL HYMN: “People, look East!”

*People, look east! The time is near, of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.*

*People, look east and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen, He for fledging time has chosen.*

*People, look east and sing today: Love the bird is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim.*

*Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.*

*People, look east and sing today: Love the star is on the way.*

*Angels announce with shouts of mirth Him who brings new life to earth.*

*Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.*

*People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.*

ADVENT PAGEANT: LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRIST

The children and youth will narrate and present some of the many forerunners of Christ throughout history. We invite you to sing during the interludes, as directed.

Interlude 1 (for John the Baptist):

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
 announces that the Lord is nigh;  
 awake and hearken, for he brings  
 glad tidings of the King of kings.*

*Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
 make straight the way for God within,  
 and let each heart prepare a home  
 where such a mighty guest may come.*

Interlude 2 (for Isaiah):

*Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
 comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.  
 Speak ye to Jerusalem, of the peace that waits for them;*

*tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.*

*Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,  
 calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.  
 Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
 let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.*

Interlude 3 (for Miriam):

*Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,   
 the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation;   
 with healing balm my soul he fills, and every faithless murmur stills:   
 to God all praise and glory.*

*What God's almighty power hath made, his gracious mercy keepeth;   
 by morning glow or evening shade his eye is ne'er sleepeth.   
 Within the kingdom of his might, lo! all is just and all is right:   
 to God all praise and glory.*

Interlude 4 (for Abraham):

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim though this barren land;  
 I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand;  
 bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,  
 feed me now and evermore.*

*Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;  
 let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;  
 strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,  
 be thou still my strength and shield.*

Interlude 5 (for Deborah):

*God, you have given us power to sound depths hitherto unknown,*

*to probe earth's hidden mysteries, and make their might our own.*

*Let wisdom's godly fear dispel the fears that hate impart;*

*give understanding to the mind, and with new mind, new heart.*

Interlude 6 (for all):

*Who are these like stars appearing, these, before God's throne who stand?  
 Each a golden crown is wearing; who are all this glorious band?  
 Alleluia! hark, they sing, praising loud their heavenly King.*

Closing Song -- "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" [Please join us on verse 3.]

*"Joseph, dearest, Joseph mine, help me cradle the Child divine.  
 God reward thee and all that’s thine, in paradise," so prays the mother Mary.*

*"Gladly dear one, Lady mine, help I cradle this Child divine."  
 "God’s own light on us both shall shine, in paradise," so prays the mother Mary.*

*All shall come and bow the knee, wise and happy their souls shall be.  
 Loving such a divinity as all may see in Jesus, son of Mary.*

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,**

**Light from Light, true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;**

**through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of**

the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

\*THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, showing us the glory of the Father. Let that glory be manifest in our churches. Give us the will to be united as You prayed we would be.

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell within all churches.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, serving others and not seeking your own glory. Inspire church leaders, that they may be examples of willing service. Bless Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Thomas, our Bishop; Maggie, our priest, and Rick, our deacon.

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell among all clergy.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, giving us an example of true power, which lies in holiness. Direct government leaders into wise decisions that will bring forth righteousness. Give the leaders of the nations wisdom and hearts for peace.

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell in all government leaders.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, choosing the company of the poor, the homeless, the hungry, and the sick, of widows and orphans, and of sinners. Help us to reach out in lovingkindness to those who are in any need or trouble. We pray for the ministries this church supports, [especially\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_].

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell in our acts of mercy.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, taking on our flesh, and inhabiting both the pains and the joys of this life. We celebrate with those who have birthdays and anniversaries this week [especially\_\_\_\_].

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell in our moments of joy.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, taking sickness and suffering into your own hands and transforming them. Have mercy on those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for… Give special grace and power to all those who spend this holiday season working with the sick and the dying.

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell in our dis-ease and make us whole.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, weeping at the death of those whom you loved. Comfort all those who have lost loved ones, and bless those departed [especially\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_].

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell in our memories of those whom we have lost. Grant peace and light to those who have died.***

*\**THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

**Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*.***

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant pronounces the absolution.*

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

*Celebrant*: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

THE OFFERTORY: “Waiting for Emmanuel”- Ruth Elaine Schram

\*PRESENTATION: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;** Tune: *Old 100th*

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God for all that love has done:**

**Creator, Christ, and Spirit, one! Amen.**

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. **By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace. **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,** Hymnal S130

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,** (front section of the Hymnal)  **heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Ancestors; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD Hymnal S164

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.** (front section of Hymnal)

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:**

**give us your peace, give us your peace.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: “Wait for the Lord”

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near,**

**Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

*During Advent, this chant from Taize will be our communion hymn. Please sing as you feel moved, and through the repetition, allow the hymn to become a prayer.*

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

\*THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant pronounces God’s blessing over the people. The people respond:* ***Amen.***

\*CLOSING HYMN:“Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates” Hymnal 436

POSTLUDE: “Sarabande” from English Suite No. 1 in F Major - Bach

*If you leave during the postlude, please do so quietly, so that others may enjoy the music. Thank you!*

*Please join us for Coffee Hour fellowship downstairs following the service!*

**Ministers for December 22, 2019**

**Altar Guild:** Susie Peterson and Joan Hurley

**Acolytes:** Katrina Dooley, Owen Dooley, and Miles Dooley

**Chalice Bearers:** TheRev.Rick Incorvati and Ed Hasecke

**Lector:** Judy Johnson

**Prayers:** Fred Bartenstein

**Ushers:** Chris Wells, Jeff Carter, and Eman Trillana

**Coffee Hour:** Anita Beardsell and Stacy Whitt

**Tellers:** Marilyn Howat and Martha Chaney

**Pageant Cast**

**John the Baptist:** Jesse Leidheiser-Stoddard

**Isaiah:** Graham Waggoner

**Miriam:** Bodhi Ryan

**Abraham:** Will Hasecke

**Deborah:** Hannah Ryan

**Mary:** Sarah Schubert

**Gabriel:** Hamilton Young

**Music Leaders:** Jeff Carter and Joy Carter

**General Information**

**Rector:** The Rev.Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

**Deacon**: The Rev. Rick Incorvati

**Senior Warden**: Dawn Ivy

**Junior Warden**: John Richardson

**Treasurer**: Ken Bladh

**Vestry at Large**: Bonnie Bingman, Chris Oldstone-Moore, Cathy Hasecke,

Brian Shelburne, Joyce Spangler, Denise Sharp, and Chris Wells

**Parish Administrator & Program Coordinator**: Kelly Zeller

**Director of Music**: Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

**Youth Teacher:** Abby Glass

**Nursery Attendant**: Jerushia Knox

**Facility Manager**: Paul McAfee

**Bookkeeper:** Tina Knox

*Thank you for worshipping at Christ Church today, and may the Lord be with you!*



**Christ Episcopal Church**

**409 East High Street**

**Springfield, Ohio 45505**

**937-323-8651**

[**www.christspringfield.org**](http://www.christspringfield.org)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**UPDATE: Financial Support Pledged for 2020**

As of December 16th, we have received 73 pledges of financial support for next year, totaling $185,283. This includes 9 new pledging units, and 21 established units who increased their pledge amounts. THANK YOU to all who have pledged to support Christ Church in 2020! We still have not reached our pledge goal of $213,000; so if you have not yet pledged, please consider doing so to support your church and its ministries. Extra pledge cards are available in the east entrance.

**HOG (Hanging of the Greens) Today**

Grab your coffee & snacks and report to the Bethel Room, where HOG Leaders Alan Ladd and Jake Studebaker will be waiting with instructions for beautifying the church!

**Tax Deductible Contributions for 2019**

In order to take advantage of tax deductions for 2019 contributions to Christ Church, they must be received in the church office by December 30th. Statements of giving will be sent out in January. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Zeller (zellerk0611@gmail.com).

**Church Office Closed**

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Church Office will be CLOSED from Monday, December 23rd through Friday, January 3rd. Your staff will be enjoying some much-needed vacation time. The office will reopen on Monday, January 6th.

**Key Distribution**

East Entrance keys will be distributed between services today. Questions? Contact Security Director Jack Ivy. The new lock will be installed and in use by next Sunday, December 29th.

**Christmas Eve Services**

**3:00 pm** (Rite I, with organ and classical guitar; a peaceful, meditative worship experience with sermon and Holy Communion)

Prelude begins at 2:30 pm

**7:30 pm** (Rite II, with organ, guitar, and choir; a festive, celebratory service with candles, sermon and Holy Communion)

Prelude begins at 7 pm

**+++ *WE HOLD IN PRAYER...*  +++**

**Those who are ill and/or recovering:** Joy Bartenstein,Jane Peabody,Jane Strothman,Joni Pulver, Dar Brooks Hedstrom, Kim Hughes,Bobby Richardson,Ruth Bayley, Rick Martin, Larry Hupp, Sarah Albright Healy, Vicki Lindsay, Traudie Milleck, Lexie Boblitt, Pat Silliman, Norm Silliman, and Keith Harbaugh.

**Our parishioners who are homebound:** Muriel Spoon, Diana DeVoe, and Traudie Milleck.

**Those serving in the armed forces:** Zachary Dillon,Pierre Brown, James Belmont, Ashley Westerdorf, Michael Miller, Craig Christ, Chris Krabach, Matthew Baer, Daniel Wells, Charles Kennedy, Paul Taynor, Mark Wright, Dan Dean, Matthew Ray, Kurt Fisher, Eric Sandoval, Joe Sullivan, Tyler Cordell, Willie Peterson IV, Isaac Studebaker, Christopher Lippolis, Gabe Trillana, and Paul Power.

**Those facing religious persecution**: Christians in the Middle East, and people all across the world who suffer violence and intimidation for practicing their faith; and all those who are excluded and oppressed by religious people and authorities.

**The Diocesan cycle of prayer:** Please join with Episcopalians throughout the diocese in praying for the clergy, vestry, and people of St. Mary Magdalene (Maineville), St. Luke’s (Marietta), Trinity (London), and retired deacons.

**In the Anglican cycle of prayer:** Please pray for the Anglican Church in North India; Delhi, India; Canterbury, England; Armagh, Ireland; Eastern Kowloon, Hong Kong; and Diocese of the Free State, Southern Africa.

**Ministries this parish supports:** Clark County Literacy Coalition, Episcopal Community Services Foundation, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Interfaith Hospitality Network.

**Those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries:** The Rev. Rick Incorvati, Dawn White, David Reichel, Marty Smith, Joanne Harris, Bill Yeazell, and Silas Brooks Hedstrom.