

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT  
1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

News Notes for the Week of December 10, 2023

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor  
Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music  
Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator

St. Andrew Church's "Why" Statement...

*To come together as a worshipping community, nourished by God's love so that we may reflect God's love to others.*

Adopted April 2023

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December 10, 2023  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Holy Communion

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

**Sunday, December 10, 2023; Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

(Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

Facebook and YouTube:

[https://www.facebook.com/Standrewct/;](https://www.facebook.com/Standrewct/)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti\\_WSwRJ\\_ySbMA3Q.](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti_WSwRJ_ySbMA3Q)

10:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting - Update on 4 Church Collaboration

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

**Monday, December 11, 2023**

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

6:30 p.m. 4-Church Confirmation Kick Off Meeting at Gloria Dei.

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

7 p.m. 4-Church Bible Study via Zoom

**Thursday, December 14, 2023**

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

**Sunday, December 17, 2023; Third Sunday of Advent**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

(Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

Facebook and YouTube:

[https://www.facebook.com/Standrewct/;](https://www.facebook.com/Standrewct/)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti\\_WSwRJ\\_ySbMA3Q.](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti_WSwRJ_ySbMA3Q)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour



## **THIS SUNDAY...ADVENT TWO A FULL DAY OF PREPARATION!**

As we gather for **worship** this Sunday and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ into our lives and the life of this broken world, we will light the second candle on the Advent wreath, sing and pray for the peace that only God can bring, and hear the ringing message of John the Baptist: "Prepare the way of the Lord...!" Come and worship. Gather around God's Word and Table.

After worship, and during our always generous Coffee Hour:

- Join in hearing important news at our **December Informal Congregational Meeting** keeping you up to date on our continuing collaborative work with our neighboring Lutheran congregations as we move closer to the possibility of forming a new congregation for a strong and vital future together. Our representatives on the Four Church Collaboration Committee (Arlene Creswell, Karen Biernat, Owen VanBrocklin and Pastor Swenson) will report on the results of recent conversations and the next steps that the Collaboration Committee is proposing in order to move forward toward a common goal. You are encouraged to be a part of the conversation and the movement forward. Your questions and insights continue to be valued and are essential to the process.
- Help Worship Team members **set up the Christmas Tree** in the church as our Christmas celebration nears.
- And don't miss the **Christmas Bazaar** in the Hall! (See all about it below.)

### ***An idea for Advent Home Devotions...***

As you pull out your four candle Advent wreath or make a new one and light one candle at the beginning of each week, use the Litany for Lighting the Wreath that we will also be using during worship on Sundays. There is a special theme for each week — Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Let the dawning light of Christ shine in your home as you journey through this season!

You will find the Advent Candle Lighting Litany in the bulletin attached at the end of these NewsNotes, or bring the Sunday bulletin home with you each week. And let the Prayer of the Day and the readings heard in worship ring again in your hearts and minds through the week. (If you are gathered around the table as a family, share the reading out loud together. Or if you are alone, read the prayer silently or aloud.)

## **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM FOR FOLKS AND FRIENDS OF FOUR CHURCHES**

You are invited to share in a brief Bible Study and time of prayer led by Pastor Ed Duffy of Zion Church during the Advent season on Wednesdays, December 13 and 20 from 7 to 7:30 p.m. The Zoom gathering began this Wednesday, December 6, but please join in for the next two weeks.

To let Pastor Duffy know that you are interested in participating, send him an email note ([edwduffy75@gmail.com](mailto:edwduffy75@gmail.com)) and he will send you a Zoom invite in return. Have a Bible at your side for each of the sessions.

Topics for the next two sessions will be:

December 13 — "The First Gospel" (Matthew and Its Fulfillment)

December 20 — "Incarnation"



### **With Gratitude and Invitation...**

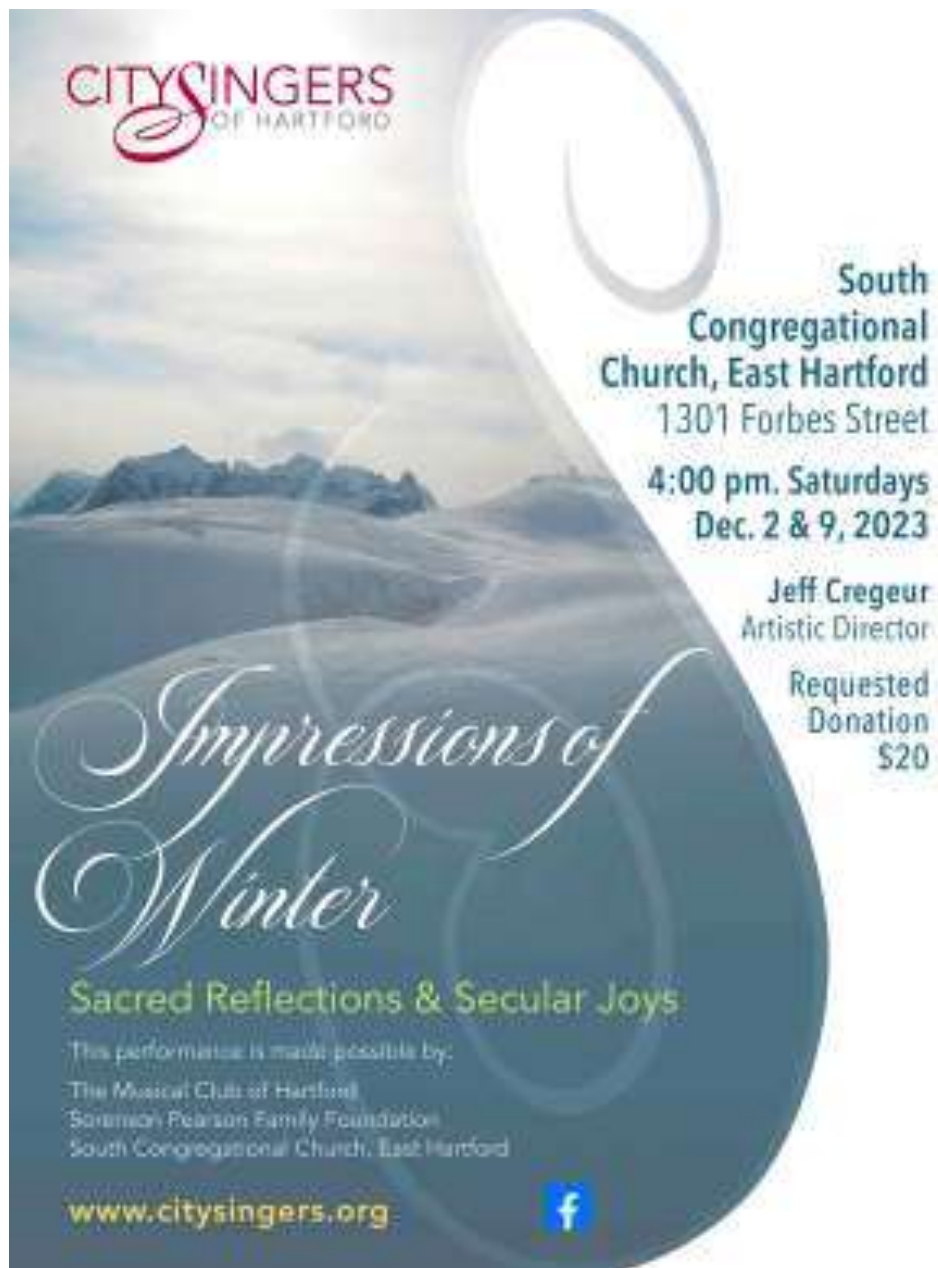
- Thanks to all who have submitted their estimate of giving cards to support and build the ministry of St. Andrew Church for 2024. We are a generous people!
- And thanks for all who have not yet submitted their estimates of giving but will soon. Every gift is important to the life of the church as we lean into a new year. If you need a card, they will be available this Sunday morning, or call the church office and ask Nicole to send you one.
- And our gratitude to Arlene Creswell who has faithfully and competently led our "We are called!" efforts over the past weeks, despite her broken foot and fashionable walking boot!

**THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 4:00 PM CITYSINGERS of HARTFORD**

is presenting a

Christmas/Winter-themed choral concert with accompaniment  
by a brass quintet, percussion and piano.

The first half of this program is set up as a collection of songs to depict the nativity scene. The second half features pieces that represent winter, beginning with the brass playing the famous "Winter" by Vivaldi. Filling the second part is a suite of songs by John Rutter, *When Icicles Hang*, depicting the joys and hardships that come with the brutal weather of winter.



**CITYSINGERS**  
OF HARTFORD

**South  
Congregational  
Church, East Hartford**  
1301 Forbes Street  
4:00 pm. Saturdays  
Dec. 2 & 9, 2023

**Jeff Cregeur**  
Artistic Director


Requested  
Donation  
\$20

*Impressions of  
Winter*

**Sacred Reflections & Secular Joys**

This performance is made possible by:  
The Musical Club of Hartford  
Sorenson Pearson Family Foundation  
South Congregational Church, East Hartford

[www.citysingers.org](http://www.citysingers.org)



Pictured here are the six sopranos from CitySingers. (Do you see anyone you know?)



*Gwynne Hopko, Minister of Music*

### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DONATIONS**

If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant to help adorn the altar area for Christmas, please fill out the form that will appear in the Sunday worship bulletins or call Nicole in the church office. Cost will be \$20 per plant. If you would like to give the plant in honor or in memory of someone please note that as well. Thanks.

### **CHILDREN'S STORY TIME**

Children ages 2-12 are invited to join adult leaders in our Sunday School room from the first lesson through the sermon to learn about the day's lessons and gospel and enjoy related activities and song. In lieu of CBST on the fourth Sundays of the month, children will remain in the sanctuary and hear a Children's Message.

Please contact Britt Elise Lynch if you have questions, wish to participate as a helper or leader, or would like more information.

## **4-CHURCH CONFIRMATION - KICK-OFF EVENT Dec 11th**

Students enrolled in grades 6, 7 & 8 are invited to come (and bring their parents) to a kickoff gathering on Monday Dec 11th at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 355 Camp St., Bristol, from 6:30-8p.

Come meet the leaders, review the curriculum, meet other young people, and have some fun!

Classes begin January 8th, and pre-registration is required. Contact Pr Swenson, Arlene Creswell or the church office for details.

## **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**



**On Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup>, December 10<sup>th</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Andrew will be having a mini Christmas Bazaar following Sunday service. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall. There are new and hand crafted items to chose from.**

**All Items are pre-boxed and ready to go. They are perfect gifts for teachers, friends and neighbors.**

## **GROCERY CART CHALLENGE:**

Do you have a favorite holiday food? Some canned cranberry or package of stuffing or cherry pie filling for that favorite dessert? You can't forget those canned green beans, crunchy onions and mushroom soup. Green bean casserole!

What about that cup of peppermint hot cocoa and cookie at Christmas.

**When you are going shopping please remember your neighbors.**

## **ST. PAULY SHED**

The shed continues to help us and others. Clothes are being donated to other churches for clothing ministries, some clothes generate income for us to financially support food banks.

Your donations of clothes are vital to our outreach. Thank you

## **YES! THERE WILL BE A TAG SALE.**

Drop offs will begin in January.

Main contact is Dawn Stitham, [dstitham@gmail.com](mailto:dstitham@gmail.com) or Robin Landrette at 860 582.7807.



Photo by Laura Hope on Unsplash

# Blue Christmas

A Service of Healing & Hope  
for those who are  
grieving, lonely, hurting

**Sunday, December 17, 4pm**  
**First Congregational Church**  
**31 Maple Street**  
**Bristol, CT**

## PRAYERS

### **We offer prayers of thanksgiving and supplication for:**

- those known to us in need of healing: Bill Murtha, Arthur Potz, Jim Prior, Callum Rescsanski, Paul Rescsanski, Charles Schissler, Steven Siecienski, Johanna Tessman, Carole Wedler, Marge Pearson, Anna Zurell, Susan Provenzano, Tracey Simpson, Donna Ouellette, Michael Positano, Larry Holyst, Denise Holyst, Robert Gergler, Karen Schumann, Roy Zurell, and all those in nursing homes and the homebound: Nancy Denehy, Marie Ouellette and Jean Wentland.

We strive to keep the prayer lists updated both during worship and in our weekly announcements. If you have people or concerns that you would like to add to our communal prayer, please email [churchoffice@standrewct.org](mailto:churchoffice@standrewct.org), or leave a comment on our Sunday worship live feed. We will keep any requests made on for a month and then remove them.

*If you have pastoral needs or concerns, please feel free to call our transition pastor.  
The Rev. Les Swenson can be reached at 860.857.9362.*



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Julia Biernat	15 Cora Neumann
3 Kristen Pratt	17 Luke Adam
3 Noelle Sonstrom	18 Kim Wagner
5 Richard Killiany	20 Emily Gdovin
5 Rachel Tessman	21 James Hein
9 Kathy Dahlberg	21 Emily Hopko
13 Stephen Adam	23 Timothy Treacy
13 Ivy Nadeau	25 Jonathan Nelson
14 Leana Gleicher	26 Jamie Nadeau
15 Rachel Beauregard	28 Jacob Rindfleisch
	30 Paul Martin

The December 10, 2023 bulletin can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/12B9fWTQIFp2ojagb-gkDPDVRxK\\_Zdxaf/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12B9fWTQIFp2ojagb-gkDPDVRxK_Zdxaf/view?usp=sharing)