



The Correspondent

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, New York

Volume XXVI
Issue 11

December 2019

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WEEKEND SERVICES

Saturday 5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
 Sunday 8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
 Sunday 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II

WEEKDAY SERVICES IN THE CHAPEL

Tuesday
 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 1—First Sunday of Advent
 Bake Sale
 Dec. 8—Second Sunday of Advent
 Dec. 15—Third Sunday of Advent
 Dec. 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Dec. 24—Christmas Eve
 Dec. 25—Christmas Day
 Dec. 31—New Year's Eve



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ in thought, word, and deed to our community and the world.



Christmas Worship Services



Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

4:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II with
 Christmas Pageant
 9:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II with
 Choir & Brass
 11:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II with
 Choir & Brass

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

10:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II



FROM THE EDITOR

For Episcopalians December is a somewhat schizophrenic month! We are called by the Church to be thoughtful and solemn and to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child. We sing minor key anthems in the choir. We light candles on the Advent wreath.

But we are called by the secular world to begin the celebration! We can't wait until the 25th. Things won't be ready if we don't start now. Send out your Christmas cards! Bake cookies! Decorate your house and attend the parties for your job and each organization that you belong to! Smile! Laugh! Sing! And, of course, shop for your loved ones and for those who have no one to shop for them.

No wonder we are stressed during this month! Both Advent and Christmas are special and wonderful parts of the year, but it is difficult having to celebrate them all at one time. It makes it easier if we don't think about the whole month at once, and if we organize ourselves into activities for each day, so we can enjoy each moment and get some rest breaks in between.

We all love the holiday season, but it is much more restful when we look back on it in January! A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to all!



–Rodney Dudley

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2019 Saint Ann's Episcopal Church

January Deadline

Thursday, December 19

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A Word from the Interim Rector Father Hugh James



The Real Meaning of Christmas

Dear Friends,

“What is the real meaning of Christmas?” It’s a question I’ve often been asked to address as a visiting speaker at all kinds of groups around this time of year. The way the question is phrased can leave me feeling a little arrogant, because it assumes that my answer will be right and others will be wrong. For me the answer is tied up with the birth of the Christ child, the incarnation, God taking on human flesh and blood, God becoming one of us because God so loved the world ...

The way I phrase my answer is moulded by who and what I am. As a Christian priest, I’m almost bound to give a religious answer and phrase it in theological terms, but I’m very aware that that is not the only meaning of Christmas. Other people will stress different aspects of the festival. Some might talk about families getting together, and travelling long distances to share a special meal. (As a British person, I’m used to that taking the place of family gatherings which here happen at Thanksgiving.) Others may see it as an opportunity to give and receive presents. Some people use the sending of cards as a way of keeping in touch with friends who live at a distance, and look forward to receiving greetings and news. So, for different people the real meaning of Christmas could be quite different from my own answer.



December the 25th is not, despite what many people say, the date of Jesus’ birth. We know this because Luke talks in his gospel about “Shepherds abiding in the fields, watching over their flocks by night”. That did not happen at that time of year. It would have been much more likely around April. So why do we celebrate it on December 25th? The reasons are lost in the distant past, but during the time that Christianity was expanding throughout Europe in the early centuries of the Christian era, many cultures observed mid-winter festivals, often connected with the winter solstice and worship of pagan deities. Rather than compete with these, the church decided to take them over and “re-purpose” them as a major Christian festival. In doing so they linked the celebration to Christ’s birth. They reflected on the early verses of John’s gospel, which talk about the light coming into the world and shining in the midst of the darkness, and how the darkness can never overcome it. The theme seems ideally suited to a celebration during a dark midwinter. And so, our modern festival began.

Sometimes when I look around at the way it is celebrated today, I think that the secular aspects of its origins have re-asserted themselves and our celebration of Christ has been forgotten. The challenge facing the church today, is how to make Christ once again central to the celebration: how, if you like, to put Christ back into CHRISTmas.

With all best wishes,

Hugh James

Vestry Visions

“Our culture and television tells us that Christmas is about buying stuff but actually Christmas is about loving others and the promise of love, forgiveness, and grace that the Savior brings” – Henry Owen

Let’s keep this quote in mind as we enter into this Christmas season.

We all get caught up in the preparation of Christmas day, but the Vestry wants to remind you, take time out for reflection on the real meaning of Christmas.

Watch for announcements in the bulletin regarding this year’s Christmas services and opportunities to keep the spirit of Christmas in your heart such as Lessons and Carols. How about signing up for a shift or two in the tree lot? It’s such a wonderful experience to be among the beautiful trees and sharing fellowship with others.

Back to the business of St. Ann’s Vestry:

The pledge cards are coming in and we are very pleased by the response to date. If you haven’t returned your pledge card yet, there’s still time!

A big thank you to Lynnette Schulz and all the people who either donated food, money or helped to shop and assemble the Thanksgiving baskets.

The Christmas Fair was a successful fundraising event. The entire Vestry thanks everyone for their time, whether you volunteered, donated, or shopped.

By now the Christmas trees have been delivered and they are selling fast. If you haven’t signed up for this important ministry yet, please do so. You’ll be surprised as to how much fun you’ll have.

Please check out the Giving Tree in the Parish Hall. This year we will be helping to spread Christmas cheer by purchasing gifts for a needy family in our diocese. We are also collecting gifts for St. John’s Children’s Hospital and Little Flower Family Services.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Jackie Gandolfo for the Vestry

	Wardens:	2020 Nancy Koinoglou	2021 Thomas Honey
	Vestry:	2020 Donald Hester	Diane Miller-Magnani
		Patricia Osarchuk	John O’Neil
		2021 Ken Smyrk	Carol Ann St. Lawrence
		Wendy Schmittzeh	John Smith
		2022 Jackie Gandolfo	Jill Hughes
		Nicole LaFontaine	Constance Currie

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

THE THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thanks to all the people who took tags from the Thanksgiving tree and donated groceries for our Thanksgiving baskets. We were able to provide dinners for 25 families thanks to your generosity! And thanks for all those volunteers who were at the Littlejohn Building putting together the baskets while the fair was starting. The 25 families were very appreciative of the wonderful dinners they were able to prepare on Thanksgiving!

THE FAIR

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make our Christmas Fair a success! And thanks to all the customers who came and ate, and shopped, and bought raffles—and cleaned up! In spite of the rain, we had a great day, and we are grateful for all your efforts!



The Giving Tree has been in the Parish Hall since Sunday, November 24h in the Parish Hall. There are still quite a few tags available, and we hope we can fill all the Christmas wishes.

- Please take a tag, purchase the item on the tag.
- Return the item unwrapped WITH the tag attached back to the Giving Tree by December 15th.
- Once again, we will be bringing Christmas cheer to Little Flower Children's Services, Adopt-A-Family, and the children in St. John's Hospital.



Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Advent

Advent, which marks the beginning to the church year (this year on December 1st), is “the first gleam of Christmas,” writes W.E. Sangster. “It heralds the entrance of the Divine into human history; it is heaven descending to earth; it is a great event casting its brilliance before it.”

Sangster adds: “It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King. ‘Get ready,’ he seems to say. ‘Get ready. He is coming.’”

CHRISTMAS TREES



It's wonderful to see the Great Lawn full of Christmas trees once again! Not only is it our biggest fund raiser of the year, it is an integral part of the celebration of the season! Those who are selling trees are helping people to pick the perfect tree for their Christmas celebration. Everyone is in a good mood and full of the spirit of the season!

We need everyone's help in this effort, and it's easy work! The trees sell themselves. Many people come back to St. Ann's year after year and from amazing distances so they can get their St. Ann's tree.

The Tree Committee does amazing work, but they need to get their shopping done too! Sign up for a shift to sell trees. They will probably be sold until around December 14th when, amazingly, the trees will have all vanished in a 2-week period. Merry Christmas!

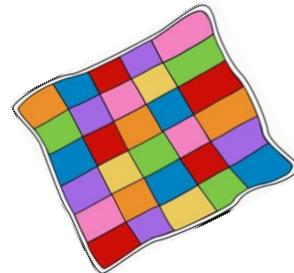
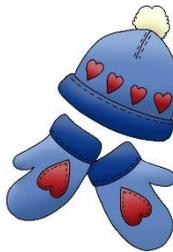
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

OPERATION HOPE

We are grateful to the Daughters of the King, a small but mighty group! They have been busy with their needles flying, preparing items for donation to St. John's Episcopal Hospital, Far Rockaway.

Items donated:

- 10 Shawls and cowls
- 15 Baby blankets
- 45 Children's hats, mittens, etc.
- 5 Twin size quilts
- 27 Hat & Scarf sets
- 4 Individual hats
- 12 Wheelchair quilts
- Books for children, which were donated from a vendor to school book fairs



Marge Rogers, Carolann St. Lawrence, and Dot Lamens dropped the items off at the Convention, where a truck picked them up to be distributed St. John's Hospital. They are having some well-deserved rest now during the holidays and will start up again in the new year.

Many thanks, ladies, for all you do!

SENIOR LUNCHEON – DECEMBER 17TH



Come join the fun at our Holiday Senior Luncheon! Karen and Linda have planned a new menu, and Kathy Senese will be there to lead us in a holiday sing-along. And, of course, you don't want to miss the traditional enactment of The Twelve Days of Christmas!

There is no charge, but we ask that you bring a donation for the Food Pantry.

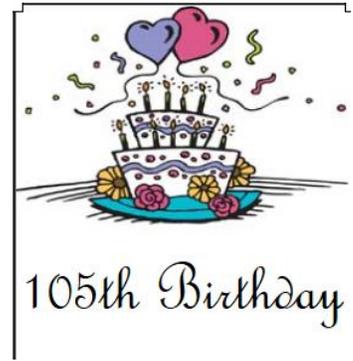
So, save the date! Come celebrate with us!

ALBERTA SAWYER'S BIRTHDAY

Ellen Stoll reports that she has spoken with Alberta Sawyer's daughter Charlotte. Alberta is doing well and will turn **105** on January 17! If you would like to send Alberta a birthday card, her address is:

Alberta Sawyer
Gary House
149 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05692

I'm sure she'd love to hear from some of her old friends at St. Ann's!



The Spirit of Giving



A highly educated Southern woman named Lottie Moon headed to China in 1873 after rejecting a marriage proposal. She served as a missionary there for almost 40 years, enduring tough conditions and meager resources. Through detailed letters home, Moon conveyed the “desperate need” for more workers.

To honor Moon, in 1918 the Southern Baptist Convention renamed its annual missions collection for her. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering commemorates the dedicated missionary who once asked: “Is not the festive season when families and friends exchange gifts in memory of The Gift laid on the altar of the world for the redemption of the human race the most appropriate time to consecrate a portion from abounding riches and scant poverty to send forth the good tidings of great joy into all the earth?”

The Promise of the Future

A nursing home resident who longed for fresh Georgia peaches discovered a pit overlooked in his serving of canned fruit. In an old coffee can, he planted the stone, which sprouted! The man gave the small tree to friends to plant. Years later, the peaches were so abundant the neighbors had to give some away.

Lila Docken Bauman recounts this story for the *Christian Century*, saying the man who took that gamble “did not live to see [it] grow into the tree that ultimately produced this harvest. But when he looked at that pit years ago, he saw the promise of fresh fruit. ... ‘Who despises the day of small things?’ asks the prophet Zechariah. It’s in those small things that the promise of the future rests.”



Just so, some 2,000 years ago, in a small baby born in a tiny town — both seemingly inconsequential — rested “the promise of the future” — the salvation of the whole world!



PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY MINISTRY

By Mary Mattarella (631-745-3745)
stbarnabus@yahoo.com



Greeting Friends!

Holiday greetings to all! Today was an amazing day, very fruitful!

Our team from St Ann's--Rodney, Rick, and I--boarded the 6:39 AM train from Ronkonkoma, to meet up in the city with our friends from Zion Episcopal Church, Douglaston. We gave out blankets, hygiene kits, jackets, and other warm clothing to over 70 sisters and brothers who call the streets home. Zion brought sandwiches and fruit, blankets, plastic tote bags, and more clothing. Of course, all of you who donated those items were right along with us. Our customers were delighted to see us and grateful for all the things we brought!

We had printed references for locations where they could find shelter, warm meals and showers that we handed out, and those were well received. This is an especially hard time of year for the homeless, and it's especially useful for them to have places to eat and keep warm indoors. We need more blankets, if you have any extra to donate.



We also made plans for our special Christmas mission to NYC on **Saturday, December 28th**! We are so excited, and hoping that some of you can join us! We plan to bring Christmas stockings filled with walnuts, oranges, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and candy. All of this is so very much needed! Our friendship and interaction are just as important to those who have no home. What is prevalent amongst the homeless, is mental illness. Please join me in praying for this issue.

Special thanks to Mother Lindsay and her crew from Zion Church, awesome job! Plus, we love the new friends!

Blessings to you all, *The Very Festive Mary*

Gift-Giving Solutions

Trying to find gifts for certain people — or letting others know what *you* want — can be quite challenging. After all, most of us don't need anything.

Realizing that the best gifts aren't material items offers a new perspective on giving and receiving. Consider these insights from author Charles Swindoll:

"Some gifts you can give this Christmas are beyond monetary value: Mend a quarrel, dismiss suspicion, tell someone 'I love you.' Give something away — anonymously. Forgive someone who has treated you wrong. Turn away wrath with a soft answer. Visit someone in a nursing home. Apologize if you were wrong. Be especially kind to someone with whom you work. Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation, or announcement, or reservation, or hypocrisy."



VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE

ST. ANN'S CHOIR MEMBERS GO CAROLING FOR MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET



Once again, the St. Ann's carolers "donned their gay apparel" à la the Victorian era and serenaded the people of Sayville during the afternoon of November 30, while the setup was going on to prepare for the evening's festivities. Their singing put everyone in the Christmas spirit—even though we Episcopalians try most of the time to keep to Advent hymns during the four weeks prior to Christmas!

God rest ye, merry gentlemen! Let nothing you dismay!



He knows what you've been singing
He knows about the tree
He saw you eating cookies
So, sing along with me:
You better wait up,
you better hold back
Don't jump that gun or
he'll give you flack,
Advent Claus is coming to town.



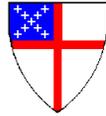
IT'S A CHURCH CHOIR, ED. THEY DON'T TAKE REQUESTS

ADVENT OF KINDNESS



DECEMBER 2019

1. Give someone a hug or a compliment.	2. Let someone in front of you in line.	3. Buy coffee for a friend or colleague.	4. Hold the door open for someone.	5. Give a friend or loved one your full attention.
6. Donate a Christmas present to a charity.	7. Tell a joke to make someone smile.	8. Do something kind for yourself.	9. Hide a happy note for someone to find.	10. Donate unwanted books to charity.
11. Tape some money on a vending machine.	12. Smile at a stranger—or two, or 15!	13. Get in touch with an old friend or relative.	14. Let a car in front of you in traffic.	15. Write or send a thank you note to someone.
16. Smile and thank someone who serves you.	17. Tell someone you love them.	18. Pay for a stranger's coffee.	19. Offer to help someone.	20. Feed animals (birds, deer, etc.)
21. Donate unwanted clothes to charity.	22. Do something unexpected for someone.	23. Give a treat to your postal carrier.	24. Do something kind for yourself.	25. Reflect and record how much joy this season has brought you!



NOTES



**Restock the
SHELVES**

OUR DAILY BREAD

Monday & Thursday, from 10:00 AM -12:00 Noon
The food pantry is especially in need of these supplies.

**Canned Meats * Soup * Chili * Peanut Butter * Jelly
Fresh Vegetables**

Of course, cash donations allow us to shop for needed items.

Prayer Circle

Prayer Circle meets Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:30 AM in the chapel. Please join us to pray for our church, the nation, the world and anyone in need of prayer.

We meet from 9:00-10:30AM and include a Bible Study (***The Path: A Journey Through the Bible***). It includes many favorite Bible stories from Genesis thru Revelation and a discussion of how the stories relate to daily living. Call Marge Rogers (631-567-1919) for more information.



Peanut Butter & Jelly Ministry

While we always need donations, we would particularly like to invite you to come into the city with us, usually on the last Saturday of the month. Yes, we start early, but you'll be back home in the early afternoon and have the rest of the day! It's a very rewarding time—even if you only try it once!

The more people we have, the more wagons we can bring and the more folks we can help!

Yoga Is Back!

Come to the Parish Hall on Thursday at 1:00 PM. Bring your own mat or use one of ours. Been feeling stressed lately? This will relax you! Feeling stiff? This will make you limber again! Hope you can join us! Fun and free! Namaste.



Sign up for the Sunday Coffee Hour...one of the easiest ministries at St. Ann's! It takes only a couple of hours – once or twice a year! -- and makes so many people happy! Many hands make light work, so if we all take a turn it will be easier for everyone.

Just bring some milk and your favorite breakfast foods to share! Thanks for your help!



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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 631-589-6522.



			WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES			
6	Sal & Kathy Senese	13	Christian & Melanie Hagenlocher	26	John & Barbara Stahlberg	
7	Robert & Barbara Gaito	17	Michael & Lauren Rascona	27	Louis & Lily Dadabo	
11	Brian & Maureen Rockwood	22	Lars & Jill Gustafson	28	John O'Neil & Richard Mugno	

BIRTHDAYS							
2	Rick Kaiser	6	John O'Neil	13	Marian Winter-Bartsch	24	Wendy Schmittzeh
3	Isar Casteneda		Kristen Welte		Scott Leuly		Raymond Coiro
	Cara Kudlek	8	Christopher Teague	14	Ava Gustafson	26	Melanie Hagenlocher
4	Brett Krakaur	9	Daniel Miller	15	James Bosse	27	Jordan Stankovich
	Linda Munkelwitz		Nancy Miller	16	Leann Barone	29	Ethan Schmeider
5	Jack Adam	10	Jonathan Greci	20	Douglas Teague		Connor Teague
	Anne Savage		Nicholas Greci	21	John Stahlberg	30	Robert Belfield
	John Stankovich		Ryan Hughes	22	Mark Schmittzeh		Mary Funaro
6	Joseph Garafolo	11	Nancy Close	23	Jill Gustafson	31	Kimberly Rodriguez-Cerillo
	Brayden Lasko	12	Carolann Gaites		Ronin Kashdan		
	Richard Magnani		Parker Cole		Holly Rhodes-Teague		

Happy Birthday To--and For--You

Birthdays are unique because they celebrate who someone *is*, not what they've *done*. Henri Nouwen wrote, "It is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone, 'Thank you for being you.' ... On a birthday we do not say, 'Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished.' No, we say, 'Thank you for being born and being among us.'"

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411 Central Islip Blvd. Ronkonkoma, NY 737-0051	Granny Road & Route 112 (opp. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery) 696-0721		

Our Church History



By Connie Currie

❖ The Garden of the Unforgotten

**CLARENCE HIBBARD
MAE WILSON HIBBARD
SECTION 35 – LOTS 5-6-7-8**

Clarence E. Hibbard, age 84, of Church Street in Patchogue, died at Brookhaven Hospital in the last week of March 1957 after a brief illness. He was born in New York, but most of his life was spent in Bayport, where he operated a barrel factory. Clarence retired 35 years before his death. He later moved to Patchogue where he lived for 25 years.

Mr. Hibbard was a life member of Connetquot Lodge F&AM of Sayville. He was survived by his wife Mae Wilson Hibbard. Funeral services were held at Raynor's Chapel by the Rev. Joseph H. Bond, Rector of St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Sayville. Interment was in the family plot in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Mae V. (Wilson) Hibbard, widow of Clarence E. Hibbard, died in late September of 1962 in Newport, VT, where she had been living with relatives since 1959. She and Mr. Hibbard had been married in New York and shortly afterward moved to Bayport, where they lived until 1932, when they moved to Patchogue. Christian Science services were held in Raynor's Chapel in Sayville with Mrs. Edith Webster representing the First Church of Christ Scientist of Patchogue. Interment was in the family plot in St. Ann's Cemetery.

The Legend of the Sand Dollar

There's a pretty little legend that I would like to tell
Of the birth and death of Jesus found in this lowly shell.

If you examine closely, you'll see that you find here
Four nail holes and a fifth hole, made by a Roman's spear.

On one side the Easter lily, its center is the star
That appeared unto the shepherds and led them from afar.

The Christmas poinsettia etched on the other side
Reminds us of his birthday, our happy Christmastide.

Now break the center open, and here you will release
The five white doves awaiting to spread good will and peace.

This simple little symbol, Christ left for you and me
To help us spread his Gospel, through all eternity.

—Author unknown





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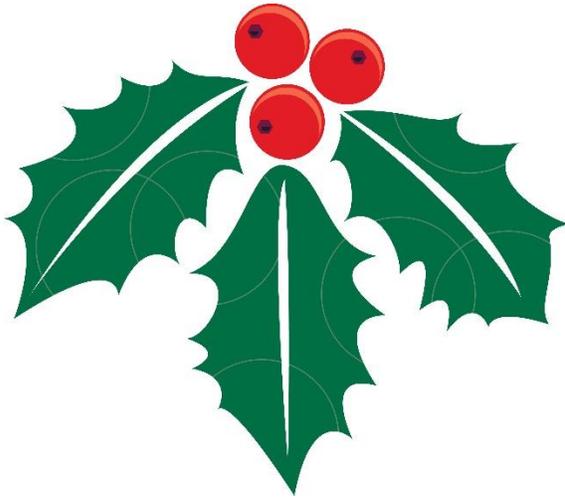
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+Christian Symbol+



Holly

Holly was first used by pagans to decorate for the festival of Saturnalia. When Christians began celebrating Christmas in honor of Christ, they adapted that decorating practice to reflect Jesus' life and death. Holly's pointed leaves symbolize the crown of thorns and its red berries symbolize Christ's blood shed on the cross. Because holly thrives and its berries retain their brilliance even in harsh winter conditions, non-Christians saw it as a symbol of eternity — which is fitting for Christians as well.

AROUND SAINT ANN'S Monthly Schedule

See Correspondent pages and Bulletin for changes/cancellations.

Check out the website at: www.saint-anns.org

Sundays

8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
9:00 AM—Sunday School
10:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
7:30 PM—AA Meeting

Mondays

10:00 AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry
6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—Dec. 9
6:00 PM—Mission & Outreach—Dec. 16
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

Tuesdays

8:00 AM—Men's Group
9:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
6:00 PM—Children's Choir
7:00 PM—Adult Choir

Wednesdays

9:30 AM—12:00 PM Operation Hope
10:00 AM—3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open

Thursdays

10:00 AM—AA Meeting
10:00 AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry
10:00 AM—3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

Fridays

12:00—3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open

Saturday

10:00 AM—3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open
5:00 PM—Holy Eucharist



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