



Advent 2023

Advent Letter, 2023
Pastor Kate Wilson
Interim Rector

My beloved friends,

I heard a funny story yesterday. Funny from the outside, anyway. It seems the head of the Altar Guild in a small parish and the priest disagree about everything. You know how we have colors that signal the different liturgical seasons, and Advent has two colors to choose from, royal purple and an equally royal blue. Each color has its own history but both signal the coming of Jesus, our Messiah. No one is sure which chose their color out of spite, but sure enough, the priest chose one color and the Altar Guild minister chose the other. Since the Altar Guild dresses the altar, we can predict who will win that argument.

There is surely an irony here. Advent is a time of longing, of waiting. The very word *Advent* comes from the Latin *Adventus*, which means *coming, arrival*. We await the coming of Christ in his Nativity, as well as in his second coming. Arguments about details seem improbable, unwelcome. Do we celebrate and embrace Advent's coming to argue about color schemes, altar drag? Perhaps we are blessed at St. David's to have only a single color of vestments. We can prepare ourselves spiritually, physically, longingly for Christ to be among us once again. Emmanuel: Christ among us. Peace and love incarnate among us, surrounding us and allowing us to surround Christ as fellow travelers and intimate souls.

While away after my hip surgery, everything took twice as long, or longer, than it normally would, and some activities were completely off the table. I had adapted my home, moving throw rugs and other subversive agents, adding railings, that sort of thing. It was exhausting, and my attention span was very short, often interrupted by a massive muscles spasm or dropped fork. I contributed to the Stewardship Campaign as best I could, and had telephone conversations long and short, wrote emails and attended meetings, taking part in the day-to-day of St. David's. I saw that 20 people joined me watching our service on Facebook, and heard the laughter of friends before services on Zoom.

But in between, I had plenty of time to follow the horror in Gaza. Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, my surgery was October 9. I missed a couple of days there entirely, but then the images of tracers and explosions were all too clear. Hamas struck in retribution against hated Israeli policies, an attack on the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, and because Hamas has vowed to destroy every Israeli. There is no question but that their attack on Israeli non-combatants was brutal. And now Israel vows to wipe out Hamas. As we know, the Hamas military is woven around over two million non-combatants in Gaza City.

This is the Holy Land. This is sacred ground. This is the rain and reign of death during our awaiting the bringer and teacher of peace and love. How can this be? If the argument between a priest and a leader of Altar Guild is ridiculous at this time, how much more so is this conflict, this unhallowed evil. What would Jesus do? What would Jesus have us do?

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Jesus would have us love our enemy. Jesus would have us love enemies and friends with long histories of resentment and mistreatment. Some would say each has “justified anger.” Jesus would say to make peace. To support all those who are suffering with our prayers and compassion. To embrace all those who suffer, as lepers and the lame suffered in Jesus’s time, as his fellow Jews suffered and were abused by their own puppet government and the Roman enslavers.

We can take action as our consciences guide us. We can support the suffering financially, or in ways we may be called to do. It will not feel like enough. So we must make it sacred. Whatever we do, let it be marked with the patient waiting for Christ new-born and come-again, the bearer of love amid the horrors of earthly lives. Let us embrace and act always and only in peace and love. Our faith in Christ is not for sissies.

Embrace the peace, love, and quiet of Christ through Celtic Evening Prayer or in your own ways. Then share it freely, generously, and in love as we await Emmanuel together.

St. David’s Episcopal Church

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Senior Warden:

Adie Smith

Deacon:

The Rev. William Morris

Organist/Choir Director:

Dr. Vicki King

Parish Administrator:

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Other Christmases

Perhaps, it's the other Christmases that I remember:

Little hands
patting me on the face
before dawn -
anticipating...

Driving back to Ohio on a snowy
morning
to be home for
the holidays -
anticipating...

Getting a call
that someone close
had passed
that
very day -
it had been anticipated...

Perhaps, it's the other Christmases I remember
which gives this one
a poignancy
a bittersweetness
and
a sense
of
anticipation

Phyllis Sindlinger



Deacon's Corner

A Christmas Story -Part 1

Every person has a story, and virtually all of our stories possess people or events for which we are deeply grateful. This is my story, with people and places all of whom I am grateful to.

The first person is Harriette, an affable and intelligent teenager. She loves to sketch, paint in watercolors, and write poetry. She has two older brothers. Her father sells insurance. Her mother is a housewife and one of those moms who is loved by all.

The second person is Lloyd. Like Harriette, Lloyd is very intelligent. He loves history and he loves animals. Unlike Harriette, Lloyd is bashful and withdrawn. He is the oldest of seven, all of whom are raised by a single mother. Lloyd's great gift is that he possesses amazing athleticism. He is a swift center fielder, an elite football player, and the fastest high school sprinter in the state.

Harriette and Lloyd met in jr. high school in biology lab. He saw how she winced while dissecting a frog. He teased her. They laughed. She kept speaking to him again and again.

Harriette and Lloyd became good friends. She loved his mind and his smile. She later marveled at his speed and reveled in his victories. She recognized parts of him that others missed. He loved her humor and her joy.

Friendship quickly took root. Puppy love quickly followed. Four years later came trouble.

Harriette was with child. Lloyd and his mother came to Harriette's home for a meeting on a Sunday night in the family sitting room.

Marriage was proposed, but Harriette was white, Lloyd was black, and Indiana had laws against mixed-race marriage. Another plan was put forth. Lloyd had an uncle named Alfred, a pastor with a mid-sized Baptist church in Beloit, Wisconsin. Harriette would go live with Alfred's family. Lloyd could visit. Later, when the baby was due, a marriage ceremony could be held. This was the plan.

In the meantime, Lloyd attended Michigan State, from whom he'd received an athletic scholarship. Mix-race marriages were legal in Michigan but frowned upon in college sports. The marriage plan was a secret in East Lansing.

As planned, Harriette went to Beloit to live with Alfred, his wife, and five kids. When asked by his congregation-- and others in the community -- to identify the bubbly, blonde-haired, blue-eyed woman staying in his home, Alfred would smile and say: "She's my niece."

Harriette had the best time of her life in Beloit. She sang a lot and laughed a lot. The kids shared stories and ate ice cream and combed each other's hair, and Alfred shared stories about Jesus. When Lloyd visited, Harriette and Lloyd took walks and held hands; They were free of hateful leering, nasty name-calling, or hurtful ostracizing. They were out of Indiana. And the baby grew.

One day, as the baby's arrival drew near, Harriette got a phone call from Lloyd's mother. The news was bad.

Lloyd, his mother said (as if reciting), was not going to marry her. Folks at Michigan State had found out about the plan. They threatened to rescind his scholarship if he married. Lloyd backed out of marriage and family.

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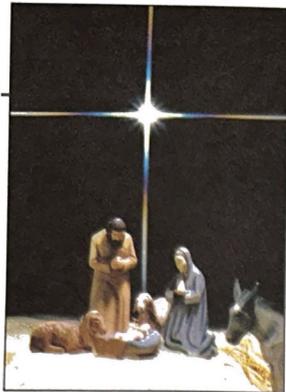
Harriette was crestfallen and devastated. She called her parents who said, "Come home." And, with eyes full of tears and a soul bereft with sadness, Harriette took the train back to Indiana. As she was now more apt to do, she talked to her baby. "It's going to be all right. It's going to be all right. It's going to be all right." she whispered and hummed again and again.

Shortly after Harriette arrived back in Indiana, her parents convinced her to live in a Crittenden Home for Unmarried Mothers. She tried her best to keep encouraged. It was hard, though. Her family was gone. Lloyd was gone. And, pursuant to the Agreement of Adoption that she'd signed, her baby would soon be gone.

Three weeks later, the baby was born. A boy. 10 lbs. 5 oz.. On a Thursday night at 10:42. She named him "Lloyd". Per the Agreement, Harriette was allowed to hold him for 15 minutes. Later, Harriette wrote a poem to her baby:

"For 15 minutes I held you near,
You smiled at me, but you too shed a tear,
'Cause part we must, but you should know,
My prayers are with you wherever you go."

Next Newsletter, Part 2.



On Earth Peace

December 4, 1989

Christmas is really the gifts behind the gift! The most splendid gift is the gift not yet opened; it is a box full of possibilities and becomes whatever the recipient wishes. Snow is the most beautiful while it falls. The best part of cookies is their smell while baking.

Opening the present is often anticlimactic, for once opened the gift passes from the realm of promise into the reality of material possessions. It imposes terms on its owner. Open a gift and like a vacuum the possibilities whoosh away, never to be recovered.

So it is that Christmas Eve is the best part of Christmas. It is serene. It is the moment, still and expectant, when the warmth of the season may be felt for its own sake.

If anticipation is the essence of Christmas, Christmas Eve is the essence of anticipation. The original point of Christmas, best reflected on Christmas Eve, was to proclaim what might be. Wise men and shepherds alike went to Bethlehem that first Christmas Eve because they hoped what was happening there would elevate humankind - to make us truly deserving of each other.

Although it has not always worked out that way the idea wasn't wrong. Peace on earth and mercy mild are possible. On Christmas Eve all things are possible.

Love,
Joan Amati

Getting Better Acquainted

By Jan Drum

A note on how this happened. Jim Drum told Jane Herr that Phyllis and I would like to write pieces about various members of St. David's for the newsletter. He neglected to mention this to us first, so blame him, please. Here's the first one. Phyllis is up next.

What a treat! Annie Hawk and I got together for tea and coffee at the Bird's Nest one morning this week. She's pretty modest, but I'm betting Annie was a star student. She was successful enough to attend St. John's College in Annapolis, MD, and their admission rate these days is 50%. (And let's not talk about test scores.) Except for mentioning that she attended St. John's, I dug up the other info online, so don't let on you suspect.

Annie is originally an Indiana farm girl born in Hancock County and she visited Brown County as a teen with her father. She was drawn by the scenic beauty of Brown County and, when she lived in Chicago, bought land and started to escape here for r and r.



Most of us know that Annie is a music lover (more on that later). But she also takes pride in her many years of work in the field of early childhood education. While living in Oberlin, Ohio, she pulled off (read that conceived, organized, and led) a child oriented Family Fun Fair. She did lots of other things there too like raising two daughters and one son, overseeing delivery of the morning newspaper, caring for an invalid mother, directing a 125-client childcare center ("The Oberlin Early Childhood Center enrolled up to 125 children. It got Title XX funding so children could attend regardless of family income."), and I'm guessing running herself ragged most days. Eventually she took a new job which in time led her to resettle in Chicago.

But now let's backtrack to her mysterious love of music. She's a music lover, not a trained musician. She has happy memories of sharing her home in Oberlin with several fine musicians--first it was bassoonists but then others followed—a Korean organist and the longest resident, a violinist who is now a member of the National Symphony Orchestra. Here's how she explains her ongoing love of music (and musicians). As a girl she lived in Cleveland Heights and her aunt and uncle had season tickets and got her a job ushering for Cleveland Orchestra concerts under then-director George Szell. She had a great high school band director. But most important was the Lutheran Church she and her mother attended. "All the music was for church services but it was wonderful every Sunday. The organist was incredible! It was about a forty person choir with paid section leaders. (You can imagine the procession!). I say it was "all Bach all the time" but that is an overstatement. There were other incredible works performed..."

When as an adult she moved to Chicago, she was active with Grace Place (an Episcopal congregation) and helped organize their twice-a-year fifteen-week concert series featuring artists (and occasionally faculty) from the Chicago Institute for the Performing Arts. (Our Bean Blossom Music Series must seem like a vacation compared to that work.)

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And eventually her love of music, her organizing skill, and her fondness for music resulted in the founding of Chamberfest Brown County, her current great work. Her dreams include a national reputation for Chamberfest. This glimpse of Annie Hawk concludes with the Chamberfest mission statement. There are two reasons for doing this: (1) Annie said I could. And (2) It captures a lot of what makes Annie such a joy. We are blessed to have her among us.

Bean Blossom Music Series

There will be a Bean Blossom Music Series performance in early January but I don't have the date and the musician info yet. Stay tuned for an early January concert.

Annie

News from the Choir Corner

from Vicki King



I hope that you have been enjoying the St. David's Choir with their special music each Sunday. We call ourselves "small, but mighty." As we look to Advent and a new church year, we'll be exploring some lovely anthems that I discovered in our choir library. I hope you'll take advantage of some of the Liturgical Mysteries in our church library, written by the late Dr. Mark Schweizer. He was a very talented man, and the choir often sings some of his choral compositions. We have also included some of the late Joe Ridenour's compositions. I'm always open to requests by members of the congregation. I'm looking forward to a Lessons and Carols Service on Christmas Eve.



Join us, also, on Christmas Day, when we'll be singing some of your favorite Christmas carols.



Outreach News

What has your Outreach Committee been involved in for 2023?

This is not a complete list of all the projects but shows what you and your pledges/donations are doing around the world!

Outreach Programs for 2023

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brown County Weekend Backpacks 2. Brasilia, Brazil – Diocesan Partner 3. Habitat for Humanity 4. Mother's Cupboard 5. Naloxone Box for Addiction Help 6. Little Food Pantry 7. Little Library 8. Children's Garden and Playground 9. Pollinator Day Camp/Garden 10. Earth Day/Creation Care 11. Countywide Pollinator Restoration 12. Thursday Free Food Distribution 13. Strawberry Festival 14. Rummage Sale 15. Monthly Children's Activity 16. TRIAD 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Save the Children – Bicycles for Healthcare Workers 18. Mithon, Haiti – Parish Partner 19. "Do Something" Reward Program 20. Southern Poverty Law Center 21. St. Vincent DePaul 22. United Thank Offering 23. Adopt-A-Highway Litter Clean -up 24. Guardian ad Litem volunteers 25. Military Christmas Presents 26. Brown County Food Alliance
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If you are interested in what you can do to help, please contact any member of the Outreach Committee: Donna Niednagel, Marylin Day, Angie Aumage, Gail Fields, Sandy Ackerman, Laura Wenzler and Fran Dugan

Search Committee Update

Friends -

We find ourselves entering into another season of Advent, and as ever, we enter it in the spirit of patience and of preparation.

Our search process continues to forge ahead, in spite of the difficulties we face, locally and globally, in finding candidates. Still, with the Thanksgiving holiday now in our recent wake, we must remain focused on and thankful for all of the blessings we have among our community here at St. David's.

In particular, Pastor Kate continues to lovingly forge ahead in this journey alongside us, and we are ever so grateful for her return to us after her surgery and recovery. Brother William continues to bless us with his joyful presence and cheerful attitude as he teaches and preaches with us. Vicki and our wonderful choir continue to bless our sanctuary and our time together with their joyful sounds. Our lovely parish administrator Jean continues to work silently 'behind the scenes' ensuring that the ins and outs of our parish operates smoothly. The countless volunteers that continue to do God's work, both within our walls and among the community and beyond. The list goes on and on, and now that I think about it, I believe I could name every person in our parish and the work that we all continue to do together for the glory of God. There's a theme there - 'Continue'. We continue to journey ahead together, not with grumblings or with sadness or longing for what could be or what was, but with joyous hearts and grateful souls for things as they are. We continue.

On the subject of gratitude, we are grateful for Annie Hawk's work with the search committee - as had been announced after church previously, Annie had decided to amicably resign from the committee back in late July. We are thankful for all of the work she poured into our parish profile, and the hours of meetings and countless email threads that she took part in to ensure our profile represented our parish as perfectly as we could muster. From all of us at St. David's, Annie, thank you.

With the season of Advent just on the horizon, I hope that you'll join me in the continued work of prayerful patience as we await that person who is to become our next permanent priest.

Continue.

Peace,

—*Ed McCabe,*
Search Committee Chair

UTO

In October we at St. David's put a special emphasis on gratitude and thanksgiving during our United Thank Offering month, but gratitude and thanksgiving are what we are about all year. We show that in our treatment of each other and our outreach programs. Our outreach through our support of UTO grants, by our offerings expressing our gratitude for all that we have, are awarded throughout the Episcopal Church and the world-wide Anglican Communion. Thanks to all who contributed.

Not only are we helping others but we are helping ourselves. I personally feel better when giving an offering in gratitude. The Rev. Canon Heather Melton, UTO Staff Officer, writes about strength and optimism through gratitude.



"In September, I started taking an online class on positive psychology. Here at UTO we often talk about how gratitude is an important contributor to our good health, but it is also an important character strength. Gratitude is often heavily leaned into as a practice of positive psychology. Positive psychology is the study of those things which contribute to optimal mental health: gratitude, resiliency, perseverance, and creativity are just a few of the character strengths that help us to work through difficult moments in our lives. (If you're interested in learning more about your character strengths, visit <https://www.viacharacter.org/character-strengths> for a free assessment recommended by the course I'm taking.)"

"The first week of class our assignment included a gratitude practice that we talk a lot about at UTO; writing down three good things that happened that day. The goal is to not make gratitude one more thing to do each day, but to have gratitude become a reflex, a natural response to something good happening."

—Jane Savage

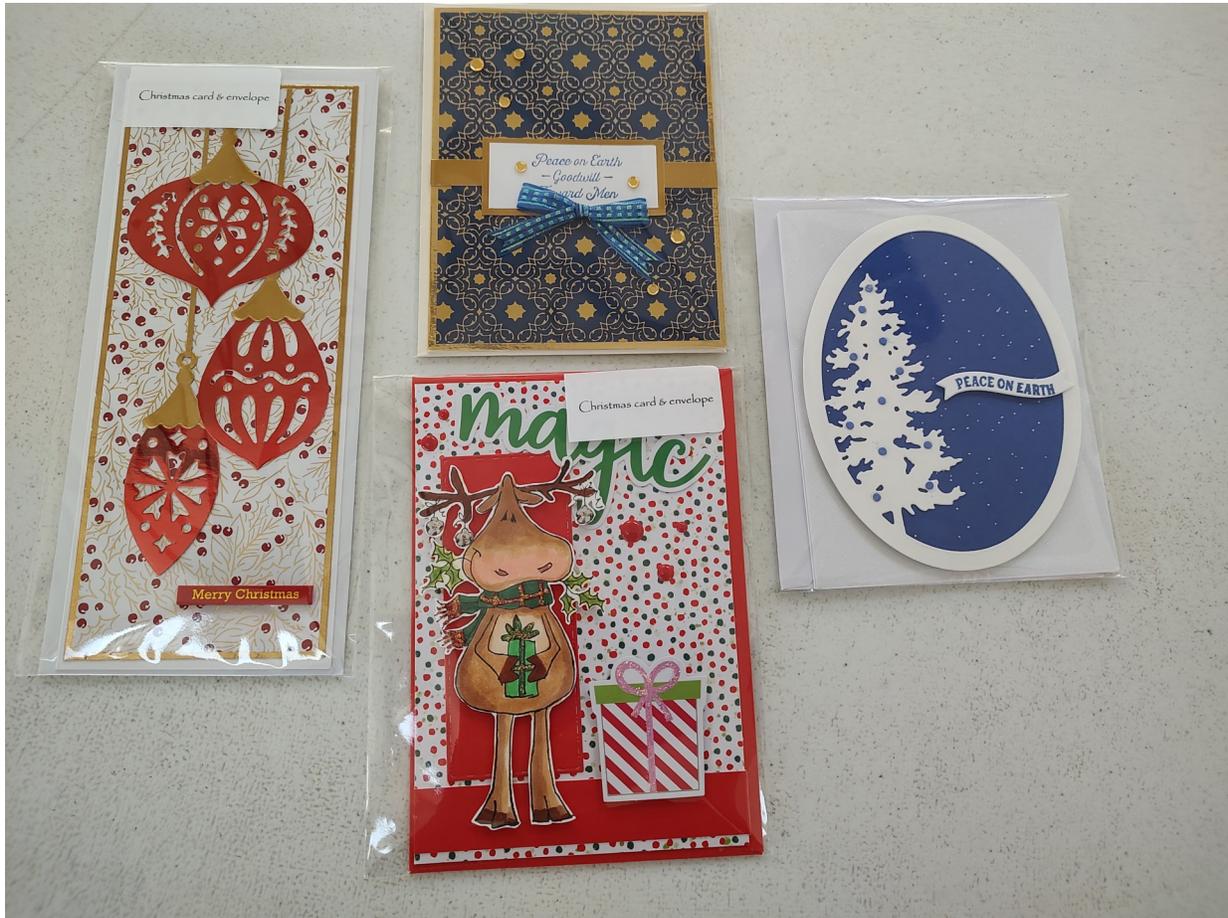
Fellowship by Zoom

Dear Friends,

Join us on Friday mornings for an "End of the Week" / "Beginning of the Weekend" study and fellowship time. Come spend a little time, read a chapter of the Bible, share your thoughts and inspirations, and pray. We meet by Zoom every Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00: a.m. An invite which includes the zoom link will be emailed to everyone each week. Please join us when you can.

Thanks,

Brother William+



Marilyn has more cards!

Do you need a special greeting card for that special someone? For special and not-so-special events, buy a one-of-a-kind, handmade card!

Reasonably priced at \$4 each, all purchases of the greeting cards on the Outreach table go to support Outreach in our county, state and around the world!

Autumn and Christmas cards are now available!

Also, the Outreach Committee would encourage you to join our very active group with your time, talent or treasure! We currently meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 2:30 pm.

—*Marilyn Day*

Inspiration

The House of Christmas

There fared a mother driven forth
 Out of an inn to roam;
 In the place where she was homeless
 All men are at home.

The crazy stable close at hand,
 With shaking timber and shifting sand,
 Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand
 Than the square stones of Rome.

For men are homesick in their homes,
 And strangers under the sun,
 And they lay their heads in a foreign land
 Whenever the day is done.

Here we have battle and blazing eyes,
 And chance and honor and high surprise,
 But our homes are under miraculous skies
 Where the yule tale was begun.

A Child in a foul stable,
 Where the beasts feed and foam,
 Only where He was homeless
 Are you and I at home;
 We have hands that fashion and heads that know,
 But our hearts we lost - how long ago!
 In a place no chart nor ship can show
 Under the sky's dome.

This world is wild as an old wives' tale,
 And strange the plain things are,
 The earth is enough and the air is enough
 For our wonder and our war;
 But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings
 And our peace is put in impossible things
 Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings
 Round an incredible star.

To an open house in the evening
 Home shall men come,
 To an older place than Eden
 And a taller town than Rome.
 To the end of the way of the wandering star,
 To the things that cannot be and that are,
 To the place where God was homeless
 And all men are at home.

(1915) by G. K. Chesterton



Birthdays and Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

9 Joan Amati
 9 Tim & Laurie Stant - Anniversary
 10 Ed & Cori McCabe - Anniversary
 11 David Sindlinger
 12 Jan Holloway
 12 Jane Herr
 13 Andrea Barber
 15 Ben & Lauren Woodworth - Anniversary
 20 Ralph & Maggie Linscott - Anniversary
 23 Kate Nolan
 25 Skip Wood
 28 Carol Ruffin

DECEMBER

9 Quinn Cole (Bess & Eric's son)
 12 Donna Niednagel
 27 Jim & Jan Drum - Anniversary
 28 Phyllis Sindlinger
 29 Deborah Hutchison

JANUARY

15 Susie Chestnut
 16 Skip Patchin
 18 Jan Drum
 22 Gordon Smith (son of Ben & Adie Smith)

FEBRUARY

3 Cori McCabe
 4 Mike Day
 5 Jaden Fish (Niednagel's grandson)
 7 Logan Fittz
 14 Jane Land
 15 Sandy Fittz
 27 Linda Lee Gosser

Don't see your birthday or anniversary - drop me a line at jane@rjherr.com

Newsletter Submissions?

Please send your news items, stories of spiritual growth, book reviews, jokes, cartoons, recipes, etc. to Jane Herr (812)320-2340 or 4923 Stevens Rd., Nashville, 47448 or (the preferred method!): jane@rjherr.com

Next deadline for submissions:
 Lent: February 4, 2024



St. David's Episcopal Church
 PO Box 1798
 Nashville, IN 47448

SERVICES

Sunday 9:30 AM Morning Prayer

Wednesday 5:00 PM Evening Prayer

In-person services may be temporarily suspended when Covid cases increase in Brown County. You can attend our worship services via zoom and/or Facebook. Please contact the church office for more information.

Schedule of Special Services and Parish Events

Wednesday	Nov 29	Pub Theology <i>(topic: The Christmas Story: what do we believe?)</i>	6:30 pm	Out of Ordinary
Friday	Dec 1	Euchre <i>(Euchre continues on the 1st Friday of the month)</i>	7 pm	St. David's
Sunday	Dec 3	First Sunday in Advent: Holy Eucharist	9:30am	St. David's
Wednesday	Dec 6	Celtic Evening Prayer <i>(continues each Wednesday through Advent)</i>	5 pm	St. David's
Monday	Dec 25	Christmas Day		
Saturday	Jan 6	Epiphany		
Wednesday	Jan 10	Dinner Church <i>(Dinner Church continues on 3rd Wednesday of the month)</i>	5 pm	St. David's
Wednesday	Jan 24	Pub Theology <i>(Pub Theology continues on the 4th Wednesday of the month)</i>	6:30 pm	Out of Ordinary
Sunday	Feb 4	Lent newsletter info deadline		
Wednesday	Feb 14	Ash Wednesday		