

**Church of Our Saviour**  
*Episcopal*  
Milford, New Hampshire

*Forming community through Christ,  
serving community in Christ*

## Wednesday Notes for December 20, 2023

### Merry Christmas

On behalf of Father Ed, Father Michael, David, Abbie, and the members of the Vestry, we wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas!



We received a Christmas card from the Lewis family. It is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for the parish to see.

### Dates to remember

**Sunday, Dec. 24:** Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.  
Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols, 5 p.m.

**Monday, Dec. 25:** Christmas Day Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m.

**Sunday, Jan.21:** Annual meeting and luncheon, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., *at the SHARE Center*

**Friday, Jan. 26:** Book group, 6:30 p.m., *Holder Chapel*

Please check our online calendar for upcoming dates and events [HERE](#).

## Poinsettias

Church of Our Saviour has a dedicated group of volunteers who take the altar flowers each week to a member of the congregation, carrying the prayers and greetings of the congregation beyond our walls.

At Christmas, we decorate the church with poinsettias, and we want to share them.

Would you be willing to take a flower and visit briefly with another member of our church, perhaps someone who is unable to be in church or whom we have not seen for a while?



Stop in the church after the Christmas service -- it could be sometime during the week -- and pick up the flower. We'll have a list of recipients, with their address and phone number. Choose one and you are on your way!

It's a simple way to spread the spirit and joy of Christmas, perhaps to meet someone new, and your gesture is sure to be appreciated.



Thanks to you and your support Church of Our Saviour continues to be an open spiritual community in the Episcopal Church that celebrates God's love by honoring every person and all of God's creation. In celebrating, we hope to be healers and reconcilers in a world that is badly divided. We do so with joyful Sunday worship, authentic caring, and with outreach activities to agencies in our community and world that touch the lives of those in need.

We do all this as the Body of Christ in the world by God's grace; doing our best to share the Good News of God's unending love for all. Saint Luke's Gospel records these words of Jesus, "the Reign of God is among you." (*Luke 17:20-21*) We believe this Good News and hope to be its witness at The Church of Our Saviour.

*To those of you who have already pledged your support,*  
**THANK YOU!**

There is still time to play your part. We encourage you to consider prayerfully the level of support you can offer, remembering that the amount and frequency of your gift are entirely up to you, and remain between you and the treasurer.

If you need another pledge form, click [HERE](#), pick up one in the Narthex, or email treasurer Barbara Millar at [coos.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:coos.treasurer@gmail.com) and tell her how you will support Church of Our Saviour in 2024.

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## **Pledge contributions for 2023**

If you have not completed your pledge contribution for 2023, they must be received by Sunday, Dec. 31. Please bring it into the office during office hours, drop it in the Sunday offertory, or mail it in (must be postmarked by Dec. 31). If you have any questions, please reach out to treasurer Barbara Millar at [coos.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:coos.treasurer@gmail.com).

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### **Christmas Eve**

#### **One service at 10 a.m. in church, on Zoom**

Please join us at worship in the church on Sunday at 10 a.m. Michael Reinke will celebrate a service of Holy Eucharist.

#### **One service at 5 p.m. in church, on Zoom**

Please join us at worship in the church on Sunday, Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. Ed Frost will be celebrating a service of Lessons and Carols. Celebrate the joy of Christmas with readings of the story from Scripture and traditional Christmas carols, accompanied by organ, piano and violin.

If you are more comfortable with remote worship, please join us on Zoom.

*Look for the link in the email on Friday.*

### **Christmas Day**

#### **One service at 10 a.m. in church**

Please join us at worship in the church on Monday, Christmas Day at 9 a.m. Ed Frost will be celebrating a service of Holy Eucharist. There will be no music and will not be on Zoom.

## This Sunday's Gospel

### Luke 1:26-38



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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### Wednesday Group: *Check-in and Bible discussion*

We will **not** gather on **Wednesday, Dec. 27.**

All are welcome to join the group next week when meet on Zoom, as we reconnect and discuss our faith and life together. It's informal; we encourage you to join us.



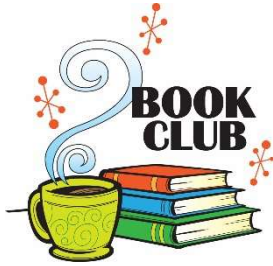
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### Office Hours

Due to the upcoming holidays the office will be **closed Monday, Dec. 25, and Monday, Jan. 2.**

Regular office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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## Book group

The book group has selected [Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others](#) by Barbara Taylor Brown as its next book. We will meet on Friday, Jan. 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the Holder Chapel to discuss the book and share some goodies. Please join us!

## Mimi turns 100!

Mimi, beloved parishioner here for many years before her move to assisted living in Maine some years ago, turns 100! Let's shower Mimi with birthday cards. Thanks to your donations, we've been able to make a \$200 donation to Heifer International in Mimi's honor.



## SHARE's wish list

From a recent letter from Peter Lyon, Chair of SHARE's Board of Directors: "Unfortunately, the cost of basic necessities has risen out of reach for many. The increased cost of food, housing and fuel continues to take a toll on our low-income families, and the requests for financial assistance have been increasing. At SHARE, we are finding that our services are needed now more than ever. As an example, our food pantry has seen a 41 percent increase in meals served over the previous year!"



For those looking to donate to SHARE's Food Pantry: Share has created an [Amazon Wishlist](#) and will add more to it in coming weeks. Many items are larger packs. Feel free to purchase the same/like in smaller quantities. Of course, you can also buy items such as meats and proteins, canned or dried goods, gluten-free foods, baby foods, or dog/cat food as you grocery shop and drop items in the baskets in our church Narthex for delivery to SHARE. You may also take items directly to SHARE, 1 Columbus Ave., Milford, Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30, or leave them in barrels at Shaw's or Market Basket in Milford, or Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, 32 Elm St., Milford.

Thank you for your ongoing support to this vital community organization providing food, clothing and emergency financial assistance to area families in need.



## An invitation



from Sarah Jane Knoy, Executive Director of GSOP:

December is full of holidays: Ugly Sweater Day? National Maple Syrup Day! National Cupcake Day! Los Posadas, Hanukkah, Solstice, Christmas and Kwanzaa. Everyone can find a reason to celebrate in December!

Granite State Organizing Project is having a Holiday Open House TODAY, Wed., Dec. 20, on International Human Solidarity Day, to celebrate you, and your commitment to community, your commitment to justice and your commitment to love!

Drop by the GSOP/YOU office at 1045 Elm St., Suite 201, Manchester anytime between 4 and 6 pm for some light refreshments and fellowship. I look forward to seeing you!

In Solidarity,  
Sarah Jane





www.UnitedWayNashua.org


Join us each month for an informational/conversational event for older adults in the Greater Nashua area. Presenters include agencies that support older adults and organizations that offer opportunities where volunteers can make a difference in their communities.

**Next Coffee & Causes:**  
**Getting Back Into Exercise**

Eirikur Holt, Director of Healthy Living at the YMCA of Greater Nashua, will discuss ways older adults can live healthier lives through exercise and getting involved, and how to get started if it's been a while since fitness was a part of your life. Learn how senior-focused group exercise classes benefit older adults, as well as evidenced-based programming for chronic health conditions such as Diabetes Prevention, Parkinson's, Arthritis, and Osteoporosis can make a difference. With a focus on mental health, the Y's Wellbeing Center offers meditation classes and various support groups. In addition to the mind and body, learn how social events offered at the Y can help everyone be more connected to their community. Come and learn how exercise can help you live your best life in 2024!



The Hannaford Dietician will also be on hand to share information about the free in-store dietary counseling they offer. In addition to one-on-one counseling, Hannaford offers free workshops, and many other services that can help you achieve all your health goals.



**Friday, January 5, 2024**  
**Nashua YMCA / 24 Stadium Dr. / 10:30am-12noon**  
 Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/Jan-Coffee>  
 For more information contact United Way at [info@unitedwaynashua.org](mailto:info@unitedwaynashua.org) or call (603) 882-4011

**LIVE UNITED**  
 Because Great things happen when we LIVE UNITED

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## Our Prayer List this week

Please keep these loved ones in your prayers for healing and support: **John, Kristopher, Paul, Amanda, Stephanie, Kiki, Pattie, Marianne, Cherryl, Mike, Joan, Dolores, Sandy, Dick, Andrew, Marie, Ernie, Wayne, Fran, David, Fr. Jack, Elizabeth, Izzy, Cheryl, Diana, Deirin, Michelle, Lu, and Fred.** May God's grace and the healing love of Jesus Christ be with them each day.

*Please call or email the office to add names to the prayer list. When the time comes that a name could be removed, please let the office know that, too.*

## Altar flowers/Sanctuary lamp

Altar flowers are given this week to the glory of God by Brian in loving memory of his mother, Joyce on what would have been her 83rd birthday.



The sanctuary lamp burns in honor of the Lord's presence with us and is given by Karen in loving memory of her beloved mother, Marie, on her birthday, and by Brian in loving memory of his uncle, Rev. Paul.

*To donate for the lamp or flowers, sign upon the calendar in the Narthex (to the left of the Memorials Book) and fill out one of the forms there; or simply contact the church office (mail, email or phone) with your name and those to be honored.  
The suggested donation is \$10 for the lamp and \$35 for flowers.*

## ENews: Follow The Episcopal Church of NH

A regular e-newsletter is sent to church members, clergy and lay leaders, delegates, wardens, and retired clergy. To join the mailing list, email a request to [officeassistant@nhepiscopal.org](mailto:officeassistant@nhepiscopal.org).

Website: [www.nhepiscopal.org](http://www.nhepiscopal.org)

Facebook: Episcopal Church of NH

YouTube: NHEpiscopal

Twitter: @NHEpiscopal #NHEpiscopal

### Contact us:

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