



# TIDINGS

## *Together*

Christ Church & St. Paul's & Trinity Parishes

**December 2025**

St. Paul's & Trinity Parish  
845-444-3120  
[info@stpaulstivoli.org](mailto:info@stpaulstivoli.org)  
39 Woods Rd., Tivoli, NY 12583

Christ Church of Red Hook  
845-758-1591  
[connect@christchurchrh.org](mailto:connect@christchurchrh.org)  
7423 South Broadway  
Red Hook, NY 12571

## CARITAS FROM CANON JEANNE: UPSTANDING



An Episcopal priest and friend whose parish is in New York City posted a story earlier this month on social media that reflects the vigilance I, and perhaps you, have been feeling of late. Julie was coming out of the subway when she saw two officers, not in any identifiable uniform, pull aside a young Latino who, as far as she could tell, had done nothing wrong. She pulled out her phone and

watched and recorded as the officers spoke with him. As others were exiting the subway, they noticed her and what she was paying attention to, and two others joined her in bearing witness to the possibility that they might need to rally around the young gentleman. Many minutes passed, as they readied themselves to do whatever they legally could to protect the man's rights.

Eventually the officers, transit police it turned out, wrote the man a ticket and sent him on his way. Relieved that the young man was not going to be detained by ICE, the three who had been keeping watch turned to each other and said "Thank God for community! This is what it's for!" Theirs was a brief moment, Julie wrote, of both terror and beauty – of racial profiling, and bystanders ready to be upstanders.

Keeping watch, staying awake. Being vigilant, ready, prepared to witness, and to be Christ in the world. These are, of course, well-known themes in the season of Advent.

Yet I am especially struck by Julie's turn of phrase "bystanders ready to be upstanders" because to be upstanding is also an expectation of Advent.

*Upstanding* – meaning of good character, honest and honorable, morally centered and ethical in decision-making, and courageous enough confront what is wrong or unjust – is no longer a word widely used in our culture. In our society that values high achievement, we tend to favor *outstanding* over *upstanding* to describe people we admire. I do remember as a child, however, older generations in my family using the word. "He's such an upstanding young man," they might say. If I were to start looking for it in the historic cemeteries and churches of Dutchess County, I might see *upstanding* carved in stone in loving memory.

The sacred texts and hymns of Advent and Christmas, include rich imagery of an expectation for us all, in Christ, to be Upstanders.

Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us. The shout of rampart guards surrounds us:

Awake, Jerusalem, **arise!**

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding, "Christ is nigh" it seems to say.

Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us **rise.**

**Arise**, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

There are many theologies about why God chose to be born into the human condition, yet one meaning of the Incarnation might be this: By the life, teaching, and sacrifice of Jesus, God is showing us how to be our best selves, our authentic selves, which is to be *upstanding*. Then, by the Spirit granted to us, God makes it possible for us to be so.

In the key story of Jesus healing a paralytic, saying, “Get up, take up your bed and walk,” we are told the man’s healing is both physical and spiritual. His sins are forgiven, and Jesus tells him to be *awake* (Get up) and *upstanding* (walk). In this healing moment, Jesus could have just as easily said, “Arise, shine.”

When God comes into the world, bringing healing and ushering in salvation, God with us makes it possible for each and every one of us to be *upstanding*, to walk with integrity and kindness, to rise to every occasion of need, to witness to injustice and be ever ready to protect others from harm. Christ comes so that we might once again be whom God created us to be, in God’s own image and very good. In the season of Advent, let this be our hope, and when Christmastide arrives, our confidence and joy. Amen. Come, O Jesus!

Always with love, Canon Jeanne

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**Monday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.**  
**St. John’s Reformed Church**  
**126 Old Post Road North**  
**Red Hook**

*With Canon Jeanne and Deacon Linda  
participating as worship leaders*

Advent is a season to prepare for the arrival of joy, but sometimes past or present sorrows diminish hope. This Blue Christmas liturgy, a candlelight service of readings, prayer, and hymns, provides companionship and comfort through what may be difficult. Are you grieving the death of a loved one? Have you experienced a loss of good health, or employment, or a relationship? Are you anxious about the state of the world? Come pray with others and be graced with God’s healing presence. After the service, you may stay, too, for refreshments and conversation.

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### **A CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR!**

**Rehearsal on Sunday, December 21, at 9 AM**

Remember the joy of a choir for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September? For Christmas Eve, we are once again drawing together an informal choir of merry singers to sing a Christmas carol or two as an introit and to support congregational singing in parts, especially the candlelight singing of *Silent Night*. All parts are welcome; you may sing any part you wish! The choir will rehearse on the Sunday morning before Christmas Eve, Advent IV, at 9 AM, at Christ Church. If you would like to sing in the choir, please tell Canon Jeanne, [canonkjeanne@gmail.com](mailto:canonkjeanne@gmail.com).

## Advent & Christmastide Worship Services

Advent I	Sunday November 30	10 AM	At St. Paul's <i>Healing Prayers with Laying on of Hands and Anointings</i>
Advent II	Sunday December 7	10 AM	At Christ Church <i>Blessing of Christ Church's 2026 Pledges</i>
Week of Advent II	Monday December 8	7 PM	Blue Christmas Service <i>At St. John's Reformed Church</i>
Advent III	Sunday December 14	10 AM	At St. Paul's <i>Followed by Festive Decorating of the Christmas Tree</i>
Advent IV	Sunday December 21	10 AM	At Christ Church
			
Christmas Eve	Wednesday December 24	7 PM	At St. Paul's <i>Christmas Carol Hymn Sing before Worship Special Music</i>
Christmas Day	Thursday December 25	10 AM	At Christ Church
Fourth Day of Christmas	Sunday December 28	10 AM	At St. Paul's
Eleventh Day of Christmas	Sunday January 4	10 AM	At Christ Church

***Christ Church is located at 7423 South Broadway in the Village of Red Hook.  
St. Paul's and Tivoli Parish is located at 39 Woods Road in the Village of Tivoli.***

## COUNTRY PARSON STILL BECOMING: IT'S OKAY TO CORRECT YOUR PRIEST!

In her Harvest Festival sermon, Canon Jeanne spoke extemporaneously of her urban experience, when she was a parish priest in New York City, of owning a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) share and wondering what to do with all the early spring harvest of *scamp*. Well, *scamp* means a *rascal*! What she meant was *scape*, that is, garlic scapes. This, and all the heads of lettuce; what to do? Maybe someday she'll say *rascal* when she means *radish*. When you hear mistakes made from the pulpit, shout out! She'll shout right back, Hallelujah!

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## CHRIST CHURCH'S HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE, DECEMBER 20



A popular holiday event in Red Hook is Christ's Church's annual bake sale, sometimes called the "Cookie Walk" because shoppers literally walk around a display collecting their favorites from an astounding array of holiday cookies. This year, Christ Church will donate one-half of the proceeds from the cookie sales to the food pantries of St. John's Reformed Church in Upper Red Hook, and the Red Hook United Methodist Church.

The Cookie Sale begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 20. You might wish to arrive right on time, as the cookies sell quickly. (**Rain/Snow date:** Sunday, Dec 21)

With interest in contributing cookies for the bake sale, please contact Carola Warren, [warrenc325@aol.com](mailto:warrenc325@aol.com).

### (For the Bakers)

We have commitments from 25 "community bakers" who will be delivering their baked goods to the Parish Hall on either *Friday 12/19 5-7pm or Saturday 12/20 8.30-9.30*.

If you would like to be reminded of what you offered to bake let me know.... And if you meant to bake but forgot to tell me please text before Dec 3rd!

Your Name (s)..... Cookie Type..... # dozens.....

Planned Drop off:

Cartier Hall, 7423 S Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

a) Friday evening 5-7pm..... b) Sat morning 8.30-9.30am.....

Many, many thanks,

Carola Warren

[warrenc325@aol.com](mailto:warrenc325@aol.com)

917-708-3007 or 845-876-6636





## Home & Hospital Eucharist Visits

If you are unable to attend worship due to illness or other hardship, Christ Church and St. Paul's can bring communion to you. Simply contact Deacon Linda, who will arrange for a Eucharistic Visit by a pastoral minister.

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## TWELVE STEP MEETINGS

Open to all pursuing the Twelve Steps and seeking companionship in sobriety.

At St. Paul's, in Memorial Hall

**Al-Anon (for friends and families): Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.**

**AA (Alcoholics Anonymous): Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.**

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## Together Outreach!

During the holiday season and into the long winter months, our two parishes pursue a variety of outreach projects meant to serve different constituencies in need and provide opportunities for your generosity. Below you can read about the possibilities for charitable outreach. You need not contribute to them all! Simply do as you feel drawn, recognizing the breadth of need in our day. As you discern, please pay attention to the deadlines for making contributions!

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Since 1947, the U.S. Marine Corps has run Toys for Tots, a program that distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy gifts for Christmas. This year, we are joining the Tivoli Fire Company in participating in this worthy effort.

You can donate toys for children of any age in one of two ways: Today through next Sunday 12/7, a Toys for Toys bin, where you can place your gift, will be located next to the Christmas Tree of St. Paul's. Then, in December, the bin will move to the foyer of Trinity House, the rectory building just south of the church, with drop-off hours Saturday, December 6, the Feast of Saint Nicholas, through Thursday, December 11, until 6:00 p.m.

Easiest would be to bring toys next Sunday to church!

With interest, please contact Audrey Lasher-Smith, 2455aml2455@gmail.com. 845-464-5045

## **TAKING IT TO THE STREETS: PURSE-FULLS! TUBE SOCKS!**

For this annual outreach to women (purses filled with basic necessities, in festive decoration) and men (tube socks) living on the streets of Dutchess County, many toiletry items (soap, lotion, toothpaste, etc.) have already been purchased in bulk, using funds from the St. Paul's Outreach budget. What is needed still are smaller items. At St. Paul's, you may select a tag from the display board next to the Christmas tree. All donations need to be placed in the collection box near the Christmas tree by December 14. The gifts will then be assembled on Monday, December 15, at St. Paul's, beginning at 10:00 a.m. You are welcome to join the gift-creating!

Fifty of each of the following items will be needed:

- Emery Boards
- Small (purse-size) Tissues Packets
- Individually Wrapped Snacks: Granola Bars - Gum - Cheese N Crackers - Peanut Butter N Crackers - Mints - Small Boxes of Raisins

With interest, please contact Leigh Knickerbocker, leighknickerbocker@gmail.com.

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## **PET SUPPLIES FOR THE SPCA OF DUTCHESS COUNTY**

Our holiday outreach extends also to animal friends in need of support. Donations of pet food, supplies, and toys, as well as cleaning materials (just like humans, pets do create messes) will be given to the Dutchess County Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals.

Here is a list of items which the SPCA will gratefully receive through December's end.

*Recommended possible donations to the Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals*

### **PET FOOD**

Purina Dog Chow Natural (Plus Vitamins & Minerals)  
Purina Puppy Chow Natural (Plus Vitamins & Minerals)  
Purina Cat Chow  
Purina Kitten Chow  
KMR Powdered Kitten Formula  
Any brand of canned cat or dog food  
Peanut Butter  
Milk bones  
Uncooked rice

### **PET TOYS**

Cat toys. ear scratchers  
Nylabones (Dura Chew Textured Toy)

### **PET SUPPLIES**

"Yesterday's News" cat litter  
Wee Wee Pads  
Clean, dry towels. wash clothes and sheets  
Small paper plates (cake size)  
Poop bags

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## CLEANING SUPPLIES

Paper towels  
Sponges with scrubbies  
Dish soap (preferably DAWN)  
Laundry detergent

Garbage bags: Heavy duty 60 gallon  
& 15 gallon size  
Black contractor size garbage bags  
Windex  
Toilet paper

With interest, please contact Deb Gruntler, [deborah1234@frontiernet.net](mailto:deborah1234@frontiernet.net).

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## THE RED HOOK OVERNIGHT SHELTER

The second winter of operations for Red Hook's Overnight Shelter – the first of its kind serving wider Red Hook, is nearing, with the first night tentatively planned for Sunday, December 28. Volunteers will be needed to provide warm meals for the shelter clients and offer companionship overnight. Plans are still being made, so watch for further details in December.

With interest, please contact the Rev. Deacon Linda Duval, [lduval@christchurchrh.org](mailto:lduval@christchurchrh.org).

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## Christ Church's Outdoor Christmas Tree

To provide holiday cheer and as an outreach effort, Christ Church is this holiday season decorating a 16-foot outdoor Christmas tree with ornaments provided by local area businesses. Proceeds from the businesses' financial contributions will be donated to local feeding programs, including Red Hook Responds; the food pantry of Red Hook United Methodist Church; and the Red Hook Overnight Shelter.

If you own a local business, or are otherwise associated with a local business, please consider telling the business about Christ Church's Christmas Tree, a meaningful, festive way to provide food for the hungry.

With interest, please contact Dustin Hawver, [tfmlsllc@gmail.com](mailto:tfmlsllc@gmail.com); Kiana Kipp, [kianakipp99@gmail.com](mailto:kianakipp99@gmail.com); or Rich Kipp, [richkipp149@gmail.com](mailto:richkipp149@gmail.com).

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## Organ Recital



Terry B. Earles, recently appointed Organist/Choir Director at Red Hook United Methodist Church, will present an organ recital of Advent music on Sunday, November 30th at 1:00pm at the church at 4 Church St., Red Hook. A reception will follow the recital. A Free Will Offering will be collected.

Terry may already be familiar to many, as he has served in many churches including the Old Dutch Church and, most recently, St. John's Episcopal in Kingston.



## Congratulations

On Saturday, November 22nd, the Thrift Store celebrated the success of our friend Naomi Fata. Naomi published her second book, “Stitching Your Story Piece by Piece” in the Spring of 2025.



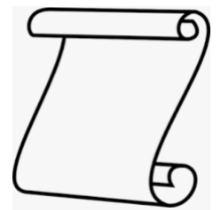
The book has now won 2 National First Place awards!! Congratulations Naomi!



The Thrift Store held Naomi’s book signing in March and we were thrilled to bookend this chapter with a fun celebration!

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## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS IN LOVING MEMORY REMEMBRANCE Deadline is Sunday, December 14



Every Christmas, our parishes traditionally publish, in all worship leaflets for Christmastide, the names of loved ones now in the greater life whom we wish to remember during the holidays. If you would like to add a name, please tell by Sunday, December 14, either Barry Knickerbocker, [bknickerbocker2@hvc.rr.com](mailto:bknickerbocker2@hvc.rr.com), or Sharon Warnefeld, [swarnefeld@gmail.com](mailto:swarnefeld@gmail.com), who create and review the list together.

In loving memory, St. Paul’s purchases the poinsettias that adorn our Christmastide worship: Monetary gifts towards this are not required to include a name for remembrance, yet is gratefully accepted: You can write a check payable to “St. Paul’s and Trinity Parish” with “Christmas Poinsettia” in the memo line.

We would need all new names by December 14th. Monetary donations towards the purchase of the poinsettias are always welcome in any amount.

# Thank You Melissa



Sunday, November 23, was a fine celebration for dear Melissa. Her dedicated altar ministry has blessed our parish for 30 years and counting.



A Commendation from Bishop Heyd was read, followed by service and a party with cupcakes, card, and gifts. We are grateful for Melissa, who adds to our Sundays.

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## Thanksgiving Harvest Altar

Thank you all so much for the incredible support of this year's Thanksgiving Harvest Altar. Not only was it beautiful to look at, but it served a greater purpose; supporting two local food pantries. St. John's Reformed Church in Upper Red Hook and United Methodist Church in the village of Red Hook. Each received seven bags of fresh fruits and veggies. Both food pantries expressed their deepest thanks for our continued support in helping them feed the hungry.

Happy Advent,  
Leigh Knickerbocker





## ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION IN EARLY 2026



*In the beginning was the Word  
and the Word was with God  
(John 1:1).*

*Art Meditation by Deacon Linda  
Acrylic, 2025*

### ART FROM THE HEART: A Day of Spiritual Guidance & Practice

**Tuesday, the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6  
(Snow Date: Tuesday, January 13)**

**11 AM to 2:30 PM, Cartier Hall, Christ Church**

Creating art – whether painting, drawing, or doodling – can express what words often cannot. Art-making can also be a tool for meditation, allowing you to listen to and engage with God in deeper way.

This program, co-led by Deacon Linda Duval and Canon Jeanne, will offer you guidance in both listening and engaging. After a light brunch, the program will begin with a brief experience of spiritual direction through art-making. Then, we'll create art as a meditative engagement with selected Scriptural readings for Christmastide and the Epiphany, a word that means *revelation* or *manifestation*. What is God wishing to show you through your art-making? What prayer arises as you explore textures, colors, tones, and shapes?

No artistic skill is required, promise! All art materials and brunch are complimentary. Registration is limited to 15 people. To reserve your place, please contact Deacon Linda, [lindaduval9@gmail.com](mailto:lindaduval9@gmail.com).

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### Themes in Matthew's Gospel: An Online Adult Forum

In the new church year that begins on Advent I, the Sunday gospel readings will be drawn largely from the Gospel of Matthew. To help us read, contemplate, and respond to Matthew's Gospel over the course of the coming year, Canon Jeanne will offer this online Introduction to be held via Zoom on three Wednesdays at noon. The series will explore Matthew's theological emphases and understandings of Jesus. Here is the schedule:



January 26 Righteousness Before God: An Orientation of the Heart

February 4 The Kingdom of Heaven

February 11 Mountaintops

*Note: Ash Wednesday is February 18, and then the Wednesdays of Lent will be devoted to ecumenical evening worship.*

Each session of the series will be independent of the others and last no more than an hour. You are welcome to come to any or every session. You will need to register, however, to receive the Zoom link. With interest, please email Canon Jeanne, [canonkjeanne@gmail.com](mailto:canonkjeanne@gmail.com).

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Please join us on Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 3:00 pm at Christ Church Red Hook for an afternoon of Christmas music and readings presented by Hudson River Consort.

In the hustle bustle of holiday preparations and during the season of Advent, take a few moments to relax and enjoy beautiful music with friends, family and our community.



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### Apartment for Rent

St. Paul's & Trinity Parish has an apartment available for rent. It is a second floor apartment at 37 Woods Rd. in Tivoli (right next to the church). If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Barry Knickerbocker at [baknickers@gmail.com](mailto:baknickers@gmail.com) or 845-616-4464.