

ST. DUNSTAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ELLSWORTH

TID BITS FROM THE TABLE ~ JANUARY 5, 2024

Dear ones,

We are in that beautiful, wondrous period today between Christmas and the Epiphany! I hope everyone is able in their own way still to revel in that Christmas joy we talked about during our beautiful service on Christmas Eve. As Christians, we don't need to live this season purely according to the Gregorian calendar; we are given the gift of a different 'sense' of time with our joyful Christmas and our Epiphany seasons. In other words, we don't yet need to embrace asceticism and austerity and can afford to dwell in joy for a few weeks longer...

This Saturday (tomorrow) at 12 noon we will celebrate the life and mourn the passing of our dear Herbert Beckwith. Everyone is welcome to his memorial service and the reception afterward in our Undercroft.

This Sunday we will celebrate the feast of the Epiphany--moved from the previous day--during our Holy Eucharist service. Stay tuned for updates about the format of our Sunday service due to the coming weather....! Some additional dates for the diary: Sunday 4 February we'll celebrate the moveable feast of the Presentation of our Lord; Wednesday 14 February (also known as Valentine's Day; interpret that as you will in terms of chocolate consumption!) is Ash Wednesday and 18 February is our first Sunday in Lent.

We'll dig into my husband Aaron's latest book, *What Would Jesus See*, as our selection for the Lenten Book Club series we began when I first arrived as your priest. If anyone who'd like to join has particular days and times that work for you, do let me know! It's readily available on Amazon but if you'd like me to get you a copy simply email me. The series meets via Zoom for maximum flexibility in terms of meeting scheduling.

Yours, with love,
Carolyn+

Update your Directory Information

Please update or confirm your contact details for our parish directory. Contact our church office--stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com--with your title(s), postal address, email address(es) and best phone number(s).

St. Dunstan's Family -

I hope 2024 is filled with every blessing for you and your loved ones as we continue to navigate our current world. The start of a new year is a wonderful time to look ahead and perhaps experience something new. To that end, we have a current opportunity for you to consider.

I am not sure how widely the vision of "Beloved Community" is known in our parish. Several years ago, under the guidance of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the church established a framework for becoming and growing into "Beloved Community" as a church and as a people seeking to live like our Lord Jesus Christ. To perhaps focus less on institutional matters and rekindle how we treat others, model ministry and how we relate to our Lord's grace, especially in matters of race, social justice and reconciliation.

One of the offerings in this framework for conversation and study is "Sacred Ground." The series' website notes that this is a 10-week film and readings based small group study that invites participants to "walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity." Specific focus is given to Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific "American histories as they intersect with European American histories."

Valerie Doebler and I plan to offer the course via Zoom, starting with an introductory/organizational session on Wednesday January 10 at 6:30 PM - no preparation required.

The 10-session study will begin on Wednesday January 24 and will meet from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM every other week concluding on May 29th.

Prior to each session, the session study guide and student website will allow access to documentary films and readings. Students will want to plan on spending two to three hours prior to each class session watching and reading the materials.

All materials are offered at no charge via the website with the exception of two books that need to be ordered for the class: Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman and Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving. Students are asked to order these individually using Amazon or some other retailer. If help is needed defraying the cost, please let me know and we will order these for you.

Also, we may have a few participants from other area Episcopal churches. As the roster fills, we will let participants know the other attendees.

This series requires a dedication of heart and time to listen to ourselves and each other. Because it is a confidential, safe space to share, the conversations can be meaningful and fruitful offering connection in a deep way.

I hope you will consider joining Valerie and me in this journey. Please formally enroll by emailing Tracy at ttlshaffer@aol.com or by contacting her at 973-287-9926 by January 5th.

To learn more about Sacred Ground, please visit the website: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>

Blessings,

Deacon Tracy +

This week we are **Yellow (Amber)** according to CDC for our county.

This means masks are recommended, distancing is suggested, and social time will still be downstairs after our service.

Even with the wind down of **COVID 19**, we know that it will be with us for some time to come. The CDC is now resuming coding the occurrences of COVID. We will keep you informed.

We at St. Dunstan's we will continue to follow CDC data and the practices in our Diocesan parishes. Our vestry has voted to not require masks. If you wish to wear one, masks will be available. Of course, if you are feeling unwell, we ask that you rest and join us on Zoom. Our hope is that you will stay well and will join us for our worship services each Sunday.



Ellsworth HYSTERICAL Society



Join us Tuesday, January 9th @ 1pm

at the **Friends In Action Auditorium** for

Senior Comedy Hour

Open to the Public!



Faith in Maine:

This is a podcast produced by our Episcopal Diocese with various members of the clergy giving their thoughts and prayers. The podcast changes each week. Feel free to call and listen. You can call **207-223-6402** at any time. They last approximately 4-5 minutes.

**FAITH IN
MAINE**

GOD AT WORK IN OUR
COMMUNITIES

A PODCAST OF THE
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MAINE



Happy Birthday to Marjorie Linscott and Bethany Preble! Enjoy!

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for St. Martin, Palmyra, and St. Anne, Calais. We pray especially for the priests of the Diocese of Maine and for Bishop Thomas Brown.

We Pray Especially For: Kathy O'Connell, Skip Stevens, Larmie Knuesli, Tony Rowan, Sally Rowan, Lachlan Basha, Jesse Pierce, Robbie Johnston, Dee Breinig, Mary Hanegraaf, Jeromy Walston, Rick Wilkey, Sharon St.Clair, Jennifer McCall, Eve Mitchell, Donald DeGolyer, Dorothy Sweeney, Harvey Kelley and for the repose of the soul of Herbert Beckwith and comfort for his family and friends for their loss.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or continue a name on the list, please let us know at stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com or leave a message at the church (667-5495). Prayer requests will remain for three weeks.

It is important to us that the list is up-to-date and accurate.
To everyone, please stay well and safe. Blessings to you all.

Almighty and merciful God, we ask in our prayers that the conflict in Ukraine and the others around the world can be resolved peacefully. Bless the people that have been affected by the unrest and grant them peace and justice. We also ask for the people in our own country that have been impacted by the hurricanes, violence and loss of loved ones as they grieve, pick up their lives. Grant them strength, comfort, and healing. All this we ask with the power of your love to all through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ UPCOMING WORSHIP / EVENTS SCHEDULE ~

At this time the Sunday services will be both in church following safe practices and via Zoom. Compline is every Thursday at 7:00p.m via Zoom

The sanctuary is open for quiet reflection and prayer on Mondays from 1 to 3.

Access to the sanctuary is available through the lower level parking lot doors of the church during this time.

January 6 ~ Memorial Service for Herbert Beckwith, 12:00 pm

January 7 ~ Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am

January 7 ~ Vestry Meeting, 12:00 pm

January 11 ~ Liturgy Meeting 6:00 pm

January 14 ~ Morning Prayer, Jaci & Tom as Officiant and Homilist, 9:30 am

January 17 ~ Safety meeting, 3:00

January 21 ~ Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am

January 28 ~ Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am, Annual Meeting after the service

St. Dunstan's Church Christmas Greens and Flowers Dedications 2023

The beautiful greens and flowers this Christmas have been given to the Greater Glory of God by the following people:

- Harvey and Dianne Kelley, in memory of Louise and Harvey Kelley, Sr. and Helen and Harold Lancaster.
- Carmen Dilandro, in memory of loved ones passed.

The flowers on the altar this Sunday have been given to the Greater Glory of God in celebration of the 43rd wedding anniversary of Dave and Marian Wells.

Family News



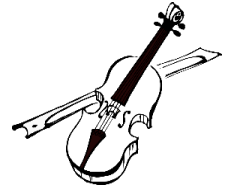
We would love to hear about **your news** and for **what you are thankful for during this year**. Submit your news to stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com

Let us always remember that we are living on the traditional homelands of the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot peoples and of the Wabanaki confederacy of Maine. We recognize the native peoples throughout this land.

Prayer For Peace

Oh Great Spirit who dwells in the sky,
lead us to the path of peace and understanding,
let all of us live together as brothers and sisters.
Our lives are so short here, walking upon Mother Earth's surface,
let our eyes be opened to all the blessings you have given us.
Please hear our prayers, Oh Great Spirit.
- Native American Prayer

From the Music Director: Do you play a musical instrument? Are you looking for a comfortable and non-threatening way to serve God with your musical gift? We'd love to have you join us during the playing and singing of the Taize chants during Communion on Sunday morning. The music is easy, and the addition of your playing will add variety and interest. And it's just fun! Come talk to me (Paul) or just come, instrument in hand, a half hour before the service.



American Red Cross

National Blood Shortage

Please schedule your next blood donation at redcrossblood.org



Priest - Rev. Dr. Carolyn Rosen
Deacon - Rev. Tracy Shaffer
Senior Warden - Dianne Kelley
Deputy Warden - Tom Hancock
Junior Warden - McKim Peterson

www.saintdunstansellsworth.org

You can contact us by leaving a message by telephone or email:

Phone: 667-5495 Email: stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com

Fred Beyer and Muffet Stewart: stdunstanstreasurer@gmail.com

Rain is in the church office Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 8 – 9 am