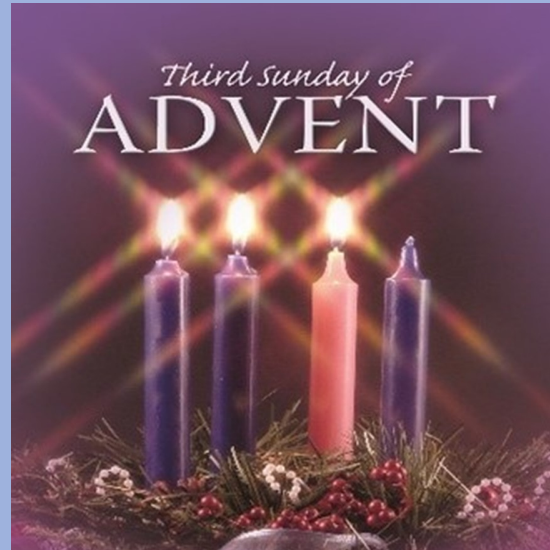




www.standrewskentct.org * 860.927.3486 * st.andrew.kent@snet.net



Gaudete Sunday :: Rejoice!

From Chris Rehow, Senior Warden

Greetings from the Christmas Tree lot!

This year proved to be one of the best years ever! We took delivery of 215 trees (185 last year) and we've almost sold all of them and we still have two weekends to go. The prices we paid the tree grower went up this year so we had to raise our prices as well, but no one seemed to complain so all is well.

I must say that I noticed this year that there were many more young families with children. So it looks as though we may have some chance for new younger members if we reach out to them. And maybe we could hand a flyer out about our children's programs at next year's sale. Fingers crossed!

We also sent four nice trees to the Kent Food Bank last Saturday and we'll send another 4-6 this Saturday as well. So Thank You to all of you parishioners who donated something towards giving these trees away. Eight or ten families are a lot happier this Christmas because of your generosity.

And also a Big Thank You! to all who helped unload and sell these trees. And a Big Thank You! To Candace for the wonderful tree labels – very beautiful!

Enjoy the Season.

Chris

This Week at St Andrew's

Friday, 10 December	Christmas Tree Sale	4:00-6:00 pm
Friday, 10 December	NO Prayer & Meditation <i>(Nave)</i>	5:30 pm
Friday, 10 December	Music in the Nave: Messiah Sing-in Returns! (masks and proof of vaccination required)	8:00 pm
Saturday, 11 December	Christmas Tree Sale	9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday, 11 December	Choir Rehearsal <i>(Choir Room)</i>	9:30 am
Saturday, 11 December	Showcase of Shakespeare Monologues, presented by Jane Farnol <i>(Nave)</i>	4:00 pm
Sunday, 12 December	Holy Eucharist: <i>Advent 3 (in person only)</i>	8:30 am
Sunday, 12 December	Holy Eucharist: <i>Advent 3 (with music) (in person and live-streamed)</i>	10:30 am
Sunday, 12 December	Coffee Hour <i>(Great Room)</i>	11:35 am
Sunday, 12 December	Christmas Tree Sale	12:00 noon - 5:00 pm
Tuesday, 14 December	Music Commission	1:30 pm
Wednesday, 15 December	Mid-Week Holy Eucharist <i>(in person and live-streamed)</i>	6:00 pm
Wednesday, 15 December	A.A. for Women <i>(Zoom meeting; email us for info)</i>	7:00 pm
Thursday, 16 December	A.A. Meeting <i>(Parish House)</i>	7:30 am
Thursday, 16 December	Al-Anon Meeting <i>(Old Vestry Room)</i>	7:00 pm

Mark Your Calendars for These Events...

Details about each of these events can be found later in this issue of the
Epistle

Saturday, 19 December	Blue Christmas Service (held jointly with First Congregational, in their sanctuary)	5:00 pm
Friday, 24 December	Family Christmas Eve Eucharist (<i>in-person and live-streamed</i>)	4:00 pm
Friday, 24 December	Traditional Christmas Eve Eucharist (<i>in-person and live-streamed</i>)	9:00 pm
Saturday, 25 December	Holy Eucharist: <i>Feast of the Nativity</i> (<i>in-person and live-streamed</i>)	10:00 am
Friday, 31 December	New Year's Eve Service of Self-Dedication	6:00 pm

St Andrew's Current COVID Status

THE PARISH IS OPEN.

- Pursuant to CDC guidelines, we are asking *everyone to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status*, because the level of community transmission in Litchfield County is **Substantial** (or higher)
- There is **congregational singing**, at the 10:30 service only

We will continue to livestream our 10:30 liturgy on Sundays and our mid-week services, as there are parishioners who are choosing not to be in group settings at this time—a decision the parish fully honors and supports.

Christmas Memorial Flowers



We are happy to receive donations for poinsettias to adorn the church for Christmas and throughout Christmastide. These may be made in memory (or in honor) of a loved one. The names of all those being remembered and honored will be included in our bulletins on Christmas Eve and on Sunday, 26 December.

Please submit your donations to the parish office, either by email (st.andrew.kent@snet.net) or phone (860-927-3486) by Monday, 20 December. A check for your donation (\$50 is suggested) may follow in the offering plate or by mail.

The Beloved *Messiah* Sing-In Returns: Friday, 10 December



Hallelujah! We're back with our 10th annual Messiah Sing-Intonight, **December 10th at 8 pm** in the Nave. James Sinclair leads the Sherman Chamber Ensemble and guest soloists in a performance of Part One (the Nativity) and the Hallelujah Chorus of Handel's glorious Messiah.

And who did we get for a chorus? You! If you so desire, sit up front: we'll lend you a score and you lend us your voice. Or sit anywhere else and just enjoy the show. Either way, it's going to be an evening beautiful music and good times. (Both masks and proof of vaccination will be required.)

Tickets are \$20 and available at <https://bit.ly/messiah10> or the door. Students are free. For more information, call 860-927-3486, email st.andrew.kent@snet.net, or visit www.standrewskentct.org/mitn.html.

Saturday, 11 December: Shakespeare Comes to St Andrew's

Love. Lust. Longing. Rage and Revenge! Shakespeare wrote all about it, and it is as fresh today as it was 400 years ago. And you can watch it unfold on Saturday, 11 December, at 4:00 pm, right in the Nave of St Andrew's. Our own **Jane Farnol** is directing a showcase of monologues at the Sharon Playhouse, and on the 11th, we will enjoy Kent's own performance of an abridged version. It's sure to be a soul stirring event! A free-will offering will be received.

After the showcase, there will be a wine-and-cheese reception in the Parish House, complete with a book signing by Jane. Her abridged version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be available for purchase. What a lovely stocking stuffer!

Going...Going...And... Christmas Tree Sale Likely to End This Week



On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, we took delivery of over 200 fresh Christmas trees, and now there are **fewer than 40 remaining**. We are **likely to be sold out** by the end of this weekend. If you are planning to purchase a tree, please come on Friday afternoon (4:00 – 6:00 pm) or Saturday (10:00 pm – 6:00 pm) to make sure you get one.

This is an excellent fundraiser for St Andrew's – many thanks to those who have already made a purchase or donated a tree to be given away by the Kent Food Bank!

Help Support Kent Education Center & Nursery School

Our tenant and neighbor KECNS has another fun event coming up, which we're inviting you to consider supporting:

**SANTA'S BREAKFAST
IS BACK!**

With a COVID conscious format, breakfast to go,
& BYOC (bring your own cup) to reduce waste! Scan to Preview

DATE: Saturday, December 11th / 9am-12pm
LOCATION: Parish House, St Andrews Church

\$5 per person / \$20 per family : Proceeds go to KECNS
(Kent Education Center & Nursery School)

A Quieter Expression of the Season: Blue Christmas Service



The joy the Christ Child brings to Christmas is universal, but not everyone experiences or expresses it the same way. Some of us feel the sting of grief—new or old—particularly at this time of year. Some of us are facing difficult challenges or decisions ... have lost something precious to us ... will be separated from loved ones or beloved traditions this year ... are coping with a final or chronic illness (or love someone who is). The content of each heart is unique as it approaches the Manger, and we must take care to honor this, especially in a secular culture that often contrives joy and refuses to countenance sorrow at this time of year.

Therefore, in what we hope will become an annual tradition, St Andrew's and the First Congregational Church will jointly hold a Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, 19 December, at 5:00 pm. This year we will gather in FCC's sanctuary and next year in St Andrew's nave. (A light reception will follow.)

If you seek some quiet prayer, some space for sorrow, a community of care, or a message of hope-within-sadness, please consider attending. And if this is too great a struggle for you, let Fr Douglas know, and he will carry your prayer requests to the service for you.

NEW: Christmas Diaper Drive, Hosted by ECCT Deacons



During Christmas we celebrate God coming to us in human form as the Baby Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes. This Christmas, in keeping our Baptismal Covenant to *care for those who are in need and respect the dignity of all* (BCP, p 305), the Diocese's deacons invite you to participate in an ECCT-wide diaper drive to benefit **The Diaper Bank of Connecticut**

Did You Know?

- The Diaper Bank works to bring basic health needs, including **75,000 diapers each week**, to low-income individuals in our state who are struggling to make ends meet.
- Most clients who frequent the diaper bank **do not have laundry facilities, and laundromats do not allow the washing of cloth diapers.**
- Prior to the pandemic, **one in three Connecticut families couldn't afford enough diapers** for their infants and toddlers, and the need has skyrocketed over the past year.
- Diapers can cost **up to \$100 a month** and for those who have no choice but to buy them at local convenience stores rather than big-box retailers, the cost can be even higher.
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (**WIC**) **do not cover the cost of diapers.**
- Without an adequate supply of clean diapers, **babies are more likely to suffer from diaper rash, urinary tract infections and other medical problems.**

No one should have to worry about affording these basic needs.

How can you participate?

- Bring a package of diapers (sizes 3-6) to your parish's services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Christmas 1 (Sunday, 26 December), Christmas 2 (Sunday, 02 January) or the Epiphany (Thursday, 06 January).
- Make a financial donation to **The Diaper Bank of Connecticut** and note "ECCT Diaper Drive" in the "Memo" line.

From the Stewardship Commission: "It Ain't Over 'til It's Over

Although Stewardship season officially ended on 14 November, when we observed the Feast Day of St. Andrew, we hope that those of you who have not pledged will consider pledging now to support the operations of the parish and our plans for restarting our church school and for sponsoring community events to bring more people to St. Andrew's. We will welcome pledges with open arms at any time with great thanks.

The Stewardship Commission

A Message from Town Hall about the Kent Santa Fund



The Kent Santa Fund, which operates anonymously, assists local children under the age of 16 during the holiday season and utilizes community and business members who shop and donate those gifts. COVID-19 has caused the Kent Santa Fund to change the way we assist the local children, so this year the Santa Fund is going to offer the participants several options for the holiday. The Kent Santa Fund will be providing gift cards to the families which will allow the families to prioritize their family's needs during the holidays. In addition to the gift cards, we will be having our first "Santa's Workshop!!" During this workshop, participating parents can shop for their children and participating local children can pick up a gift for their siblings and/or best friends. Specific information on the Workshop will be shared soon!!

In the past, our community has always been very generous. We hope that you will continue this tradition by making either a monetary donation to the Kent Santa Fund or dropping off a gift for a child between the ages of 1 – 16 years old. Your donations will help members of our community who live with the harsh reality of financial insecurity, every single day.

Monetary donations should be made payable and mailed to the "Kent Santa Fund," P.O. Box 678, Kent, CT 06757. Checks can also be delivered to the attention of Joyce Kearns at Kent Town Hall by placing them in the white drop box next to the front door of Town Hall. Gifts should be dropped off at Town Hall in the Selectmen's office, Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. from now until Friday, December 17, 2021.

Thank you so much for opening your hearts and wallets. Your donations will help us ensure that local children and their families enjoy the holidays.

If you have any questions, please contact Joyce directly at 860.927.4627 or adminassist@townofkentct.org.

Help Support the Kent Food Bank



Please help our parish family continue to support of the Kent Food Bank by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund
P O Box 262
Kent, CT 06757
memo: Food Bank

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of Kent's Social Services Director, Leah Pullaro. In addition, Leah has told us how useful it is for her to have IGA gift cards to give to families who are in need. Please consider purchasing a card, for \$25 or \$50, and taking it to Leah's office in Town Hall or dropping it in the donations basket in the Narthex. (You can also place it in the offering plate, marked for the Food Bank.)

The Kent Food Bank also accepts food donations. They are especially in need of staples such as **beans, rice, tea, coffee, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna.** Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past! Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

You may drop off food items on Thursdays from 9:00 to 12:00 in the back of the Community House on Main Street. You may also place donations in the basket in the church Narthex or in the bin in the breezeway at the rear of the Rectory.

Lections for this Week

The Third Sunday of Advent

Year C

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Canticle 9

Philippians 4:4-7



Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order to view past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays located on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

Worship Services

-Sunday-

Holy Eucharist

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays;
Healing Service at 8.30,
Third Sunday

In person

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
(10.30 a.m. available live
stream on YouTube)



-Wednesday-

Holy Eucharist

6.00 p.m.

-Friday-

Prayer & Meditation

5.30 p.m.

-Holy Days-

Holy Eucharist

6.00 p.m.



12 Step Meetings

Wednesdays

A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.

*Zoom meeting
email us for info.*

Thursdays

A.A. at 7.30 a.m.
(Parish House)

resumed

Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Old Vestry Room)

resumed

Fridays

A.A. at 8 p.m.
(Great Room)

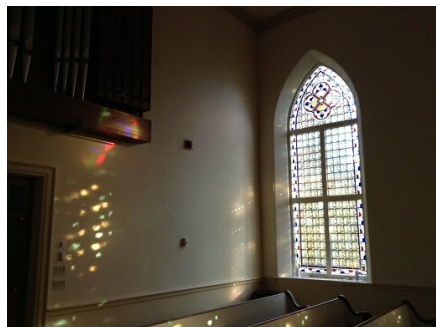
temporarily until First Church opens

resumed



Parish Staff

**The Rev Douglas S
Worthington,
Priest in Charge**
frdouglas.sak@gmail.com
860-592-0171



**Thomas W Holcombe,
Organist & Director of Choirs**

KC Compton,

Parish Administrator

Joan I Cassel
Financial Secretary

Randy Osolin,
Verger



St Andrew's Church
P. O. Box 309
1 N. Main St.
Kent, CT 06757

860.927.3486
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Parish office open everyday except Friday from 10 am- 5 pm
(2 pm on Thursdays)

Visit St Andrew's website at
www.standrewskentct.org

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut
www.ctepiscopal.org

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