

THE *Red* DOOR

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH • CHARLEVOIX, MICHIGAN

200 State Street • PO Box 385 • Charlevoix Michigan 49720 • 231-547-6322 • ChristEpiscopalChurch.net

Joy

Joy is what has made the pain bearable and, in the end, creative rather than destructive.”

—from *A Circle of Quiet* by Madeleine L'Engle

As we now bask in the glow of Christmas, we continue to face the present darkness of winter. You might have noticed that on December 21st, we had our winter solstice, which is often called the “longest night” as it is the day of the year when we will experience the most darkness in this hemisphere. While that happened in December, I trust both Nashville and Charlevoix (and other places too!) are still experiencing the darkness of winter now in January.

I don't know about you, but I have known some long, dark nights. I have known depression and I have known grief. On the lighter side, I find myself dragging the second we get our infamous “extra hour of sleep” in November. On the darker side, I lost my sister on December 17, 2022, and even the winter solstice didn't provide a night longer than that one.

But no matter who you are, no matter how your life has been given to you by God, you, too, have known darkness. And also, I trust you have been blessed with light. One important thing to remember, as we traverse our darkness and our light, is that neither are bad, both are beautiful. A seed must sit in darkness before it can pierce the rich earth and be seen. A child must sit in its mother's womb before we can know the trademarks of that longed-for face. We only gaze at the beauty of the sunrise, in all its colored array, because it is the sun arriving again after the night. Yes, our light and our dark are good, and this is a blessing, because we will always know both.

Joy is one of those lights that can pierce the

darkness, but it can also rush to us in darkness to be our companion until the dawn. For me, I see this most clearly in comedy. Good comedy allows us to laugh when the palpable feeling of joy doesn't seem possible. Even better comedy turns the deepest, most painful aches of our lives into laughter that breaks across our faces even as our eyes stream with tears. Laughing through your tears is a way to remember your baptism, because it is that water that still flows, even when we are full of pain and anguish.

Yes, joy is the crux of it all—but not in a quaint or saccharine way. No, joy is the crux of it all, because joy makes the pain bearable. Joy can transform our pain from being our death to being our creation. Yes, joy stands a chance at making our pain bearable, and in the end, creative rather than destructive.

If the only creativity you can muster is shown to us in the tears that stream down your anguished face, may it offer you a reminder of your baptism. May you also remember that this joy is not a type of perfection; it is more like how we imagine Mary in labor, as she experiences every cramp, gives every push, knowing each moment of pain is worth it, because in the end, her pain will be creative rather than destructive. Yes, her pain will become creative rather than destructive, as she will give birth to the God who turns all our destruction into new creation, the God who has promised to pour over us waves of laughter that will heal us in our sorrow.

Erin Jean Warde (she/her)

Priest-in-charge at

Christ Episcopal Church-Charlevoix, Michigan

writer, spiritual director, recovery coach

www.erinjeanwarde.com

please note that Friday is my Sabbath

— With love & care,
Erin Jean Warde+.

Prayer List FOR JANUARY

Please Pray for Your Brothers and Sisters

Deb Stutzman
Doris Lundteigen
The Rev. Peggy Nattermann
The Rev. Kathleen Kircher
Linda Smith
Lea Peak
Adele Dilschneider
Norean Martin
Liane McGhee
Blake Kirinovic
Dick Engelsmann
Steve Fowle
Josh Levay
Kathleen Benon and family
Deanna Klosinski
Karl Hoffman

Donna Carter
Tyanna Addison
Natalia Moore
April Perry
Lyle Carrick
George Perrett
Charles Lewis
Brenda Toton
Linda Nummer
Tom Lang
Charlie Valier
Kate Conway
David Mason
John Cantine
James Denison
Rouhlac Austin
Susan F.
Rob & Carolyn L.



Crawford Crooks
Cissy Walker
Toni Smith
Barb Wilson
Linda Boss
Jim Boss

Persons are removed from our Prayer List at the end of each month.

Please contact John Fiedorek at

jfiedorek@gmail.com

to add the names of friends and family to our Prayer List

*Submit an Article for the Next
Red Door!*

by 5p.m. January 21, 2026

susankflanders@gmail.com

If you see an error in this month's issue, please let us know! We will correct it or print a correction in the next issue of the Red Door.

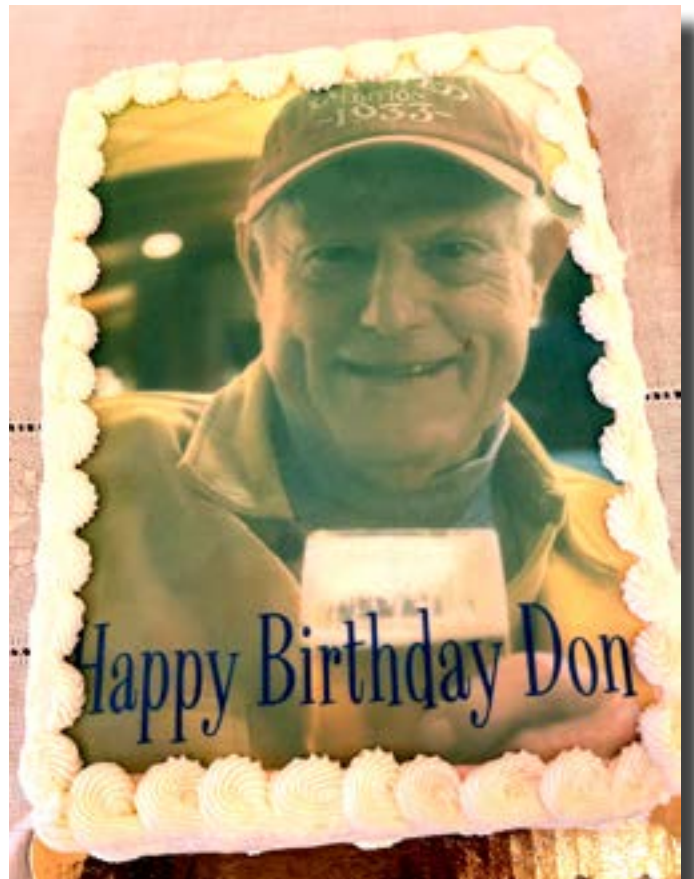
Our Brother in Christ **BIRTHDAY**

*Happy Birthday
Don Binns*

CEC celebrated Don Binns' birthday with a personalized cake following the service on December 21, 2025. He turned 92 on December 24!



Don Binns at his coffee hour station!



Don Binns' birthday personalized cake

Christ Episcopal Church Annual Meeting

January 18, 2026 in the Parish Hall

Luncheon served before meeting • SNOW DATE: January 25, 2026

Decorated for CHRISTMAS

AT CHRIST CHURCH



Amy Russell places a bulb on the parish hall tree.
Many hands make light work.



Bruce Livingston hung all the wreaths in the sanctuary
for our Christmas Eve service



Jeff Porter helps deocrate the parish hall tree
following the service on December 21

*Now is our time to go.
To go into the world to share the
good news of God and Jesus Christ.*

*“For health and strength to work,
and leisure to rest and play,
we thank you Lord, Amen”*

*– The Book of Common Prayer,
Page, 837*

Decorated for CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH



Mark Heydlauff and Sharon Witucki turned the sanctuary Advent tree into a Christmas tree decorated with our beautiful crismons



Tom Kirinovic, Roger Peak, Mark Hubble, and David Loving decorate the parish hall tree for Christmas

A Prayer Found in Chester Cathedral

Submitted by Ruth Willis

Give me a good digestion, Lord,
And also something to digest,
Give me a healthy body, Lord,
With sense to keep it at its best.

Give me a mind that is not bored,
That does not whimper, whine or sigh.
Don't let me worry overmuch
About the fussy thing called I.

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke;
To get some happiness from life,
And pass it on to the other folk.

We seek **LOVE**
We seek **FREEDOM**
We seek **ABUNDANT LIFE**
We seek **JESUS**

CEC Scholarship MAIL BAG

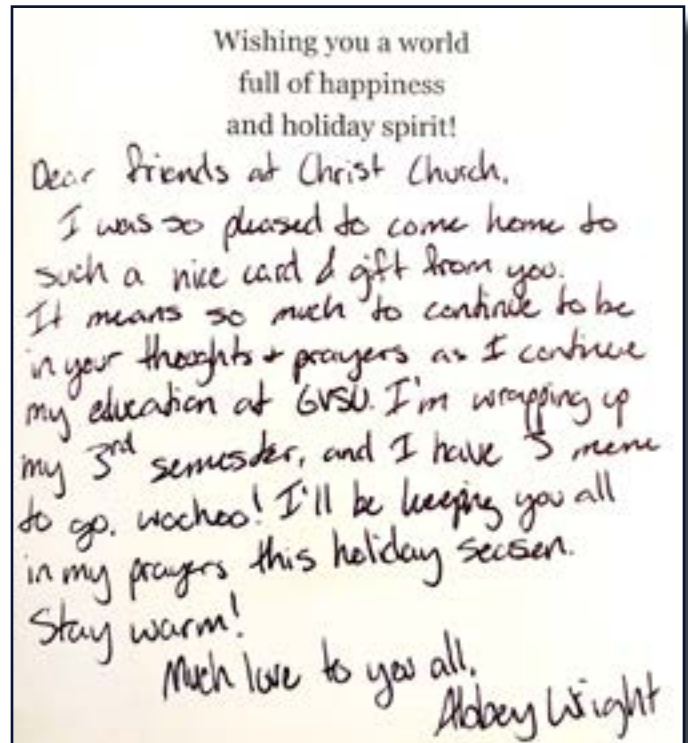
In the Scholarship Mailbag this Winter

Kadence McPherson

Hello! I wanted to thank you and the church for the Amazon gift card, and Happy Thanksgiving! I also wanted to provide you with an update on all of my college involvement as my first semester is coming to an end soon. I came in with enough high school credits to be considered a sophomore so I am 1 year ahead of schedule! I am getting the opportunity to apply to medical school next winter to Michigan states Human Medicine Program, and I have discovered a true passion for working in child psychiatry and wanting to own my own practice in Northern Michigan. My biggest involvement so far has been my mentorship volunteering that I do at Teaching Family Homes every week for about 15 hours a week. It is a group home/mental health institution in Marquette for at risk youth and teens which is what I would love to specialize in. I want to have contracts with surrounding group homes and juvenile detention centers to make sure every kid is getting the mental health care they need and deserve. I am planning a fun Christmas party for them where I collected donations from around the community. We will be doing Christmas crafts, Christmas cookie decorating, a Christmas game, and finishing the night off with a Christmas movie! I really wanted these kids to have a fun and memorable Christmas. I am also almost a certified EMT. I take my test in December so I will be working for the Charlevoix department in the summer and breaks once I pass my test. Academically, I am ending my first semester with a 4.0 GPA and I start shadowing at the hospital next semester! So, in all, college has had a great start and I look forward to keeping you and the church updated on my journey.

– Kadence McPherson

Sophomore status at Northern Michigan University



From Abbey Wright

Izzy Boyer

Hello!!! I just received the Thanksgiving card, thank you all so much at the church for the well wishes and the gift card! It means so much to hear from you all, and I hope all is well!

Izzy Boyer, 2nd year UM

Korbyn

Hi Pam, this is Korbyn Russell. Please tell the church thank you so much for the Amazon gift card. I appreciate the generosity and thoughtfulness. Thanks again!

Korbyn is at MSU; 1st year

CEC *Scholarship* MAIL BAG

In the Scholarship Mailbag this Winter

Dear CEC,
Thank you so much for the gift you sent me over Thanksgiving Break! Not only was it so thoughtful & generous, but it came at the perfect time! With the holidays coming up, I'll now be able to enjoy gift-giving with less worry for next semester!
I will be home very soon & I look forward to giving my thanks in person over Christmas break!
♥ Sincerely, Lena ♥

From Lena Sytsma Reed

*"My words fly up,
My thoughts remain below,
Words without thoughts
Seldom to heaven go."*

—Claudius in "Hamlet" Written by William Shakespeare

Dear Christ Episcopal Church,
WARMLY THINKING OF YOU AND
WISHING YOU A VERY
**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
Thank you guys for the sweet words of encouragement & gift. I really appreciate it :) I love it at Grand Valley. I especially love my roommates & all the fun things we do together. We even found a great church down there. Hope all is well & have a great holiday season!
With love,
Elana



From Eliana Michael

Altar Guild

Altar Guild members polish items for altar in preparation for Christmas Service.
Linda Wertz, Betsy Collier,
Nancy Porter, and Susan Flanders

Kind words will unlock an iron door.

— Turkish Proverb



**TAYLOR SERIES AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
CHARLEVOIX PRESENTS: TONY MANFREDONIA ON
FEBRUARY 22, 2026 AT 4:00PM**



"Tony Manfredonia is a singer-songwriter and composer whose music blends cinematic pop and piano-driven storytelling, with influences like Coldplay, Billy Joel, and Ben Rector. For this concert, Tony will perform an intimate acoustic set, offering heartfelt songs with themes of faith and hope, designed to create a warm and reflective experience for the audience."



200 State Street, Charlevoix at no cost to the public

A reception will follow the concert

www.christepiscopalchurch.net



GREAT LAKES

December 14, 2025

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra String group



Great Lake Chamber Orchestra string group performed to a full house on December 14, 2025

On Sunday afternoon the community of Charlevoix enjoyed a Christmas Concert led by Music Director Libor Ondras of the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra. The Taylor Series invited the GLCO back to Christ Church as last year's performance was enjoyed by all. Following the concert the guests enjoyed refreshments in the parish hall. It was a lovely event and we're grateful to the Taylor family for this financial gift.

*Love works miracles
in stillness*

– Herbert Read

Gratitude is the memory of the heart.
– Jean Massieu



The Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra in collaboration with The Taylor Series presents

Christmas Concerti

Sunday, December 14, 2025 | 4:00 PM | Christ Episcopal Church | Charlevoix, Michigan

Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra

Libor Ondras, *Music Director*

VIOLIN 1

Melody Wootton

Libor Ondras

VIOLIN 2

Cheryl Zetterholm

Ann Marie Jones

VIOLA

Kim Teachout

Ann Schoelles

CELLO

Elizabeth Bert

BASS

Gary Gatzke

HARPSICHORD

Maureen Delaney-Lehman

This Afternoon's Program

Christmas Concerto op. 6 no. 8

Fatto per la notte di Natale | Made for the Night of Christmas
Vivace/Grave ~ Allegro ~ Adagio ~ Vivace ~ Allegro ~ Largo

Arcangelo Corelli

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Danish String Quartet Arrangement

Concerto Grosso op.1 no. 8

Largo ~ Vivace ~ Grave ~ Largo Andante ~ Andante ~ Pastorale Andante

Pietro Antonio Locatelli

Christmas Concerto op. 3 no. 12

1. Pastorale | 2. Largo | 3. Allegro

Francesco Manfredini

Kling No, Klokka - *Ring the Bell*

Danish String Quartet Arrangement

Two Nordic Airs, Op. 63

Second Air in two parts: Kuhreigen - *Cow Keeper's Tune* | Bauern Tanz - *Country-dance*

Edvard Grieg

Stædelil

Danish String Quartet Arrangement

glcorchestra.org | (231)487-0010

Ministry Schedule **JANUARY** 2026

Ministry	<i>Sunday January 4</i>	<i>Sunday January 11</i>	<i>Sunday January 18</i>	<i>Sunday January 25</i>
OT Lesson Psalm & The Epistle	Nancy Porter	Roger Peak	Dan Sytsma Reed	Steve Hall
Prayers	Lea Peak	Liane McGhee	Tricia Drenth	Stephanie Peters
Ushers	Mark Andresky Don Collier	Marge & Tom Kirinovic	Nancy & Jeff Porter	Susan & Brownie Flanders
Intinction	John Fiedorek	Betsy Collier	Rick Wertz	John Fiedorek
(LEM) Chalice	Brownie Flanders	Rick Wertz	Brownie Flanders	Betsy Collier
Acolyte	Roger Peak	Rick Wertz	Brownie Flanders	Roger Peak
Altar Guild	Linda Wertz Rachel Sytsma Reed	Ann Bahr Betsy Collier	Marge Kirinovic Peggy Natterman	Deb Stutzman Susan Flanders
Coffee Hour & Fellowship	Marge Kirinovic Amy Russell	Marsha Hall Deb & Gary Stutzman	Annual Meeting	Betty Stephen Barb Wilson
Vestry Duty	Kathy Boyer	Bev White	Betsy Collier	Barb Wilson

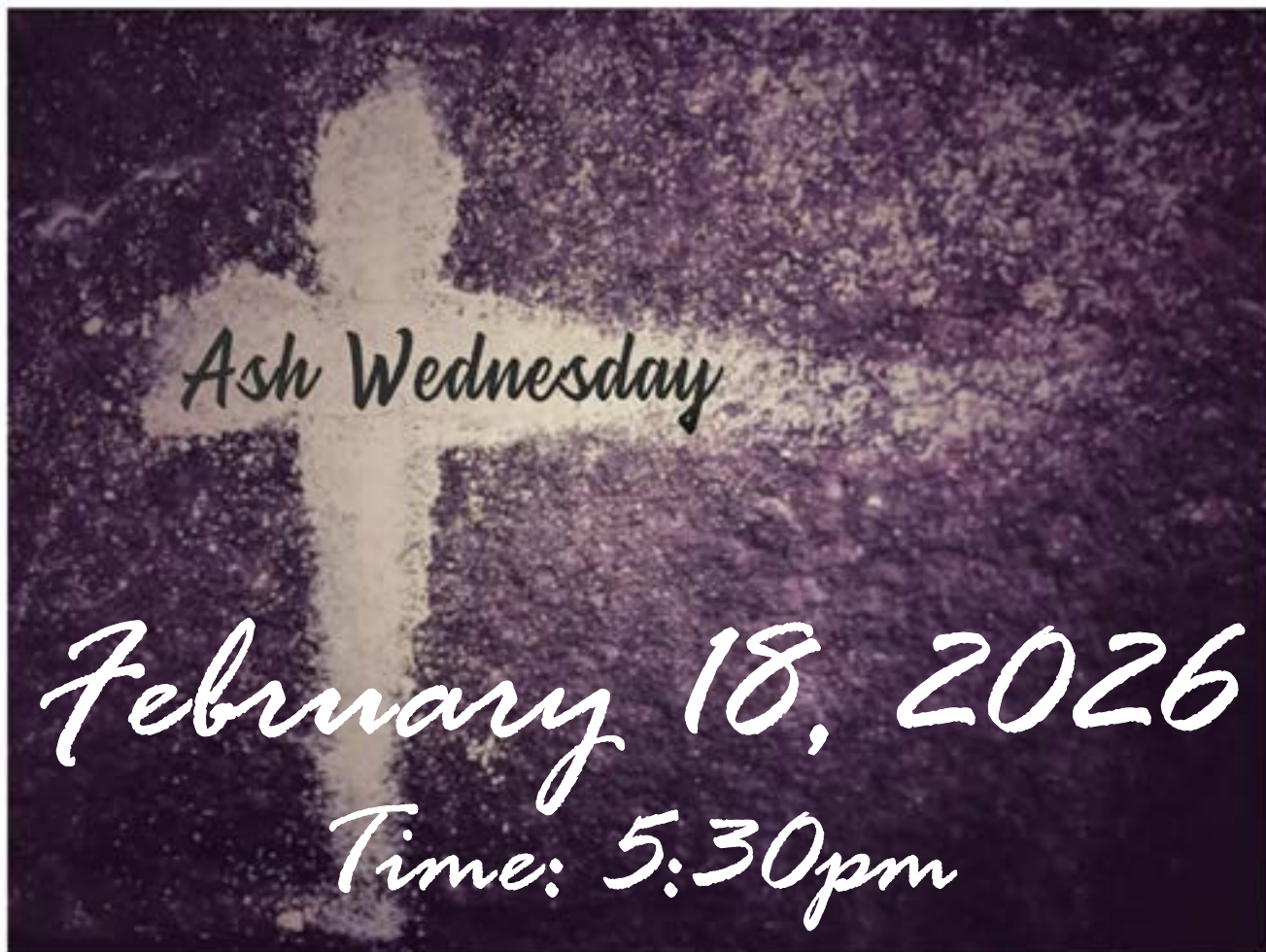
Ordinary Life

“In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.”

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Ash Wednesday 2026

Date: February 18, 2026 Time: 5:30 pm



OT Lesson & Psalms	Mark Andresky
The Epistle	
Prayers of the People	Betty Stephen
Ushers	Brownie & Susan Flanders
Intinction	John Fiedorek
Chalice	Rick Wertz
Acolyte.....	Rick Wertz
Altar Guild	Betsy Collier & Dorothy Miller
Vestry Duty	Linda Wertz

Ministry Schedule FEBRUARY 2026

Ministry	<i>Sunday February 1</i>	<i>Sunday February 8</i>	<i>Sunday February 15</i>	<i>Sunday February 22</i>
OT Lesson & Psalms & The Epistle	Tom Kirinovic	Mark Andresky	Mark Heydlauff	Dan Sytsma Reed
Prayers	Margie Kirinovic	Steve Hall	Gary Stutzman	Betty Stephen
Ushers	Don Collier Jeff Porter	Marsha Hall Sharon Witucki	Susan & Brownie Flanders	Nancy & Jeff Porter
Intinction	Betsy Collier	John Fiedorek	Rick Wertz	John Fiedorek
(LEM)Chalice	Rick Wertz	Brownie Flanders	Betsy Collier	Rick Wertz
Acolyte	Rick Wertz	Brownie Flanders	Roger Peak	Rick Wertz
Altar Guild	Ann Bahr Deb Stutzman	Susan Flanders Nancy Porter	Marge Kirinovic Peggy Nattermann	Linda Wertz Rachel Systma Reed
Coffee Hour & Fellowship	Susan & Brownie Flanders	David Loving Wendy Perrett Ann Bahr	Nancy & Jeff Porter	Linda & Rick Wertz
Vestry Duty	Linda Wertz	Marge Kirinovic	Bev White	Kathy Boyer

Grace Teaches Us

He gave himself for us so he might pay the price to free us from all evil and to make us pure people who belong to him.

– Titus 2:14