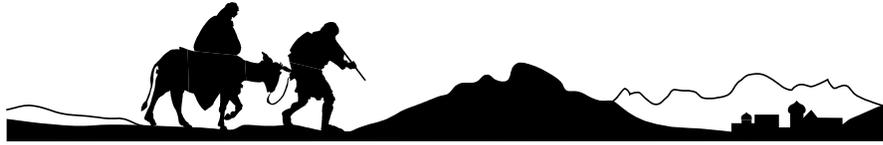


CROSSROADS  
DECEMBER '17/JANUARY '18

*"I am bringing you good news of  
great joy for all people."  
- Luke 2:10*



## CALENDAR FOR CHRISTMASTIDE AND EPIPHANY

### **Sunday, December 17: ADVENT III**

**8:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist

**10:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant

**11:15 a.m.** Preparing sandwiches and chili for Chapel on the Green

**1:00 p.m.** Leave Zion to worship and serve at Chapel on the Green New Haven. We will also be distributing Christmas gifts and cards to each guest.

**Wednesday, December 20:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 p.m. Soup Supper, followed by the Greening of the Church. Come when you can and join the fun!

### **Sunday, December 24: ADVENT IV**

**9:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist

### **Sunday, December 24: The Eve of the Nativity**

**4:30 p.m.** Carols and Anthems with Junior and Senior Choirs

**5:00 p.m.** Festal Holy Eucharist

Child care available downstairs during service.

### **Monday, December 25: The Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Day**

**9:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist with Music and Carols

### **Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: The First Sunday after Christmas**

**9:00 a.m.** Lessons and Carols.

### **Sunday, January 7: The First Sunday after Epiphany**

**8:00 & 10:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist

Church school resumes



## **THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WANTS**

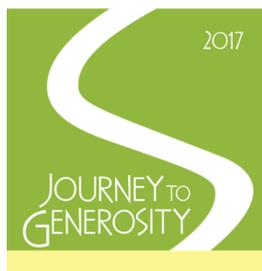
### **YOU!**

This year's annual meeting **January 28, 2018** will present nominations for Vestry. This person should have a desire to help and a perspective about our parish. We need people with varied experiences who can attend a monthly meeting and participate in some activities of the parish.

Our Vestry members receive a training session with our veterans and we are blessed with a faithful group that takes risks to participate in God's mission through Zion. We hope you will speak to us about any potential members. Please don't forget to consider *yourself!* Contact Rev. Lucy or Senior Warden Jane Chick

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### **Annual Appeal Drive**



Currently, we have 32 pledging families for 2018. This is down from 45 in 2017. This decline in the number of pledgers results in approximately \$17,000 less in pledge revenue. If you have not yet pledged but intend to do so, please see Jen Elles-Jones for a pledge card. For those who have pledged, 2018 pledge envelopes will be distributed over the next two weeks. Thank you!

## **Christian Formation News**

We enjoyed studies from the book *Bible Women, Their Words and Why They Matter* by Episcopal priest Lindsay Hardin Freeman. During Advent, we took a closer look at the women in Jesus' genealogy. On **January 23rd & 30th**, please join us at 7:00 pm. as we study and discuss the life and words of Esther.

The vestry has completed the book *Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life* by former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. Discussions of a chapter of this book was the start of each vestry meeting for several months. A copy has been placed in the Zion library. The Rev. Dr. Williams will be speaking at Trinity Episcopal Church on the Green in New Haven as the keynote speaker for an Institute of Sacred Music at Yale's event on June 20, 2018. Save the date!



**CROP walk update:** Zion's CROP walk team raised \$750 to alleviate hunger globally and locally. North Branford Food Pantry will be sent a check in January.

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

**Notice is given of the Annual Meeting of  
Zion Episcopal Church, North Branford, CT**

**Date: January 28, 2018  
Time: Immediately following  
Combined 9 a.m. service**

**Jane Chick, Senior Warden**

**Continental breakfast  
Childcare provided**

## North Branford Congregational Church & The Connecticut Hospice

warmly invite you to:

Monday, December 18, 2017, 6:45 PM

The Chapel of North Branford Congregational  
Church

Please join us at a time and place where you and others can acknowledge some of the "blue" feelings you may be experiencing throughout this Christmas season.

While we're together, you will hear God's words of comfort and strength offered to you, to help meet you wherever you are on your journey. This spiritual oasis is for you, and will include: readings and reflections of scripture; occasions of prayer, contemplation and silence; nurturing music; and, supportive conversation with our leader from Hospice.

Following our service, you are invited to remain for a reception, to savor the glow of candlelight and the warmth of community, perhaps followed by some quiet, alone time in our place of worship, where you can listen for the still, small voice of God.

This service is our gift to you, there is no charge, and if possible, please let us know you plan to come, by contacting North Branford Congregational Church, 203-488-8456; nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net. Looking forward to seeing you! Halley Robinson, Director of Bereavement Services, The Connecticut Hospice and Vance Taylor, Pastor, North Branford Congregational Church, UCC

## Outreach News

Zion's outreach efforts in 2017 have benefitted many local and regional ministry partners.

**Loaves and Fishes:** A group from Zion has gone to work at this food pantry and clothing closet at least 7 times in 2017, with individual Zion members now volunteering there on their own. Jim Sochocki now makes deliveries to Loaves and Fishes at regular intervals of the clothing donated by Zion parishioners and those who use our building.

**Chapel on the Green:** On **December 17th**, Zion members will make chili and sandwiches to serve at this outdoor worship and meal ministry in New Haven. We will be giving out a wrapped gift and Christmas card to each guest. As of this writing, over 130 gifts of a hat, mittens, socks, or a scarf have been knit, bought, and wrapped!

**Junta for Progressive Action:** This advocacy group in New Haven is helping to relocate and welcome evacuees from Puerto Rico who were affected by the hurricane. We will be donating to Junta any gifts of warm clothing left from our Chapel on the Green event and making a contribution to them from our Outreach funds.

**Episcopal Relief and Development:** The tithe (10%) of our fundraiser earnings have been sent to Episcopal Relief and Development for Hurricane Relief. Our tag sale and Holiday Fair earned \$560 for this organization.

Christmas at Zion is full of wonderful music. We are very blessed to have so many people who are willing to share their time and talents with us during worship. Before the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service the choir will lead us in a half hour of anthems and carols starting at 4:30 p.m. The handbell choir will begin the festive music. Throughout the evening music will include trumpet, oboe, flutes, guitar, viola, along with our dedicated choir and guests. Christmas morning music will include more beautiful carols. Worship on December 31 will include a service of lessons and carols.

I am so very grateful to all the members of the choir, instrumentalists, and the people who have participated in the pageant. Thank you for all you do to help lead us in worship.

Blessings,  
Ralene K. Goff

## The Nursery on Notch Hill Newsletter

Hello Everyone!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed time with family and friends. With December now here, we are in full swing getting ready for the holidays. It is a very busy and exciting time for our children here at NONH!

This month the children will be making holiday crafts and presents for their families. Both classes will be talking about the different holidays that are celebrated this time of year.

Our cookie dough and pie fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you all for your support! Fundraising helps pay for our special events and parties including our Thanksgiving Feast, Mother's Day brunch, end of the year school picnic and graduation.

Our 7th annual Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-10:30. I hope that you can all attend this fun holiday event. Each family has received four tickets. If you need additional tickets please ask your child's teacher. Tickets are \$5.00 per person which includes pancakes, sausage, orange juice & coffee. Santa Claus will be making an appearance from 9:15- 10:15 to visit with the children, take pictures and give out a small gift. Please invite family and friends to join us for breakfast! Tickets must be purchased in advanced by Thursday, December 14th.

Thank you to our families who donated to the North Branford Food Pantry. They were very thankful for our donation.

Finally, we would like to wish you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season! We are blessed to have you all as part of our Notch Hill family!

Thank you,

Ms. Sue, Ms. Donna, Ms. Betsy, Ms. Rita & Ms. Debbie

*Merry Christmas*



### Dates to Remember

- **Pancake Breakfast with Santa Claus** Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 9am-10:30am
- Ms. Betsy's holiday party is Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>
- Ms. Donna's holiday party is Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>
- **CLOSED** for holiday break from Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> through Monday January 1st
- Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a full day at NONH



### Happy Hanukkah



*Food for Thought*

*Fill your life with adventure,  
not things. Have stories to tell  
not stuff to show.*

### Flu Shot reminder

The State of Connecticut requires all children who attend a preschool to have their flu shot by December 31<sup>st</sup>. If your child does not receive this shot by then, they will not be able to return to school until the shot is administered. Please see Ms. Sue if there is a reason your child is exempt from having the shot. The doctor does need to sign off on this and a copy needs to be kept in your child's file.

**December 2017/January 2018**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Advent 1</i> HE 8 & 10 a.m. AA	<i>Yoga</i>		AA	<i>Yoga</i> AA	AA	
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>Advent 2</i> HE 8 & 10 a.m. 11:30 Vestry meeting AA	<i>Yoga</i>	<i>7 p.m. Healing Prayer at Zion</i>	AA	<i>Yoga</i>	AA	
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<i>Advent 3</i> HE 8 & 10 a.m. <i>Chapel on the Green</i> AA	<i>Yoga</i> <i>Blue Christmas at North Branford</i> <i>Congregational Church</i>		AA	<i>Yoga</i> AA	AA	
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<i>Advent 4</i> HE 9 a.m. <b>Christmas Eve</b> 4:30 p.m. Choir anthems and carols HE 5 p.m. AA	<b>Christmas Day</b> HE 9 a.m.	<i>7 p.m. Healing Prayer at</i> <i>Trinity Branford</i>	AA	<i>Yoga</i> AA	AA	
<b>31</b>	<b>JANUARY 1, 2017</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>First Sunday after Christmas</i> 9 a.m. Lessons and carols AA						
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<i>First Sunday after Epiphany</i> HE 8 & 10 a.m. AA		<i>7 p.m. Healing Prayer at Zion</i>				
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<i>First Sunday after Epiphany</i> HE 8 & 10 a.m. AA						
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>First Sunday after Epiphany</i> HE 8 & 10 a.m. AA		<i>7 p.m. Healing Prayer at</i> <i>Trinity Branford</i>				
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			
<i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i> HE 9 a.m. <i>Followed by Annual Meeting</i> AA						

**ZION EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

www.zionepiscopalchurch.org

**Vicar: The Rev. Lucy LaRocca**

**email: [zionvicar@att.net](mailto:zionvicar@att.net)**

**Parish Office: 203-488-7395**

**Administrator: Debbie Anderson: [zion\\_office@att.net](mailto:zion_office@att.net)**

**Music Director: Ralene Goff: [ralenegoff@gmail.com](mailto:ralenegoff@gmail.com)**

**Officers**

**Senior Warden: Jane Chick**

**Junior Warden: Diane Iglesias**

**Treasurer: Phil Bujalski - [ziontreas@att.net](mailto:ziontreas@att.net)**

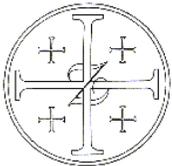
**Clerk: OPEN**

**Pledge Clerk: Jennifer Elles-Jones**

**Vestry: Janet Ainsworth, Carl Ford, Nancy Fryer, David Hultgren, Michele Kinrade, Lisa Latham & Dale Sochocki**

***\*Chapel on the Green (see page 2.)***

***\*Annual Meeting notice (see page 2.)***



Zion Episcopal Church

326 Notch Hill Road

North Branford, CT 06471

<http://www.zionepiscopalchurch.org/>