



**Christ Church**  
Sixth and Main Streets  
Clarksburg, WV

# The Good News Weekly

## Christ Episcopal Church ~ St. Barnabas Chapel

January 3, 2021



**St. Barnabas Chapel**  
721 Hall Street  
Bridgeport, WV

[www.christchurchclarksburg.com](http://www.christchurchclarksburg.com)  
[www.stbarnabaschapel.com](http://www.stbarnabaschapel.com)

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### Rev. Nora's Christmas Message

Can you hear it? There's a buzz in the air. Or maybe you can feel it, enough even to give you goose bumps. As the song puts it, "It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!" For children, it's the waiting for morning as they rush to open presents.

For us, everything tonight is permeated with a sacredness of a new Christmas, a renewal of our hopes and dreams, of the precious gift of a baby sleeping in a trough among the hay, with a mother and father who will raise this child. Everything. It's the time of year when we become nostalgic and look back on the past Christmases in our lives. But mostly, we await this holy night and the greatest gift the world has ever known.

I remember as a child going to the five and dime – we had a Kresge's in our neighborhood. I remember the wooden bins of toys, crayons, and various coloring books – I loved the little horses. My two sisters and my brother had our own favorite bins! For my brother it was little cars and trucks and for us girls, it was barrettes and bracelets. These stores were the precursors to Target, Walmart, and Dollar Tree and the prices were a nickel or a dime.

But what I want to remind you of is the smell. If you are old enough to have experienced the smell, can you recall it tonight? It was a combination of popcorn, bubble gum, and shoe leather, all ground in together in the ancient hardwood floors. Those stores had this smell of wooden floors and bins of candies, and tobacco. The smell was a conglomeration of everything there.

If we'd have known these stores would become extinct, we would have bottled the smell to keep for all eternity. The internet won't give you that smell. Well, the buzz you hear – or feel – tonight is kind of like the smell of those old five-and-dimes.

The same is true with Christmas Eve. What you sense, what you smell, what you see and hear and feel at this very moment... it's a combination of everything you will experience this Christmas season and will go into your

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### This Week at Christ Church, Clarksburg and St. Barnabas Chapel, Bridgeport

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**Zoom Morning Prayer at 10:00 AM**

<https://zoom.us/j/5245181878>

Meeting ID: 524 518 1878

Another option is to dial in: (646) 558-8656

**No reservation needed for Zoom.**

**When we return to in-person services reservations are required.**

**Email Christ Church at: [christchurch1853@aol.com](mailto:christchurch1853@aol.com)**

Give the following information: Your name and total number of family members planning to attend.

(Your reservation will be confirmed by a return email.)

Or phone in your reservation to the Church office at 304-622-3694, if necessary please leave a message.

(Your reservation will be confirmed by a return call.)

**Reservations must be made by Friday morning.**

**If unable to keep a reservation, please cancel.**

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**Zoom Evening Prayer at 5:30 PM**

**Join Zoom by clicking on this link**

<https://zoom.us/j/5245181878>

Meeting ID: 524 518 1878

Another option is to dial in: (646) 558-8656



Rev. Nora's . . . cont. from page 1

memory of Christmases past. What you bring to the celebration of Christ’s birth makes up the experience. What you feel in your heart and in your soul tonight is special. We know it won’t last, and we want to savor it and hold onto it. At least, while the moment lasts (and that’s all it is, just a moment), we want to celebrate the buzz that comes only at this time of year.

Barbara Brown Taylor puts it this way... she says that Christmas Eve is the time “when the membrane between heaven and earth is so thin you can almost see through it. Tonight is the night we measure all time against this wondrous event.”

Our sanctuary, decorated for the season, has become a waiting room. We find ourselves pacing the floor nervously until we get news the baby is born. That’s where we are, right now. That waiting, in itself, comes in different forms. It’s not just one thing but a litany of many things: anticipation, memories of hopes, fears, joys, the sad and gladness of loved ones who have gone on to glory.

Ask your children or grandchildren tonight what they’re waiting for; those images of sugar cookies for Santa, the packages with their names on them, and the Christmas morning waiting, waiting to run under the tree and tear open the most precious gift. And the smell of Christmas breakfast while and chances are the images of the brightly wrapped gifts under the tree, or what they are anticipating when they wake up in the morning. Remember all that you wished you had as a child. There was always that one gift that may have been a surprise that you cherished and the memories of it may still be with you. Or maybe, you have kept it or passed it on to a grandchild. That is what we are awaiting this precious night.

Whether we like it or not, Christmas Eve is a time machine and this place is our Bethlehem where we have hauled the hopes and the fears of all our years and laid them in a manger. Let us give thanks for Mary and Joseph this night of all nights.

For that reason alone, it is good for us not to make this story we read a moment ago into a fairy tale. It was hardly that. If our hopes are dependent on the marketplace or in a fairy tale, we’ve not only missed the point, we’ve deluded ourselves in the process and set ourselves up for a big, big disappointment.

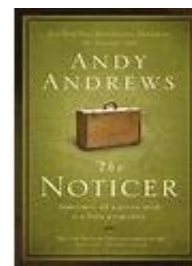
There is a certain degree to which, even on Christmas Eve, we have to deal with the reality of the story and not just the fantasy of it. There were no talking animals, no drummer boys, at the birth of Jesus. It was what it was, and we need to acknowledge that. Let us live each day as a Christmas gift; the most precious gift that keeps on giving. Pass it on!

## Backpack Schedule

Pack backpacks after church on January 3  
 Deliver backpacks January 7 ..... Dick Clovis  
 Food to the church by January 7..... Beth Sickles  
 Pack backpacks after church on January 10  
 Deliver backpacks January 14 ..... Beth Sickles  
 Food to the church by January 14..... Beth Sickles  
 Pack backpacks after church on January 17  
 Deliver backpacks January 21 ..... Beth Sickles  
 Food to the church by January 21 . ..... Beth Sickles  
 Pack backpacks after church on January 24  
 Deliver backpacks January 28 .....Beth Sickles  
 .....

## Upcoming Book Discussion

Rev. Nora recently read the book, *The Noticer*, by Andy Andrews. She is inviting us to join in a discussion of the book at a date to be announced.



This book, written by a best-selling author of several books, is based on a true story. It is an absorbing story of boundless hope! Struggling against poverty, personal failures, and lost dreams, the residents of Orange Beach, Alabama, believe their lives are meaningless. But then an old drifter mysteriously makes his way through town, he brings new perspective - and spots the miracle they are missing!

The book is available at local libraries, can be downloaded using the Libby App or Kindle, purchased on Amazon in paperback, hardback, on audible.com or numerous other online bookstores.

## The Good Book Club

Begin 2021 with the Gospel of Mark! The Good Book Club returns to read the earliest and shortest of the four gospels, starting Friday, January 1, 2021, through Shrove Tuesday, February 16.

Mark opens with words from the prophet Isaiah: “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,” and indeed the gospel itself serves as a messenger for the life and ministry of Jesus. Written around 65-75 CE, Mark proclaims the good news that Jesus is the messiah and Son of God.

We’re excited for this journey through Mark. Make plans now to join Forward Movement and partner organizations from across the Episcopal Church to encounter the risen Lord through the Gospel of Mark. [Sign up to receive updates](#) on the Gospel of Mark. View and download [the readings](#).

## Worship Opportunities

### 2020 Christmas Eve at Christ Church Clarksburg

[Facebook](#)

### Noonday Office Prayers with the Diocese of WV

Daily at 12:00 noon can be found on **Facebook Live**

at: <https://www.facebook.com/EpisDioWV/>

or you can **Join Zoom Meeting** by clicking on:

<https://zoom.us/j/97642633703?pwd=RVVaU3ZkeUw0bmpwYjE2Wm1CRI9ldz09>

Meeting ID: 976 4263 3703

Passcode: 726802

### Compline with the Diocese of WV

Daily at 7:00 PM can be found on **Facebook Live**

at: <https://www.facebook.com/EpisDioWV/>

or you can **Join Zoom Meeting** by clicking on:

<https://zoom.us/j/94811979530?pwd=RINiSDBhR1ZZMzhXYm45UUwvNUUxdz09>

Meeting ID: 948 1197 9530

Passcode: 350808

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## Music for Your Enjoyment

### From Christ Church Clarksburg

[Facebook](#)

"O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Organ Music

### From Washington National Cathedral

[Music - Washington National Cathedral](#)

(scroll down to find this)

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Re-live one of our favorite performances on the Cathedral's 53-bell carillon. To mark the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1963 speech during the March on Washington, Cathedral Carillonneur Edward M. Nassor played "Lift Every Voice and Sing" on August 28, 2013.

### From Washington National Cathedral

[Music - Washington National Cathedral](#)

(scroll down to find this)

"We Fall Down" / "Amazing Grace"

Watch a recent performance of We Fall Down (Donnie McClurkin) /Amazing Grace (music: New Britain text: John Newton (1725-1807) by Cathedral Band members Imani-Grace Cooper (vocals), Marshall Keys (saxophone) and Daryl L.A. Hunt (piano).

## Prayer for Bishop Coadjutor Search

Almighty God, you have created each person with many and varied gifts and joined our lives together as members of the Diocese of West Virginia. Look graciously upon us as we search for our eighth Bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Give us minds to discern your will, courage to follow where you lead, and hearts to love as you command, to the glory of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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## January Prayer

"O God of liberty and justice: we live in a nation in which the institution of human bondage was once a legal and accepted practice. We give thanks for those who worked and fought, at great personal sacrifice, to bring about an end to that cruel and oppressive system in our own land, and we pray that governments and authorities everywhere in the world might be led to make a quick end to the enslavement of any human being, throughout the Earth." **Amen**

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## E-Giving to Churches Without Fees

Parishioners are encouraged to use e-giving at:

<http://www.wvdiocese.org/pages/aa-egiving.html>

Just scroll down and click on the donate button located

by Bridgeport-St. Barnabas

or Clarksburg – Christ Church.

**Checks can also be mailed directly to**

**Christ Episcopal Church**

**PO Box 1492, Clarksburg, WV 26302**

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## Discretionary Sunday

January 3 is the first Sunday of the month, and the first Sunday of each month is discretionary Sunday at Christ Church. If we were having in-person services and taking up an offering, all loose coins, bills, and checks designated for the discretionary fund go to Rev. Nora's discretionary fund. Please consider sending an extra check for this fund when you send your January offering.

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**. . . to know, live, and share  
The Good News Story of Jesus Christ.**