

St. John's Journal

Bandon-by-the-Sea, Oregon

December 2025

December Services

Greening of the Church on Saturday December 6th at 9am.

SERVICE OF HEALING & FORGIVENESS: December 14 will be a regular Eucharist with Healing & Forgiveness inserted.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE: We will again hold a Longest Night Service on Saturday December 21st (the longest night) at 4pm. This is a Christmas themed service that seeks to be meaningful to people whose lives are difficult in one way or another. The service is meant to be a word of hope to them. Please consider participating in the service and inviting other people you know who need to hear a word of hope.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: We will gather for our Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols on Tuesday December 24th at 4pm. This uplifting service of the reading of the Christmas story and the singing of numerous Christmas hymns is always a joy. We also hope that our choir will bless us with an anthem or two.

FEAST OF ST. JOHN: On December 29th we will be celebrating our congregation's patron saint, the Apostle John.

VICAR ON VACATION: Fr. Doug will be taking a week off from December 30 through January 6.



ICONIC COLUMN

We are entering into the season of Advent and Christmas which means that there are several special things going on that you may want to participate in.

To begin to set the mood for the season, you are invited to the Thursday morning class (10:30am) that will meet for three Thursdays in Advent (Dec. 4, 11, 18) to reflect upon three favorite Advent Hymns: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” We will reflect upon the meaning of each hymn, look at some scripture passages related to them, and learn some background to the writing of the hymn.

One of the things that mark this time of year are the special decorations that appear in the sanctuary and Theresa Hall. If you would like to help with setting up those decorations, please come to the Greening of the Church on Saturday December 6th at 9am. Come spend some time with others while you set the stage for this blessed season. This is happening a little bit earlier than usual and on a different day because of scheduling conflicts.

One of those conflicts is a wonderful Christmas Concert happening at 1st Presbyterian Church (just down the street on Edison) on Sunday December 14th at 2pm. The Ripple Effect Choir will be accompanied by the Bandon Summer Wind Ensemble. Another thing that marks this season is the special music that we get to hear and sing. Come to this special concert and fill your ears with music of the season. Also come and taste some seasonal cookies provided by the Bandon Ministerial Association. Admission is free, but participants are asked to bring non-perishable food or money offerings to support the work of Good Neighbors Food Pantry and Food and Faith.

On Sunday December 21st at 4pm we will be having our Longest Night Service. This is a special Advent/Christmas worship service that is especially designed to bring the good news of the coming of the Christ Child to those who are hurting in one way or another. People may not be feeling joyous in this time that is usually marked by joy. But the message of the coming of the Son of God can still very much speak to them. Please consider coming to this service and invite other people from our community who may need to hear words of encouragement and hope.

All of this is leading up to our Christmas Eve Service at 4pm on the 24th. The St. John Choir is planning on singing at two of the service in Advent and is preparing for two anthems at the Christmas Eve service. It seems that the Advent/Christmas season is a time that seeks to fill the senses of sight and sound and taste, while we once again hear the word of God speak to us of God coming into our world and into our own personal lives.

May we be filled with all the good God has to give us and may it overflow in our giving to others and especially to those most in need. I especially encourage you to consider supporting Food and Faith's Project Full Hearts that hopes to provide weekend packs of food for breakfast and lunch for 320 elementary and middle school students. More information about it can be found on the small bulletin board in our hall.

Fr. Doug



QUESTION: Why have an Episcopal Church in Bandon?? If you feel motivated to ponder this question, please write them down and share with Father Doug.

So, Noted!

Treasurer Report-We are still operating without our Denise, but we do have a starting point that is being firmed up to get us to a 2026 Proposed Budget that will be presented at Annual Meeting in January 2026. Stay tuned!!

Senior Warden-Judy Jackson proposed another passive fundraiser that I have tentatively named, "Pennies from Heaven." More on this very soon.

Junior Warden-Kathy Webb and Lauea Arnoldt met with the City Planning Department to go over questions raised by the City Engineer. These have been forwarded to Civil West Engineering.

Repairs are needed on the riding lawnmower that belongs to the Mello's. We feel strongly that St. John should cover costs. We also need to look at local lawn-maintenance companies as we will not have anyone set to do this for 2026.

Vicar-The MLC has proposed a new larger sign to replace the current sign on the exterior of Theresa Hall. It was unanimously approved.

Greening of the Church will happen a bit sooner this year. Saturday, December 6th at 9 a.m., please join us in this festivity.

Upcoming Events-

ADVENT starts!

12/6 - Greening of the Church at 9 am

12/14 - Service of Healing & Forgiveness, followed by BAC

12/21 – Longest Night Service at 4 pm

12/24 – Christmas Eve Service at 4 pm

12/28 – Feast of St. John

Respectfully submitted by Laurea Arnoldt, Bishop's Warden



Musings from Denise

Savoring Advent

The first four weeks of the Church Year are known as the season of “Advent,” referring to both the first and second comings of Christ. The First Coming took place in Bethlehem around 2,000 years ago, when God’s Son came to save us from sin and death. The Second Coming will once and for all bring justice to this world through a Final Judgment.

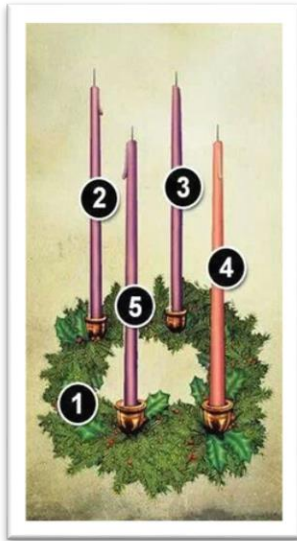
With all the secular world’s focus on the gift-giving season that follows, these four weeks often get overlooked. But they are meant to be a time of reflection and preparation (as Lent prepares us for Easter). We may hear them in the shopping malls, but we don’t sing Christmas carols in church until Christmas Eve. The hymns we do sing during Advent focus on the sin and darkness in the world, and the coming of a Redeemer who will bring light and salvation, hope and peace.

When I was a child, my godmother sent me an Advent Calendar each year. Most of them had a winter scene with 25 flaps that hid a smaller picture for each day leading to Christmas Day. The flaps were numbered, but not laid out in chronological order, so each day I had to hunt for the correct flap to open. One year she sent a very different kind of Advent

Calendar. It had tiny pockets instead of flaps, and each pocket contained a sweet treat, intensifying my anticipation of Christmas.

Back in the days when families gathered around the dining table for Sunday supper, some families I knew had an Advent Wreath as their centerpiece, and each week they would light an additional candle. I didn't start using one until I moved away from home. It was a small way of connecting to holiday traditions far from home. St. John's displays an Advent Wreath too. It is not part of our liturgy, but it is a useful remembrance of what the season is all about, especially when we know what the elements represent:

◇ **Evergreen Wreath** — The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning and no end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the foundation of all good. Green represents hope and new life.



◇ ◇ **Four Candles** represent the four weeks of Advent. Traditionally, each week represents 1,000 years, and the four add up to 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to the Savior's birth. Three candles are either purple (traditional) or blue (modern), and one is pink (or rose). Each has its own significance. The first symbolizes HOPE/FAITH, the second is LOVE. The pink candle is lit third and represents JOY. The fourth represents PEACE. Together they signify the light of Christ coming to humankind.

◇ **Christ Candle** — Sometimes a white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath, and not lit until Christmas Eve, signifying the Savior's arrival among us.

Advent calendars and wreaths were probably meant to teach children about the values of Advent and the importance of Christmas, but they also serve to remind adults that preparations for the holiday involve more than shopping and decorating the house.



Stewardship is about more than pledging money. It is also about pledging to care for one another and the place we gather for worship. Here are a few of the many ways St. John's volunteers keep

our church serving God, our neighbors and ourselves.

At the annual meeting in late January, you will be asked if you wish to continue the volunteer work you have been doing or sign up for something new (or do both). Volunteering adds purpose to your day, builds friendships, and demonstrates our faith for tomorrow. Here are some of the opportunities available in 2026:

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Bishop's Advisory Committee (BAC): St. John's governing body is elected at annual meetings.

Bulletin Preparation: Prepares service bulletins and Prayers of the People, assembles inserts.

Clerk: Takes minutes of BAC and annual meetings, endorses official documents. (Not required to be a BAC Member.)

Communications: Publish monthly newsletter, maintain & update St. John's website or the Facebook page, community publicity. [See "Worship" for bulletin preparation.]

Delegates: Two delegates and two Alternates are elected at the annual meeting to represent St. John at quarterly Convocation meetings and the annual Diocesan Convention.

Fundraising Coordinator: Oversees varied fundraisers (rummage sale, food sales, etc.) as needed.

McKay's Receipts: Join receipt tallying work parties (about 4 times per year).

Supply Purchaser: Purchases cleaning and paper products for the church.

CHURCH CAMPUS (aka Building & Grounds)

Building & Grounds Care: Possible tasks include updating St. John's asset inventory (for insurance coverage); handling minor maintenance tasks to maintain St. John's buildings (like changing light bulbs), lawn mowing and weeding gardens. (Multiple volunteers are needed, and report to the Junior Warden.)

Green Energy Task Force (NEW): Explores costs and benefits of various green energy solutions to lower our carbon footprint and possibly provide an income stream (e.g., by installing solar panels). Reports to the BAC.

Memorial Garden Committee (NEW): Drafts policies and procedures for operating and maintaining an aesthetically beautiful scatter garden; organizes workdays; purchases grave markers; maintains records of interments. Reports to the BAC.

Trash & Recycling Duty: Gather trash and put out for weekly pick up. Occasionally gather bottle and paper recycling and take to recycling center.

CONGREGATION

Hospitality for Coffee Hour: Prepare coffee, set up and bring treats, clean up.

Prayer Chain: Be a part of the prayer chain team, offering prayers throughout the week for people upon request. (Chairperson prepares weekly list of names for Prayers of the People.)

OUTREACH

Good Neighbors Food Bank Coordinator: Gather congregation's food donations and take them to the distribution location once per month.

Medical Loan Closet Volunteer: Receive phone calls, meet clients to check out or check in medical equipment. Be on call up to one week per month.

Outreach Coordinator: Under the BAC's direction, promotes and coordinates ways that we give funds and/or services to our wider community.

WORSHIP

Altar Flowers: Gather, or purchase, and arrange flowers for behind the altar.

Altar Guild: Care for sacred vessels, vestments and linens. Prepare altar for worship service.

Greeter/Usher: During services greet people, hand out bulletins, coordinate element bearers, pass collection plate, guide congregants at Eucharist.

Intercessor: Offer the Prayers of the People during worship.

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Trained by the Priest and licensed by the bishop to assist with worship and Eucharist. Includes administering consecrated elements.

Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Trained by the priest and licensed by the bishop. After a service, take elements to members of the congregation unable to be present because of illness or infirmity.

Lector: Read the lessons and lead the congregation in the psalm.

Music: Sing with the Chapel Choir of St. John at occasional worship services. Choir practices one evening per week. Or accompany the choir, congregation and music director on a musical instrument.

PEACE ON EARTH,

GOODWILL TO ALL!



DECEMBER 2025

ADVENT I	1 7:30P AA	2 7:30p AA	3 7:30p AA	4 10:30a Convers. 6:30p Choir	5	6 Greening of the Church 9 am
7 ADVENT II 9:30A Holy Eucharist BAC	8 7:30p AA	9 7:30p AA	10 7:30p AA	11 10:30a Convers. 6:30p Choir	12	13
14 ADVENT III 9:30A Holy Euch. & Healing BAC	15 7:30p AA	16 SEA Board 10-12 7:30p AA	17 7:30p AA	18 10:30a Convers. 6:30p Choir	19 NEWS DEADLINE FOR JANUARY	20
21 ADVENT IV 9:30A Holy Eucharist The Longest Night Service 4 pm	22 7:30p AA	23 7:30p AA	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm Lessons & Carols	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 (Feast of St. John)	27
28 (1st after Xmas) Feast of St John (transferred)	29 7:30p AA	30 7:30p AA	31 7:30p AA	1	2	3

St. John By-the-Sea

Episcopal Church

795 Franklin Avenue
(PO Box 246)
Bandon, OR 97411

Phone: 541-347-2152

Email: stjohns.bandon@gmail.com

Website:

www.stjohnsbandon.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-John-Episcopal-Church-in-Bandon-Oregon-234749653862372>

Medical Loan Closet

(Open by Appointment Only)

Phone: 541-590-2443

A Believe Out Loud
Congregation

WHO WE ARE

St. John Episcopal Church is a community that sees Christ in all people and judges none. We believe in inclusion for all people regardless of race, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation. We aim to break down barriers that separate us from one another and to provide a home for anyone on their spiritual journey. Our work brings together people of faith who believe in the inherent

“Love God, love our neighbor, and serve one another.”

BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC)

(Generally meets 2nd Sundays after Coffee Hour)

Bishop's Warden: Laurea Arnoldt

Junior Warden: Kathy Webb

Treasurer: Denise Skillman

Clerk: Jennifer Mello

Members at large:

Gail Pray, Maggie Lowery & Lorilyn Holton

Convention Delegates:

Mary Garrett and Sally Glunt

CHURCH STAFF

Vicar: The Rev. Doug Hale

(Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Music Director: Cynthia Mohorko

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4: Jennifer Mello

18: Sharon Moy

22: Bobbi Neason

12: Judy Jackson

21: Lani Reynolds

& Jim Lawson

& Eddie Miller

23: Doug Hale

(If your name should be on this list, please contact the office so we can update our records and honor your day when it comes around again.)