



Nov/Dec 2024

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**Mission
Statement**
**To Love Others as
Christ Loves Us**

"Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever."

Collect for the 1st Sunday of Advent

Dear Christ Church parish family,

We are about to begin the brief season of Advent. As the prayer above says to well, Advent is a season of spiritual preparation through reflection, prayer and repentance. We are called to examine our lives honestly and see where we have allowed the "works of darkness" to take up residence in our minds, hearts, souls, thoughts, words and behavior.

This season of repentance has two focal points: Christmas and Heaven. In the short run, we are preparing spiritually for the annual celebration of Jesus' birth – when he "came to visit us in great humility". In the long run, we are preparing for the time when Jesus "shall come again in glorious majesty" in his eternal kingdom of life. In other words, Heaven.

I realize that this traditional season of reflection and repentance seems to be a contradiction of the season of celebration that December is for most people in our society. But it need not be so. There is joy to be found in letting go of negative thoughts, words and actions which contradict our faith in a good and loving God.

So, I invite you all to take time every day in this Advent season to read the scriptures and examine your life and pray for the strength to "lay aside the works of darkness" that have invaded your life.

We will be focusing on this theme in our Advent Sunday sermons under the heading of "Prepare the Way of The Lord". I invite you to read the Sunday scriptures and meditate on them in your daily prayer during the week.

I wish you a blessed and Christ-centered Advent and Christmas:

Fr Tom

P.S. see the next article for resources for your personal prayer in Advent

Resources for Your Personal Prayer time in Advent

Advent Sermon Series: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Here are the sermon themes and scripture lessons for each Sunday in Advent. You will get more impact out of the Sunday sermons and scripture lessons if you read the scriptures during the week after and ask Jesus what he is saying to you personally.

December 1	1 Advent	<i>"Strengthen your hearts in holiness"</i> Jeremiah 33: 14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13; Luke 21: 25- 36
December 8	2 Advent	<i>"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion."</i> Malachi 3: 1-4; Philippians 1: 3 – 11; Luke 3: 1-6
December 15	3 Advent	<i>"Bear Fruit That Befits Repentance"</i> Zephaniah 3: 14- 20; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7-18
December 22	4 Advent	<i>"My Soul Magnifies the Lord"</i> Micha 5: 2-5a; Hebrews 10: 5 – 10; Luke 1: 39-55

If you are feeling more ambitious, you can read one chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day during Advent. There are 24 chapters in Luke. If you read one chapter each day, you will read the entire Gospel by Christmas Eve.

If you are feeling more ambitious still, you can pray Morning Prayer, Noon Prayer, Evening Prayer or Compline or the shorter daily devotion services every day in December.

You can find them on pages 37 to 146 in the Book of Common Prayer. If the range of choices seems overwhelming, just pick one simple service and stay with that.

The important thing is to set aside time and place to pray and seek out the person and word of Jesus in your daily life.

VESTRY

Lincoln School: "The Bag Ladies" continue to pack 100 Happy Meals weekly. Donations of macaroni and cheese, spaghetti-o's, ramen noodles, fruit cup, peanut butter crackers, drink and a treat from all of you make that possible. There is a need when the poverty level in Warren is about 23%. With the coming of winter there is a need for jackets. The Christmas Giving Tree will once more be hung with ornaments displaying gender and age for parishioners to take to buy a gift to bring joy to a child.

Day Care Remodeling: Bids have been received for completely painting the entire area in readiness for renting the space.

Landscaping and Tree Removal: Awaiting bid for price.

Mason Work: Repair of walls completed. Deterioration was resulting in damage to building.

Tables: Approval for eight round tables to better accommodate event dining.

Rector Hiring: Vestry met in closed session to discuss candidate and next steps.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MESSAGE

By Paul Keriotis

As a child I was taught that "pride goeth before the fall." So, to proclaim one's pride meant a fall was soon to happen. As I grow older, I have come to a healthier relationship with pride and not one of superstition or fear.

While I may find it difficult to talk about pride for myself; I do have pride and find pride in others! I believe this is the best and most healthy expression. June was gay pride month. I'm not usually a flag waver, but I do find it critical that people deal with their own personal truths. Seeing that the staff unanimously decided to post a sign on the LED screen in support of gay pride brought me pride. Pride that my community sees and supports me. Even better still, that my community can be truthful and offer support for others outside of our community. It is unfortunate that so many people believe that there is no such thing as a gay Christian, we know better than that. If we are to know ourselves as the philosophers promulgated, then we should be supportive of all; understand they are broken, hurt and find distrust toward the church, its institutions which therefore reflects on the forgiving and loving ministry of Jesus, and immediately ourselves and our relation to our neighbor.

It is a fact that our community sees and supports others, through our outreach, whether it is Outside our building: Food ministry to Lincoln School, Red Door Café, Men's Group Breakfast, or ministry inside our building: our own Scout Pak #11, Backyard beginnings Daycare, AA groups, Toastmasters, Bi- Annual Rummage Sale, Crafting Group, First Presbyterian Lunch, Ladles of Love, Strings of Joy, and Pickleball. (I am sure I've forgotten some.) Oh yeah... Trumbull Mobile Meals Founded by and supported by our beloved community. (They are outside and inside)

Inside the church Diocese Summer Camp, Vacation Bible School, Church Ministries: Altar Guild, Altar Servers, Greeters, Ushers, Bakers, Religious Education, Music Ministries; Vocal Choir, Bell Choir, Godly Play, we are looking forward to the new Children's Choir and Tween/Teen Group.

ALL of this brings us to this coming SUNDAY, September 8th, which is RALLY DAY- (with a new title for this year) SUNDAY FUNDAY! Of special significance will be a visit from Bishop ANNE who will be leading our worship. We all need to attend and show Warren and the Bishop the full potential of our congregation and its effect on our city.

To show that we truly are open to the community, we will have sign-up sheets for all of the above ministries, and plan to distribute 1 page of future events for everyone to look forward to and experience.

Medical Mission Trip To Nigeria: Great Success

By Father Tom Furrer

All Thanks to the Outstanding Support from Christ Church Members

Thank you Christ Church Members for your generous donations, your moral support and your prayers for the medical mission in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Because of your generous donations, we were able to serve 1,621 people with free medical care: that total includes 115 surgeries, 326 eye care patients, 121 dental patients, 157 lab tests and 1,360 people who received spiritual / emotional/ marriage and family counseling.

The total cost for purchasing medicine, medical consumables, transportation, food, and lodging for all of the volunteers was about \$17,000. Christ Church members contributed more than half of that total. We could not have reached this many people without your ge

Kateri Medical Services, which was founded by Fr. Tom in 2002, builds and runs full-time medical clinics (9 so far and one in the planning stages) all over Nigeria. These clinics run 364 days per year. And we charge patients about \$1 for a child and \$2 for an adult to see a doctor. And the patients must pay for their own medicine. Even these low rates are out of reach for many poor families.

Every year, we do special fund raising to do one week free medical missions. And we work with another organization called **FaithCare (1)** which brings volunteer surgeons to do complicate surgeries that our clinic staff are not trained to do.

(1)



This year, we did the outreach at our partner clinic called St. Thomas Medical Center in Port Harcourt, Nigeria (2)



(2)

Our mission is to serve the urban and rural poor who cannot afford medical care. We usually attract large crowds to receive these services. (3)

(3)



Many women received life-saving surgery to remove fibroid tumors, (4) (5)

(4)



(5)



Many children receive surgery for hernias and in this case a life-saving appendectomy. (6)

(6)

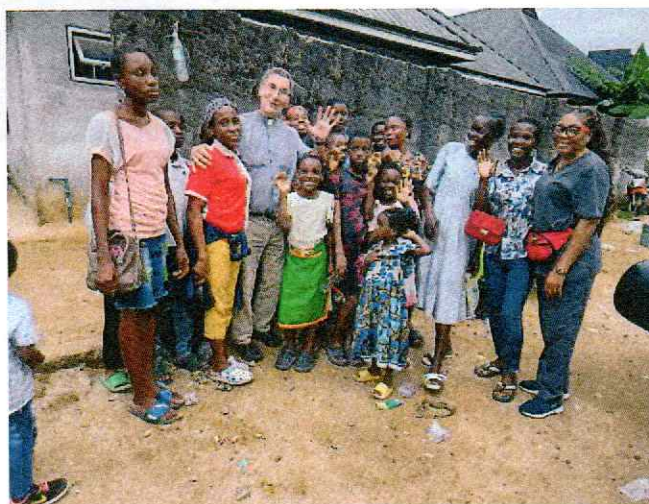


We served a wide variety of men, women and children— about 350 per day for five days. (7) (8)

(7)



(8)



THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

By Tiffany L. Fisher

Thanksgiving is over, and now we are on to the Christmas season. It's such a happy time because we see family and friends, and we celebrate the birth of our Savior. For me, it's a happy time, but it's also hectic. Hectic is different for everyone. For me, it means chocolate making, craft making, cookie baking, parties, work (can't forget work), and presents to buy and wrap. I know this is the way it is for many people, and although it is very exciting, it can also be a time of depression and anxiety. I know that at times, I push myself too much in an attempt to make Christmas special for my family and friends. I am sure all of you do the same thing.

I am asking that this year you reflect more on the reason for the season, and less on all the stressors of the season.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Take the time to pray, read about the birth of Christ, attend the church events that reflect on Jesus' birth, spend an evening listening to Christmas music, and lean on the Lord and family/friends when you need help. If you need extra help during this Christmas season, call a friend, a family member or your church family. God loves you more than you will ever understand. Lean on him and know he hears you.

Find a mantra that soothes you and memorize it. Use it when you need to decrease your anxiety about everything going on. Lastly listen to a song that reminds you that you are ok, and all will be ok. In case you couldn't tell, music is very important in my life. I listen to mostly Contemporary Christian music, and I draw a lot of my strength from the music and the messages they give me. Google the song "Still Waters (Psalm 23)" by Leanna Crawford. It's a beautiful song and a reminder that God is always with you. This is the beginning of the song:

Great Aunt Maurine said at a hundred and three Write scripture on your heart for when you need it Cause anxiety hates Psalm 23 So just say it to yourself 'til you believe it And I'm feeling like I'm needing it right now

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want He leads me by still waters 'til my fears are gone Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death O I know You are with me My father, my friend Your goodness and mercy will follow me all of my days I know by Your still waters I'm safe

Lord I believe You can set me at ease Turn this broken piece in me to peace and quiet I know there's power in Your word So I'll say it over and over til my soul's reminded

God bless all of you, and all my Love.



DECEMBER 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Sunday Service 10:00am 10 am Sunday Service 12:00pm St John's Red Door 3:00pm A BARBERSHOP CHRISTMAS	2 5:00pm Boy Scouts	3 5:00pm AA Meeting	4 10:00am 10AM "Growing Deeper" Bible Study, Prayer, & Fellowship 12:00pm weekly Bulletin Deadline to submit information	5 5:00am Cub Scouts 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Choir Practice	6 5:30pm Hanging of the Greens	7 6:00pm Ashtabula Brass Band
8 8:00am Sunday Service 10:00am 10 am Sunday Service	9 5:00pm Boy Scouts	10 5:00pm AA Meeting	11 10:00am 10AM "Growing Deeper" Bible Study, Prayer, & Fellowship 12:00pm weekly Bulletin Deadline to submit information	12 5:00am Cub Scouts 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Choir Practice	13	14 8:00am Toast Masters 10:30am Ladies of Love
15 8:00am Sunday Service 10:00am 10 am Sunday Service 6:00pm Festival of Lessons & Carols	16 5:00pm Boy Scouts	17 5:00pm AA Meeting	18 10:00am 10AM "Growing Deeper" Bible Study, Prayer, & Fellowship 12:00pm weekly Bulletin Deadline to submit information	19 5:00am Cub Scouts 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Choir Practice	20 7:00pm A Christmas Madrigal Feast	21
22 8:00am Sunday Service 10:00am 10 am Sunday Service	23 5:00pm Boy Scouts	24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service & Pageant 5:00pm AA Meeting	25 10:00am Christmas Day Service 12:00pm weekly Bulletin Deadline to submit information	26 5:00am Cub Scouts 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Choir Practice	27	28 8:00am Toast Masters
29 8:00am Sunday Service 10:00am 10 am Sunday Service	30 5:00pm Boy Scouts	31 5:00pm AA Meeting	1 10:00am 10AM "Growing Deeper" Bible Study, Prayer, & Fellowship 12:00pm weekly Bulletin Deadline to submit information	2 5:00am Cub Scouts 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Choir Practice	3	4

A LITTLE HUMOR WHILE YOU PREPARE FOR THE HOLIDAY



May you have a
blessed Christmas
season and may the
gift of faith, the
blessing of hope and
the peace of his love
be yours.



DECEMBER EVENTS

December 1st, 3 PM - A Barbershop Christmas

December 6th, 5:30 PM - Hanging of the Greens

December 7th, 6 PM - Ashtabula Brass Band

December 15th, 6 PM - Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 20th, 7 PM - A Christmas Madrigal Feast

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24th, 4 PM - Christmas Eve Service & Pageant

3:45 Youth: arrive to get costumes on. Bring a Parent or Grandparent to help

December 25th, 10 AM - Service in the Chapel

Altar Guild



Christ Church Altar Guild Sunday 08:00 AM Service 2024		Christ Church Altar Guild Sunday 10:00 AM Service 2024		Christ Church Altar Guild Wednesday 10:00 AM Service 2024	
DECEMBER		DECEMBER		DECEMBER	
1	Nellie Doan Clare Adams	1	Karen Andrus Kevin Knowlton	4	Jan Henrey
8	Jan Henrey	8	Kathy Hughes Tess Crofford	11	Mr & Mrs Begg Janet Gladd
15	Janet Gladd Dick & Dianne Begg	15	Deb Clary Carol Senne	20	Jan Henrey
22	Nellie Doan Clare Adams	22	Becky Watts Nancy Forrester	25	Mr & Mrs Begg Janet Gladd
29	Jan Henrey	29	Karen Andrus Tess Crofford		



Christ Church Ministry Schedule 10:00 AM Service 2024		Christ Church Usher Schedule 10:00 AM Service 2024		Christ Church Baker Schedule 10:00 AM Service 2024	
DECEMBER		DECEMBER		DECEMBER	
1	Janet Schweitzer L Fred Schweitzer L/C	1st Sun.	TBD	1st Sun.	Mr & Mrs. Morris MaryAnne Stefanik
8	Kevin Knowlton L Karen Andrus L/C	2nd Sun.	Jim Crofford Sam Heakin	2nd Sun.	Steve Watts Becky Watts
15	Jeffrey Heakin L Faith Scarmuzzi L/C	3rd Sun.	Nancy Forrester	3rd Sun.	Lynn Peteritis Linda Day
22	Jim Crofford L John Panagis L/C	4th Sun.	Don Senne Steve Watts	4th Sun.	Al Novak Pat Sullivan
29	Lynne Peteritis L Steve Watts L/C				

LINCOLN SCHOOLS

By Linda Day

Christ Church has a long history with Lincoln School. We began our outreach mission with Lincoln in 2015. Our first initiative Megan's Mittens provided winter gloves to every third-grade child in Warren's four elementary schools. Then we began collecting gently used and new clothing. Next came the donation of food to help stock Lincoln's Food Pantry shelves primarily jars of peanut butter and jelly.

Over the years it was food to stock the pantry shelves, today it is providing emergency food bags. The weekly numbers grew from 25 to 50, today it is 100. The bags contain a macaroni and cheese cup, a spaghetti cup, a package of ramen noodles, a package of peanut butter crackers, a drink box, a fruit cup and a Rice Krispie treat. A student named the food bag a Happy Bag. There was a smile on her face.

The stories shared by the Community Liaisons are heartbreaking. A shared story – a young girl came up to the Liaison and said to her "I am hungry" and then put her arms around the Liaison and started crying.

A Happy Bag includes a Macaroni and cheese cup, a Spaghetti cup, a package of Ramen noodles, Peanut butter crackers, a Drink box, a Fruit cup and a Rice Krispie bar.

The COST of a HAPPY BAG

Item *	Cost of carton	# of Servings	Cost per Serving
Mac and Cheese	\$ 9.98	12 cups	\$.83
Spaghetti	\$11.98	12 cups	\$.99
Ramen Noodles	\$ 6.98	24 packs	\$.29
Peanut butter crackers	\$ 9.36	40 packs	\$.23
Fruit	\$10.98	24 cups	\$.46
Drink box	\$ 7.98	30 boxes	\$.26
Rice Krispie bar	\$10.98	100 bars	\$.11

*Sam's Club price

Cost of a Happy BAG \$3.17

Today addressing the food-insecurity children are facing is our primary focus followed by the need for clothing but we are now entering a Time of Thanksgiving - A Season of Joy

THANKSGIVING

Ours for being able to give JOY!

JOY!

The children's for being able to receive it the smiles on their faces

HOW?

THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE...

please take a Christmas Lightbulb and bring JOY!

We have a wonderful opportunity to bring JOY to some children. Our Christmas Giving Tree will once again be for the students at Lincoln School.

If you are able, please take a "LIGHTBULB" and purchase a gift for a child to bring them some JOY at Christmas. The lightbulbs have the age and gender of a child on them. Please purchase a fun gift for them. Need assistance please call the office and Tiffany can help you.

Return your WRAPPED gift, with the lightbulb tag attached, to the box in the Narthex or take it to the Parish Office.

Gifts **MUST** be returned no later than Sunday, December 15th.



Lincoln Schools Family Sponsorship

The 8 o'clock congregation has once again banded together to provide a wonderful Christmas to 9 children from 2 families. Envelopes are being handed out at the 8 o'clock service for donations. Each child will receive a cold weather coat, a new outfit and a toy/fun gift. We have already collected for one family of 5; next Sunday, December 8, we will collect for the other family. Anne Martin will do the shopping so that each child receives approximately the same amount of gifts with the same value. The requested donations are \$20-\$25 per item purchased, however, that will not cover the costs for three items for all 9 children based on the number of 8 o'clock worshippers. If you are not from the 8 o'clock group and would like to contribute, please give your contribution to Anne Martin or bring/mail to the church office. If you already donated or are holding a donation envelope, please consider chipping in just a little bit more. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Any questions, call Anne Martin at (330) 727-8913.

MISSING TABLE FROM RUMMAGE SALE: Cindy Thirion loaned 2 plastic 3 foot tables to the rummage sale. One of them is missing. If you know where it is, or you come across it, please call us in the office and let us know you have it. We will send someone out to pick it up.

CHRIST CHURCH BAKERS Attention all Bakers of Christ Church, we need a large amount of holiday cookies for the Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 15th. We expect this year's Festival to be the biggest yet! Put on your thinking/baking caps!

This is a parish wide community event, and we need a lot of helpers. This is your contribution to the church and we are so thankful to those of you who can help. This is what we need in addition to the cookies:

- 1) Friday, Dec 13, people to set up and decorate in the parish hall. This will be at 9:30 AM.
- 2) People to Tray cookies after both 8 am and 10 am services on the 15th.
- 3) During the reception we need people to man punch bowls and replenish cookies as needed
- 4) Cleanup after the reception.

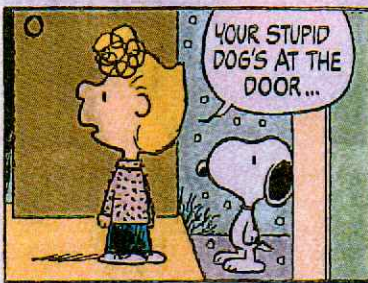
If you are able to help, please call the office, call Tiffany 330-883-2856, or call Sandee Skovran 330-719-1557 and let us know.. Thank you for all you do!!!

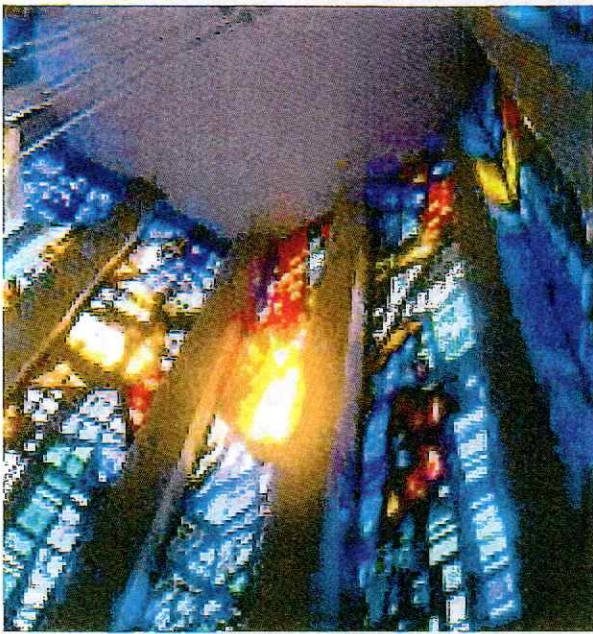
ST. JOHN SOUP KITCHEN

By Joe Gladd

A special thanks to all who donated hats, gloves, scarves, and more. To the St. John's luncheon sponsored by our church. The food and gifts were much appreciated. We served 50 people, and the remaining gifts and food were donated to the Warren Family Mission.

God Bless you all!





TOWER LIGHTING

**Our November Tower Lights
shine in**

Loving Memory of

Dave Skovran

From

Sandee Skovran

**Our December Tower Lights
shine in**

Loving Memory of

Frances Novak

From

Al Novak

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10 Jayne Tracey
- 19 Eric Tracey
- 21 Nancy Forrester
- 23 Dianne Begg
- 25 Macie Cleland
- 25 Marina Cleland

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Roger Carnahan
- 2 Carole Lewis
- 5 Debbie Gold
- 8 Jim Crofford
- 8 Reese Tomko
- 12 Jamie Shiell
- 14 Mary Ellen Rogers
- 21 CJ Vath
- 22 Paul Homa
- 24 Shelly Watts
- 25 Deb Murphy
- 27 Alexis Fisher



The Rev. Tom Furrer

Linda Day/Senior Warden

John Panagis/Jr Warden

Johnna Ben

Kellie Cleland

Samuel Heakin

Bob Johnston

Mike Maggiano

Sally Mazey

Sandee Skovran

Tiffany Fisher/Clerk

2024



PASTORAL
SEARCH
COMMITTEE

Jason Cleland

Peter Day

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Laurie Jones

Megan Massaro

Don Scarmuzzi

Sandee Skovran

All questions or issues are handled-
through the search committee's email ad-
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ChristChurchSearch44483@gmail.com

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS 2024

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Davis Susa/Chmn

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Jeff Heakin

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Megan Massaro

Linda Day

Carter P Lewis

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WEB

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WORSHIP

Sunday at 9 am in the Old Chapel

WEDNESDAY

10 am Bible Healing Service
with Eucharist

The Rev, Tom Furrer—Interim Rector
thomasjohnfurrer@gmail.com

Tiffany L. Fisher—
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secretary@christchurchwarren.org

Laurie Tonn—Finance Secretary
finance@christchurchwarren.org
Carole Lewis—Treasurer

Jamie Shiell—Director of Music
music@christchurchwarren.org

Paul Keriotis—Director of Formation
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