

E-News for the Week of Sunday, January 31

4th Sunday After Epiphany

Readings

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

Participants

Celebrant: Rev. Nancy Wright

Altar Guild: Julia Valliere

Communion Assistant: TBD

Lector: Molly Burke

Liturgical Assistant: Lois Helland

Organist: Ann Gnagey

Greeters: Beth and Doug Dreibelbis

Ushers: Doug Dreibelbis and Harriet Richards

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, January 27

4:30-5:30 p.m. Tai Chi (rental)

6:15 p.m. Adult Choir

7:15 p.m. Bell Choir

Thursday, January 28

5:30-7:00 p.m. PCAVT (rental)

Friday, January 29

Meals on Wheels

Saturday, January 30

5:00 p.m. Scandinavian Dinner

Sunday, January 31

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday, February 3

4:30-5:30 p.m. Tai Chi (rental)

6:15 p.m. Contemporary

7:15 p.m. Bell Choir

Click [HERE](#) for a long-range calendar.

Upcoming Birthdays

1/29 Leah Burke

2/1 Cathy Cameron-Muscente

2/1 Johnny Ishaq

2/1 Emma Peake

2/3 Jane A'Lee Heyerdahl

2/3 Robert Hondal

Pastor's Message

Dear Ascension brothers and sisters,

As part of my Doctoral class on Contextual Theology I plan to reach out for informal, warm conversations with folks connected to Ascension, either through their parents or Sunday school-age children, who are in their 30s and 40s but who are not very involved in other aspects of Ascension. I believe that many of these folks may be "spiritual but not religious," as that is one of Vermont's "contexts." My conversation will be simply to get to know them, what their commitments are, rather than encouraging them to attend worship (although bridge building is always a good thing). Some of the books I am reading for the course may be of interest to you, as well: *Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality* (Donald Miller), *The Soul's Code: In Search of Character and Calling* (James Hillman), *Spiritual but not Religious: Understanding Unchurched America* (Robert Fuller), and *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (Putnam), among others.

This "research" may lead to new thoughts for transformational ministry at Ascension, and of course I will share the work's progress with council. The final paper is due mid-April. If you have interest or want to suggest someone to "interview," please let me know.

At the same time, the on line course for this semester is on Sabbath. I plan to include Sabbath reflections during each Lenten sermon and to suggest ways of keeping Sabbath time for Lent! It's exciting to be in ministry with you and in a Doctoral program, focused on parish ministry. Many blessings, Pr. Nancy

Sunday School News

Children

-The Children of Sunday School learned about Jesus Baptism, and about His first miracle at the Wedding at Cana, and about the beginning of His teachings that God Loves Everyone.

-Sunday, February 14 is a Family Breakfast and Valentine Craft at 9:00 a.m. Please plan to attend with your child. Details at Sunday School.

-NO Sunday School on Sunday, February 21.

Adults

The class is reading Pope Francis I Encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home* as the Bishop has suggested. Anyone can join at any time; you can purchase a book from Pr. Nancy or read the Encyclical on line for free. No class preparation is needed, as we read aloud and discuss each paragraph.

HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

Scandinavian Dinner

Saturday January 30th!

For those who signed up, don't forget:

The Scandinavian Dinner is Saturday starting with appetizers from 5 to 6 p.m. then the meal starts at 6:00 p.m.

See you there!

Quilter's Group

Ten more mission quilts will be blessed **this Sunday**. The quilts were made by the quilt group here at Ascension. This brings the total number of quilts assembled so far this season to 25, and there are more in progress. In May the quilts will be taken to a gathering center in Waterbury, VT, for delivery to the Lutheran World Relief distribution center in Maryland. The quilt group will meet again on **Thursday, February 2, 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon**.

Praise-A-Palooza

Saturday, February 6th

At First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

5 pm Soup Supper followed by 6 pm Praise-A-Palooza

Come get your praise on with bands from:

First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, Grace United Methodist Church of Essex, Ascension Lutheran Church of South Burlington, and The Smokey Newfield Project

There will be a free will offering. Hope to see you there!

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 21, 2016, 11:30 a.m. (immediately following service)

Meeting agenda will consist of voting for new council members, approving the minutes from the December Congregational Meeting, and approving the 2016 budget.

Committee Chairs: Keep an eye out in your email this week for additional information needed to complete the budget.

Congregation: Keep an eye on your "snail mail" for additional formal announcement of the meeting.

Coffee Hour

The 2016 coffee hour list has been posted. Please sign up!

Additional News and Opportunities

3rd Annual Local Legends Concert

Responsible Growth Hinesburg is presenting a fundraiser concert at CVU Theater in Hinesburg, VT, **Friday, January 29th, 7:00 p.m.**

Music by Pete's Possee, Left Eye Jump Blues Band, and Patti Casey. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 under 18 years old. Tickets: 86-Flynn (863-5966) or www.flynncenter.org.

Questions? Contact Johanna White 482-3018!

Tai Chi at Ascension!

Tai Chi for All Generations, **Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.** with Elizabeth Wirls

Tai Chi has resumed! It's a new year, time to get into a new groove! Please join us!

Classes are ongoing and everyone is welcome to come as you are, whenever you wish. All generations are welcome! Please note that we have decided to offer these classes on a "pay as you can" basis. That way everyone who is interested will be able to join us! For more information, see the attached brochure and feel free to contact Elizabeth in the church office, 862-8866

[CLICK HERE](#) for full brochure.

Girl Scout Cookies

If you would like to order Girl Scout Cookies from Julia Hondal, please send an email

to Robert.Hondal@uvm.edu The choices for cookies are Savannah Smiles, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Samoas, Rah-Rah Raisin, Tagalongs, and Thin Mints. A description can be found

here: <http://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/all-about-cookies/Meet-the-Cookies.html> Thank you for supporting my daughter!