

January 2021

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

2020 is behind us! This is a moment many have been waiting for since mid-March. So, we find ourselves in 2021 and I am guessing that the question on our minds now is: What's next?

Most of 2020 seemed like a giant interruption of life as we know it. And so it was. Hundreds of thousands of families have, and will continue to have, empty seats at their tables. An appalling number of individuals, families, and children in the most well-fed nation in the world are food insecure and go to bed hungry many nights because the breadwinners have lost their jobs. People of color have suffered disproportionately through pandemic and a severely contracted economy. And I dare say that no one has come through this year unscathed.

I hope that no one has come through this year unmoved. Moved with compassion for the suffering caused by pandemic, economic loss, and persistent, systemic, institutionalized racism. Although we now have vaccines, we know that life will not return to "normal" immediately. The fact is, life will never be quite the same as it was before 2020.

And so the question persists: What's next? The answer for Jesus Followers must be: we show by our actions,

the love God has for all human beings. Jesus showed us God's special love and concern for the poor and marginalized. Our understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer is as One whose primary characteristic is self-giving love. Our human example of this is, of course, Jesus of Nazareth.

So, "what's next" is deciding how we – both individually and as a congregation – will pattern our lives on this self-giving love. How will we reach out to those suffering from illness, economic devastation, hunger, and extreme stress, which will continue for some time? What can we do to be the hands and feet, the voice and face of Jesus here where we live?

My friends, as Christians, we are people of hope. We follow a God who specializes in bringing life out of death...blessing out of tragedy. We know that the victory of God over evil has already been won, and every act of compassion and self-giving love on our part helps to build the reign of God here and now. May we remember 2021 in times to come as the year when hope was restored!

Epiphany blessings,

Shelley+

Star Words for Epiphany

Over the past five years, Star Words have become a very popular spiritual aide during Epiphanytide. (The season after Christmas and before Lent.) Anyone who has worshipped with us during these times has noticed the brightly colored foil stars stuck on the pew fronts, organ, railings, posts, and even the altar rail! Each star has a unique word on the other side. Once chosen, this becomes your Star Word for the year. You can look for it in conversation, in the Bible, the newspaper, on television, and the like. It is intended to be a tickler for meditation. How does this word apply to me? Do I embody this word? Would God like me to embody this word? Do I like this word? What bothers me about this word? Would I like to have or be more of this word? You get the idea. It is a focus for time spent thinking about God in your life.

This year, since we will not be gathering in person during the season of Epiphany, we will distribute the Star Words. But it is good if you can pick your own. So, on Sunday, January 10th from 1-3pm, I will be in the parking lot in front of the church with a matrix board. It will have stars randomly placed on it. You can drive up, look at the board and say, "I would like C9." And I will hand you that star. You can also pick stars for friends and relations, as always.

If you cannot make it to church, let us know that you want one,

and we will mail you (via USPS) a randomly chosen word (without looking at it.) I hope that the Star Words will be helpful and inspirational for you this year.

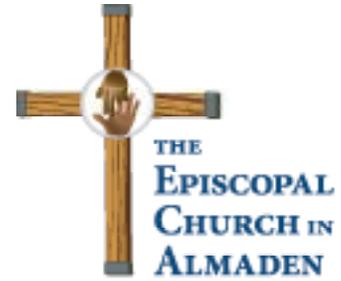
Schedule for Wednesday and Thursday Classes

The week before Christmas the Wednesday Night Discussion group finished up with our book, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo. This was an interesting, sometimes difficult, and eye-opening experience, and very much worth the work and time. We all learned a lot! The Wednesday Night class will take a winter break now, for all to rest up. We will reconvene on February 3rd – topic to be announced. If you have opinions, please let Shelley know.

Likewise, the Thursday Morning Bible Study group will be taking a three-week break. We will reconvene our study of the gospel for the following Sunday on January 14th. We have now entered Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary, so will largely be studying Mark in 2021.

These groups are open to everyone and will continue to meet via Zoom in the new year. You do not have to be able to attend every meeting in order to feel welcome.

Shelley+



Rector

The Reverend Shelley Denney
email: shelley@eca-sj.org
408-268-0245

Staff

Lynda Ford
Music Director

Ruthanne Adams Martinez
*Administrative Assistant
Treasurer*

Assisting in our Ministry

Joyce Wing
Senior Warden

Joan Wagner
Altar Guild

Ann Avoux
Prayer Vine

Debbie Estill
Ushers

Mike Schmidt
Shape Editor

Kathleen Eagan
Senior Ministry

Taylor Wing
Webmaster

Betty Consorte
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Annual Meeting on Zoom This Year

We will be holding our Annual Meeting via Zoom this year on Sunday, January 31st at noon – after the 10:45am online live-streamed service. An electronic copy of the 2021 Annual Report (highlighting 2020) will be sent to everyone electronically. If you are not able to receive it electronically, please let me know so that we may mail you one.

As required by the canons, we will elect new Vestry members and our Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan Convention. We expect the slate not to exceed the number of positions, and so will be able to vote by acclamation. The final financial report from 2020 will be presented as well as the 2021 budget for the church. And Senior Warden, Joyce Wing, will report on the progress of the transition team, who are working on our movement toward becoming the Church of the Future.

I hope that most members of ECA will be able to attend this important Zoom meeting.

Shelley+

Shelley's Day Off Is Monday

As a reminder, Mondays are my day off. I am always available to you for a pastoral emergency – any time, day or night. In an emergency, text me or call, being sure to leave a voice message if I don't answer.

But if you do not have an emergency, please respect my 24-hours off each week, by not texting or emailing me on Mondays. This is my Sabbath time, which I need to rest and rejuvenate. Your support in this helps me greatly.

Thank you, *Shelley+*

If you have any needs - spiritual, emotional, or physical - please let me know. You can always get me on my cell: 805-550-0582 or my email: shelleydenney@gmail.com. The office is, of course, closed - but Ruthanne is working from home. If you have an "office" question, call on her cell phone: 408-482-4014. Please be mindful that though at home her hours are still Tues-Fri 10am to 2pm. You may contact me at any time.

Shelley

JV members:

*Steve Wing
Don Hall
Judi Dimicelli*

Vestry members:

Worship
The Reverend Shelley Denney

Senior Warden
Joyce Wing

Communications
Alain Guichard

Outreach
Judi Dimicelli

**Junior Warden
Joint Venture:**
Don Hall

Finance
Todd Lukanc

**Fellowship, Hospitality,
and Welcoming**
*Wendy Martin
Nancy Romer*

Pastoral Care
Marianne Schmidt

Stewardship
Kelli Casale

ECA Activities

January 2021

Sunday		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <u>NEW YEAR'S DAY</u>	2 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
3 <u>THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY</u> 10:45am Worship Service Liturgy of the Word (Facebook) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)	4	5	6 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)	7 3pm Core Team mtng.	8	9 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
10 10:45am Worship Service Liturgy of the Word (Facebook) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom) 1-3pm Star Words handed out	11	12	13 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)	14 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom) 6pm Vestry Meeting	15	16 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
17 10:45am Worship Service Liturgy of the Word (Facebook) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)	18	19 6pm JV Board Meeting	22 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)	21 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)	22	23 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
24 10:45am Holy Eucharist (Facebook) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)	25	26	27 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)	28 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)	29	30 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
31 10:45am Worship Service Liturgy of the Word (Facebook) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom) 12pm Annual Meeting (via Zoom)						

Vestry Update

The December Vestry meeting was held via Zoom on December 10. Marianne Schmidt opened the meeting with a prayer and short meditation period. Wendy Martin then led a Lectio Divina based on Luke 2: 1-7.

Todd Lukanc reported that both planned income and planned expenses are lower than expected on a year-to-date basis, at about 93%.

Shelley reported on the results so far of the Fall Stewardship campaign. To date, 36 pledges have been received for 2021 for a total of \$140,020, compared to 49 pledges last year for \$199,224. Follow up letters will be sent to those who pledged last year but have not done so yet this year.

The annual meeting will be held on January 31, 2021 after that Sunday's regular church service. It will be held via Zoom.

The Vestry thanked Betty Consorte and Pat McGarvin for the ongoing pastoral care they are providing to various people.

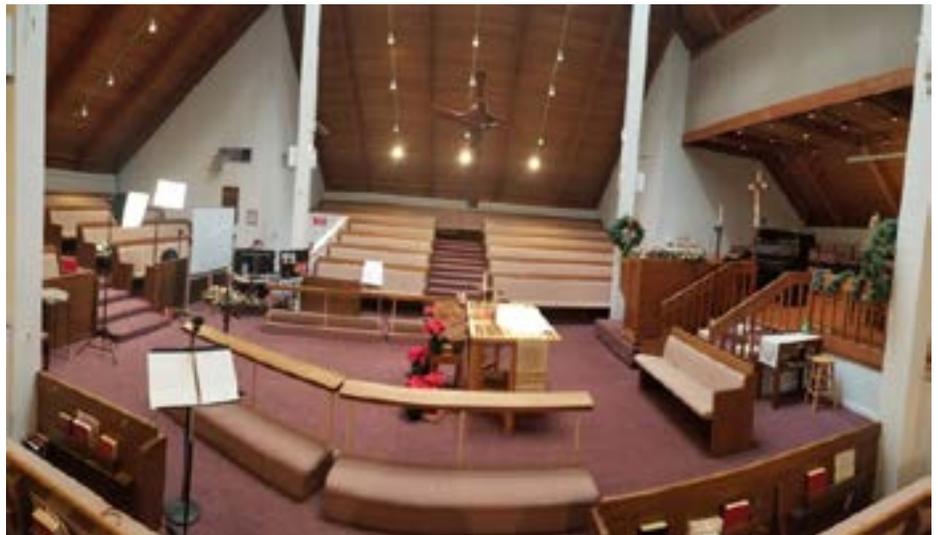
Shelley reported that after careful consideration, the in-person service planned for Christmas Eve has been cancelled due to the current surge in COVID cases. A pre-recorded service will be posted on our Facebook page at 4 pm on December 24. In addition, Shelley will be in the parking lot on 12/20 from 1-3 pm to pass out consecrated wafers to be taken while watching this service.

The next vestry meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 14th, at 6pm.

Elizabeth Guichard

Pastor Marty Williams Retiring

Pastor Marty will be retiring from CCAV, UCC on January 15th. Her last Sunday with the congregation will be January 10th. Although we are restricted by COVID, on Saturday, January 9th there will be some sort of celebration of her ministry among us for these past four years. Please mark this on your calendar so that when plans develop, we at ECA may share in celebrating Pastor Marty's presence in the Joint Venture Churches. She has been a blessing to us all and we wish many blessings for her and Sue in retirement.



Tales From the Kitchen, with Alain Guichard: Pot au Feu

Now that winter is here, I think about the French dish which anyone in my family could tell you is my very favorite- Pot au Feu, which I love to serve on those cold winter evenings. This means “pot on the fire”. French country women, who are very frugal and efficient at using all that comes to hand, used to keep the pot on the fire, starting with beef in broth and then adding whatever vegetables were available from the garden.



The beef and vegetable combination would be served for the evening meal, then the remaining broth would be served the next morning before the workers went out into the fields for the day. If there was any broth left over after the vegetables and beef were all eaten, vermicelli would be added to the broth to make a third meal. Nowadays, when I make this meal, I serve the broth as a first course, followed by the beef and vegetables as the main course. And don't forget to serve with Dijon mustard!

Now for the recipe.

Ingredients:

- one tablespoon butter
- one yellow onion sliced
- one gallon water
- 1 1/2 lbs. round steak or chuck roast
- one small bunch parsley
- one bay leaf
- one thin bunch thyme
- salt and pepper
- one lb. carrots, peeled & diced in large pieces
- one small celery root, peeled & diced in large pieces
- one lb. turnips, diced in large pieces
- half a cabbage, diced in large pieces
- one lb. potatoes, diced in large pieces
- two leeks, diced in large pieces



Directions:

Start with a 2-gallon pot. Put one T. butter in the pot, with one yellow onion, sliced. Saute until onion is crispy. Add one gallon of cold water, 1 1/2 lbs of beef round steak or chuck roast. Add a bouquet garni (small bunch of parsley, one bay leaf, one thin bunch of thyme), salt and pepper to taste. Cook on low heat for 2 hours. Then add one lb. of carrots diced in large pieces, one small peeled, diced, celery root, 1 lb. of turnips

(diced large), half a cabbage (large diced), one lb. of peeled potatoes (diced large), 2 leeks (diced large) white only. Cook until vegetables are soft. Serve soup first, then the beef with vegetables and mustard. You can put some fleur de sel on the table to further season the meat, if desired.

Sourdough croutons can be added to the soup when serving, if desired.

Bon Appetit!

Alain Guichard



Year's End Musings

After more than nine months of sheltering in place, perhaps you can relate to some of the following, submitted by Joyce Wing.

- I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.
- 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
- The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house & their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
- This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house & told my cat. We laughed a lot.
- Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
- This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars & keep men at home!
- I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would

become a national policy, but here we are!

- I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
- I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Backyard. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.
- Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask & ask for money.

Here's some more, discovered in AARP's newsletter by your editor.

- The World Health Organization announced that dogs cannot contract COVID-19. Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released. To be clear, WHO let the dogs out.
- This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house and told my dog. We laughed a lot.
- My husband bought a world map, gave me a dart and said, "Throw this, and wherever it lands--that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends." Turns out that we will be spending two weeks behind the fridge.

- I ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg; tomorrow remains to be seen.
- I haven't cut my hair since quareantining started. Yesterday, I stepped on a scale for the first time in a while. Who knew that hair weighs so much?

A Fun Little Discovery...a Wing Relative was Kissed by Abraham Lincoln!

One thing I am able to do as a retiree and having to stay home due to Covid is read more. I've read some great books lately, but one provided a fun discovery. I was reading *Grant* by Ron Chernow. It is long but wonderfully written, and I would highly recommend it to anyone, especially those that love history. It covers Grant's young life, the demands on him during the Civil War, and his two presidencies.

While reading, I saw the name Henry Wing, who was a "cub" reporter for the New York Tribune. Noticing the name "Wing," Steve and I did some research and found an amazing story.



Henry Wing was with Grant at the beginning of a very intense fight in the Civil War referred to as the Wilderness Campaign in the last year of the war. This was a crucial

fight between Grant and Lee. If Grant hadn't stayed the course and continued to fight Lee's troops, Lee could have easily marched right into Washington, and the war might have ended quite differently. Lincoln was counting on Grant, because so many of the other Union Generals had disappointed him.

Grant needed to get word back to Lincoln because the fear in Washington was great and the Union-supporting part of the nation was living in fear that they were losing. No one had heard from Grant for many days and the fear was growing. Newspaper reporters were being asked to get word back to Washington. Five volunteered for this very dangerous mission, but no one felt any would make it through. Unfortunately, four didn't and only one survived, Henry Ebenezer Wing. He was given permission that he could share the news with his paper, if successful. He jumped at the opportunity.

Grant approached Henry and asked if he was sure he wanted to go. Henry had no doubts. Grant said if Henry made it he had an important personal message he wanted Henry to give to Lincoln, which he knew would encourage the president.

Henry felt he was a very fortunate fellow and had a very lucky life so far, and he was feeling his luck would carry him through this mission. His journey began with the provision of a Kentucky racing horse named Jess, and a friend that dressed him in a way that wouldn't arouse Confederate

suspicious. He was provided with Confederate sympathizers' names in Washington, so he could mention them if needed. He had to have an important reason for traveling so he came up with the need to get to Washington to report Lee's victories to the sympathizers.

His journey began well, Jess was fast, and they bonded immediately. He encountered Confederate troops and approached them with confidence. He looked the part and told them all the good news. It worked so well they offered him a 2-man escort; a bit worrisome for him. It was fine, but as they went along he convinced them that he was fine, so they stopped, but as he left them he ran into another Confederate group and he was recognized!

Jess and Henry took off, and they were after him instantly, including the escorts. His horse being strong jumped into the deepest part of the river and swam to the other side as he was being shot at. Jess saved his life. He knew they would be following so he tried to use the speed of his horse to move along. However, he couldn't travel fast because the roads were so congested with travelers. He knew they would catch up to him soon. He also feared that being on the horse would draw attention. He went into the forest where there was a thick underbrush and left Jess tied with oats spread on a log. He promised Jess he would return and prayed for his horse's safety.

Henry traveled by foot and then had another encounter with the Confederates. They wanted to believe him, but they wanted their

commander to make the judgment call if he should go on or that they should carry the message instead. The commander was away for a while, so they told him he needed to stay until his return. When dark hit he made a successful escape.

He was able to get to a Union base and asked if he could send a telegram to the Assistant Secretary of War, his friend, which would say he had been with Grant and offered to send a 100-word story to his newspaper. Then the government would need to negotiate with the paper for the story. The message didn't go to his friend but to the Secretary of the War, who sent a message asking, "Where did you leave Grant?" Henry responded with the same offer, which was not received very well. They said he was a spy and he was to be shot. NOW WHAT?

Henry was waiting in his cell when he could hear the telegraph going again. It was a message from Lincoln to Henry Wing! Lincoln's message was, "Will you tell me where Grant is?" Henry's response, a true reporter, was to make the same offer. Lincoln recognized Henry's youthful and passionate dedication to the press, so Lincoln accepted his offer. Henry stated that with Lincoln's characteristic thoughtfulness for the public interest, he arranged for the story to go to the New York Tribune, but he also sent a summary to the Associated Press to get the story out.

Henry was immediately sent to the White House via train, then carriage. He was filthy and still

poorly dressed when he entered the capital to report to Lincoln and his cabinet members. Many knew him but didn't recognize him, until they heard his voice. He gave them his report, they were glad to hear the news, but days had gone by since he last saw Grant, so they were all still worried. As they were leaving he told Lincoln that he had a personal message from Grant for him. Lincoln looked at him with hope. He told him that Grant said, "Mr. President, no matter what happens, there is no turning back." Upon hearing this, Lincoln, being much taller than Henry, grabbed him with his strong arms, lifted him in the air and kissed his forehead!

Henry said, "The vision that opened through those wonderful eyes from a great soul glowing with a newly kindled hope is the likeness of Mr. Lincoln that I still hold in my memory, and ever shall. Others had turned back, but there had come an end of that fatal folly."

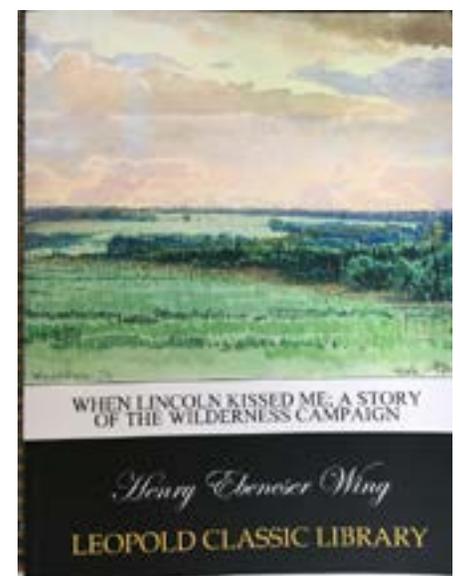
Henry went to his hotel room and took a look at himself in the mirror, admiring where he had been kissed by Lincoln. Then he collapsed into his bed, still in his clothes. The next day he reported to the office of his newspaper and also had one more visit with President Lincoln. When Henry was asked what he was going to do next, he said, "Go get Jess". He was given an escort in disguise and he found Jess in the same spot, tired and hungry. He brought him back in a train that had plenty of food and water for his dear companion. Jess was presented to Lincoln who honored the horse as the hero of

the day. Lincoln then asked Henry's permission to ride Jess, which he granted.

Henry went back to report on Grant's progress and was told by Lincoln to always stop and see him whenever he was back in Washington, which he did regularly. Henry died at the age of 85, having become a Methodist Episcopal pastor and enjoying a great and "lucky" life. He was pressed to write about his adventures and ordeals, so he did, and they were published.

Steve and I were able to find his book, *When Lincoln Kissed Me; A Story of the Wilderness Campaign*, from a company that prints lost books when requested. There are other books written about his entire life and a book about his horse Jess. We feel like we personally know him through these books. Steve also found that Henry was part of his lineage. Cool relative!!! Hope you enjoyed the story as much as we did. Do you have a cool relative to write about?

Joyce Wing



We Remember Kimberly Sial

I didn't know five years ago, when ECA responded to Bonnie McPherson's impassioned call for us to serve the homeless population by opening the Village House Day Center, that I would be taking our condolences to the Memorial Walk during Covid to honor Kimberly Sial, a guest we got to know and love in our January Day Center. Kimberly was killed in the stabbing at the downtown San Jose homeless shelter at Grace Baptist Church, November 22, 2020.

Kimberly came every day last January to the ECA Day Center and found a safe place as she was in the process of transitioning to a woman. Kimberly had a beautiful smile and entertained the volunteers with stories of her life. Anna Spanjaart said, "I think we all remember Kimberly well because she was very present. Changing gender must be an incredibly difficult process and having this happen to her during this process, after so much work, makes it extra sad."

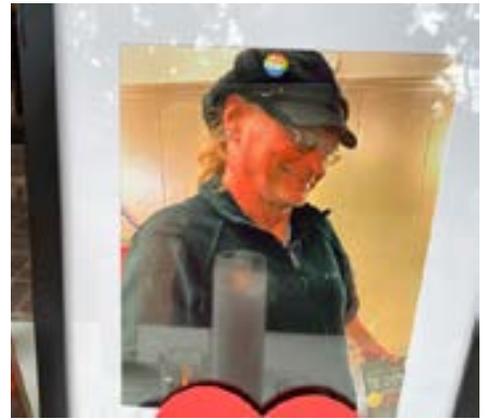
Sharon Hall shared, "Very sad to hear about this horrible event taking Kimberly's life. I remember Kimberly also and had some nice talks with her when I volunteered. So very sad to lose her life in this manner after all that she had undergone."

"I spent a lot of time with Kimberly in January. She shared many of her varied life stories during those

times. I'm so sorry to hear this news," wrote Nancy Romer.

Village House held a Memorial Walk for Kimberly at Willow Glen United Methodist Church. I was able to take the condolences from our volunteers and ECA to place in the basket with the others. I paused to pray and saw Kimberly whole, well and fully who she was meant to be, as she basked in the presence of God. I felt God's love for her and knew that God used all of us to pour his love into Kimberly as we listened to her, laughed with her and shared meals together.

The night Kimberly was killed, she and other volunteers were working on the tombstones for each of the 196 homeless people who died on the streets of Santa Clara County from December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020. The tombstones, including one for Kimberly, were erected on McEntee Plaza December 22 and represent a 22% increase in the deaths of homeless people from last year.



As we mourn the death of Kimberly, whom we got to know and love, let us commit ourselves and ECA to find ways to serve and share God's love with the marginalized people in our community.

Marianne Schmidt

These photos were taken at a Memorial Walk for Kimberly Sial, held at Willow Glen United Methodist Church, where attendees could light candles in her memory.





Worship Schedule

January 3 – *Second Sunday after Christmas*

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

January 10 – *First Sunday after the Epiphany*

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

January 17 – *Second Sunday after the Epiphany*

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

January 24 – *Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

10:45 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

January 31 – *Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

- to Joyce Wing, for serving two years as Senior Warden, while at the same time being Project Manager for the transition - a lot of work done with grace and good humor
- to Mike Schmidt for his fine and faithful work in producing the most professional church newsletter anywhere! We are proud of it and him.
- to Marianne Schmidt for listening to the nudging of the Spirit to create a Meditation Group, for growing it, and for faithfully convening it twice a week, even during lockdown. The group blesses us all.
- to Anne Tysanner for leading and organizing the Angel Meals for sick parishioners
- to Wendy Martin for documenting our common life in wonderful pictures
- to the members of the Stewardship Team: Elizabeth Guichard, Marianne Schmidt, George Romer, and Kelli Casale, for their faithful work on building stewardship in our parish and organizing and carrying out the Pledge Drive each year (plus writing thank you notes!)
- to Elizabeth Guichard for her work as Clerk of the Vestry, her fine minutes, and valuable input
- to everyone who attended the Wednesday Night Discussion of *White Fragility* for making our discussions deep and meaningful
- to Wendy Martin for faithfully serving on Vestry for three years and co-leading our wonderful Fellowship activities, helping with outreach and providing pastoral care. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated!
- to Anne Avoux for all the years of lovingly guiding the Prayer Vine
- To Alain Guichard for continuing to share his love of cooking with us each month through Tales from the Kitchen



*Wendy Martin took this photo of the area in front of the altar, prior to the Christmas Eve service.
Thanks, Wendy!*

January Birthdays

Steve Wing	January	10
Inge Bond		11
Jacqueline Rousseau		12
John Beacher		13
Jacob Fahlen		26
Hans Spanjaart		27
Douglas Lukanc		28
William Bond		29

January Anniversaries

Mary & Dennis Moran	06
Gloria Ashdown & Dennis Skowronski	11
Lola & Tom Fahlen	16
Cindy & Mark Ciccarello	19

^{The}SHAPE

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