



## St Andrew's Current COVID Closure Status

**Parish Closed.** Either the Town of Kent and/or a majority of the surrounding towns is in red status on the [Connecticut COVID Data Tracker](#). Therefore *all worship services will be pre-recorded and made available on our YouTube account* at least an hour before they were scheduled to occur. In addition, all *other parish activities will either be suspended or move to online-only*; participants in those activities will be updated separately. The parish will remain in closed status until both Kent and a majority of the surrounding towns are less-than-red for two successive Thursdays.

## Weekly Schedule for 6 December

*Note: To attend any services please sign up beforehand with Irene Connors:*

[collageconnors@gmail.com](mailto:collageconnors@gmail.com)

860.592.0030

Services are limited to 25 socially distanced attendees (with masks)

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Friday, 4 December

Prayer and Meditation

5:30 pm

*suspended*

Friday Night AA Group

8 pm

(Parish House) *temporarily*  
*until First Church opens*

*suspended*



Saturday, 5 December	Christmas Tree Delivery Christmas Tree Sale	9 am 10 am to 6 pm
Sunday, 6 December	Holy Eucharist <i>(online)</i> Christmas Tree Sale	10:30 am 12-5 pm
Monday, 7 December	Book Group (Zoom)	7:30 pm
Tuesday, 8 December	Tai Chi (Great Room) <i>suspended</i> Anti Racism Group (Zoom)	9 & 10:30 am 7:30 pm
Wednesday, 9 December	Tai Chi (Great Room) <i>suspended</i> Holy Eucharist <i>(online)</i> AA Meeting for Women (Zoom) <i>email for info.</i>	4:30 pm 6 pm 7 pm
Thursday, 10 December	AA Thursday Morning Meeting (Great Room) <i>suspended</i> AI-Anon Meeting (Great Room) <i>suspended</i>	7:30 am 7 pm
Friday, 11 December	Prayer and Meditation <i>suspended</i> Christmas Tree Sale	5:30 pm 4-6 pm

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*Note: The 10.30 a.m. Service is also available live on YouTube which you can access through our website [www.standrewskentct.org](http://www.standrewskentct.org) or the Saturday Epistle YouTube Live Stream link*

## *Late-breaking News: Christmas Tree Sale Has Begun*

At least as of this writing (!), our trees are scheduled to be delivered on Saturday, 05 December, so our Christmas Tree Sale will now be in full swing. *If you can come to the church at 8:30 or 9:00 am on Saturday to help unload our order, we can use the help!*

Please do come by to lend a hand selling or to purchase a tree! We have a week less than usual to sell more trees than ever.

From Father Douglas





Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

No, this photo from the rectory is not of some misguided attempt at an at-home version of "The Price Is Right!" Rather, it is the beginning stages of a great new Advent tradition that a parishioner brought to my attention this week: the *reverse* Advent calendar. You begin by purchasing 24 food items that are in high demand at local food pantries. (The list is available [here](#).) Then, each day in Advent, you add one item to your calendar (I created ours on a hall table—next year, I'll choose a larger space!), and by Christmas Eve, you will have stored up a veritable feast. You then take all the food you've gathered to a local food pantry, as a donation.

I think this is a wonderful idea, for several reasons. For one thing, November and December are usually the months of highest demand at food pantries across the United States, and this year this increased seasonal demand will put further strain on our food pantries' resources that have already been drained by the pandemic. For another, the physical acts of shopping, placing and schlepping, as well as the unavoidable visual reminder of others' hunger, all serve to underscore Our Savior's teachings to take care of the neediest among us.

Finally, the sacrifice of our time and money—and even of space in our homes—to help feed the hungry reminds us of the message in the song Mary sang after the Angel Gabriel told her she would bear a Son: "He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty" (Luke 1:52-53). Mary's *Magnificat* underscores for us that Jesus came into the world not only to save sinners, but also to put right the ways of this world ... to supersede the sometimes stingy, always precarious peace-of-man with the full and lasting peace-of-God. Advent is an appropriate season for us to roll up our sleeves and participate in this right-ing, and what better way than by helping to feed the hungry who live right among us?



It's not too late to start your own reverse Advent calendar for this year. Or, if that idea doesn't appeal to you, to take up another Advent practice that aligns you, body and soul, with those who have the least and need the most. Whatever practice you choose to take up, you will be embodying the Christ Child Who, as we will soon celebrate, came bodily unto us. Thanks be to God.

In the peace and love of Christ,

Douglas+

[Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)

860-592-0171 (rectory, and *also* rings on mobile)

## Parish Office *Closed*

The parish office is temporarily closed, which means the phone isn't being answered. Father Douglas checks the voicemail once-a-day, usually around 9:00 am. If you have a more urgent need, please call him at 860-592-0171 or email him at [frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)

## Christmas Tree Donations



Christmas trees are a cherished tradition in many families. The look – the fragrance – the decorating: Nothing heralds the season more than a fresh tree in the living room or den. But not everyone can afford a tree ... and this year, perhaps even fewer people than ever, given the COVID-dampened economy.

If you would like to donate the cost of a tree (or part of the cost of a tree) for this year's Christmas Tree Sale, just drop off or mail a check with the memo line "Christmas Tree Donation." The volunteers staffing this year's sale will make sure families who can't afford to pay for a tree nevertheless have one their homes this Christmas, with best wishes from St Andrew's.



## Parish Prayer List Has Been Reset

As we enter a new liturgical year in Advent, we have taken this opportunity to reset the parish prayer list. We are, of course, more than willing to pray for anyone as long as they (or the person who makes the request) may wish. But it is also a good practice to re-visit the list at least once-a-year, to make sure it stays fresh.

If there was a name on the previous parish prayer list that you would like to remain on the list, please let Fr Douglas know, by phone or email.

## From the Stewardship Committee

We are well into our annual pledge season. We are making good progress to covering our financial needs for the coming year, thanks to all timely and generous parishioners who have pledged already. But our number of pledgers is not as robust as our parish is. We would be delighted to see more participation in this important part of parish life. Pledges are a sign of commitment to our parish, as much as they are the means of paying our bills.

Of course, these are challenging times full of dislocation and distraction – not easy times in any respect. But, if you plan to pledge, we would be grateful for you to locate the pledge card that you received in early October – or ask for another. We have spares!

If you have not pledged recently, or ever, please do take a moment to consider helping to support your parish in any way that is comfortable for you. What we are really asking is for you to let us know that St Andrew's is important to you – and a pledge of *any* amount says that.

We look forward to 2021 and the shared joy, solace and fellowship we each find in being part of our St Andrew's parish family.

Thank you.

## Margie O'Brien Is Stepping Down as Children's Choir Director

After 20 years, Margie O'Brien has decided that it is time for her to put down the baton, as it were, as director of the St Andrew's Children's Choir. Because of Margie's expertise, energy and dedication, two generations of children have been able to hone their music skills, lift their voices in song and, most importantly, serve God through the leadership of worship at Christmastime and other seasons of the year. We are very grateful to Margie for all of her hard work over the years. Thank you, Margie!!

## Sunday Evening Worship During Advent – Will Be Recorded and on YouTube



Hard to believe though it may be, Advent begins on Sunday, 29 November. During Advent this year we will offer an additional time of worship on Sunday evenings at 5:00: Evening Prayer (without preaching), followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. If you have not experienced it, Benediction is "a short service of hymns and prayers offered while the Sacrament [*i.e.*, the already consecrated Host] is placed on the altar" (*St Augustine's Prayer Book*, 194). The heart of the service is partaking, in silence, in the "the unending blessing flowing from God through the grace of the sacraments." The service ends with the Sacrament being placed back in the tabernacle to the accompaniment of a psalm or hymn. (We will record these liturgies and post them to the parish's YouTube account.)

The venerable tradition of Benediction does not 'speak' to everyone, and if you'd prefer to attend only Evening Prayer, there will an opportunity to exit before Benediction begins. But during these times when we cannot receive communion sacramentally, perhaps you may wish to 'try on' another experience of sacramental grace during Advent... as we prepare for the in-breaking of Christ into this world.

## Heather Scofield Is Saying Good-bye

It is with deep regret that we announce that Heather Scofield has decided to leave her position as Parish Administrator, so that she can more fully pursue her artistic endeavors. Heather's last day with us will be Thursday, 03 December.

Heather has graciously allowed us to share the following with the parish: "I have truly enjoyed being of service to St Andrew's Parish and feel especially grateful for the opportunity to assist in the transition the church has gone through in the past year. I also want to acknowledge the support and many kindnesses I have received over the last 3 and a half years from the clergy, the vestry and the parishioners. It is my wish that St Andrew's prospers and continues to be a home to so many good people."

We will miss Heather, and we are so grateful for all she has done—and so well—over the last few years. If you have a chance, please consider dropping her a note or an email of thanks and well-wishing.

## A Global Online Advent Calendar: #AdventWord

Are you looking to add some depth to your season of preparation this Advent? to join others in prayer as we prepare to leave 2020 and approach Christmas? Well, we have a great suggestion for you! For the seventh year in a row, #AdventWord will gather prayers via a global, online Advent calendar. Virginia Theological Seminary is offering meditations and images during this holy season beginning Sunday, November 29. Images and meditations can be experienced via the #AdventWord website, direct daily emails, as well as on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and ASL videos via YouTube. You can learn more and sign-up to receive daily messages during Advent at <https://adventword.org/en/home/>.



# All Recovery Meetings *Suspended*

While the parish is temporarily closed, all recovery group (AA and AI Anon) meetings have been suspended. They will resume when we re-open

## Computer Help is Available

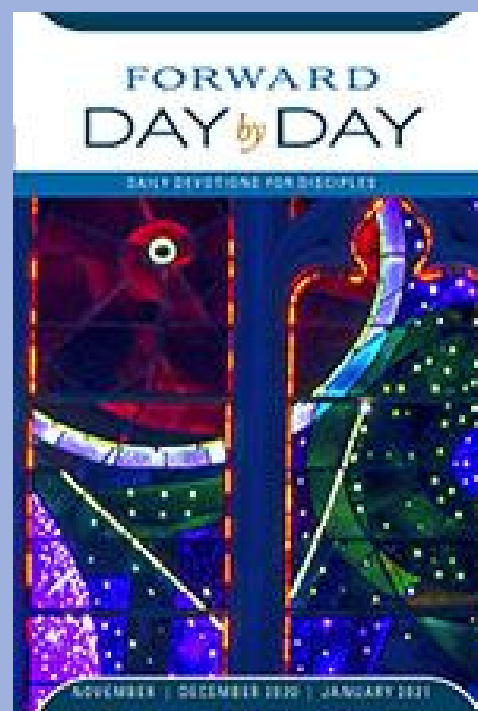


If you or someone you know is having difficulty accessing our online services, the weekly E-pistle or our web site ... or who would like to participate in our Zoom offerings but don't know how ... please let Fr Douglas or Heather know. We have parishioners who are willing to help you and also make sure your equipment and internet connection are working properly. We don't want anyone to miss an opportunity to be part of the life of St Andrew's!

## *Forward Day-by-Day* Booklets Available

The parish subscribes to the quarterly booklet called *Forward Day-by-Day*. Published by Forward Movement, which is affiliated with the Episcopal Church, *Forward Day-by-Day* contains daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage. The passages are chosen from the Church's lectionary readings, either for Eucharist or the Daily Office, as listed in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

If you attend worship in-person, you can pick up a new booklet every quarter in the narthex. If you would prefer, we would be happy to mail you a new booklet each quarter. Just let Heather know, and she'll add your name to the mailing list.





# Save the Date: Parish Annual Meeting Will Be Sunday, 24 January

We have set the date for next year's annual meeting. It will be held on Sunday, 24 January, around noon. So that *everyone* is able to participate in this important parish event, we have decided to hold the meeting virtually (that is, online; perhaps via Zoom). This way, we will not have to worry about masks, social distancing, attendance limits or anything of that nature. We will work out a way to cast votes well in advance. Please save the date on your calendars.

## Kent Food Bank



Please help the parish continue our support of the Kent Food Bank  
by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund  
P.O. Box 262  
Kent, CT 06757

\*Remember to put Food Bank in the memo of your check.

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of our town's Social Services Director, Leah Pullaro.

The Kent Food Bank is also taking food donations during this difficult time.

The Kent Food Bank is especially in need of:

*Staples such as beans, rice, tea,  
coffee, sugar, nuts,  
hot & cold breakfast cereals,*



*peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna*

Please remember that the Food Bank accepts  
pet foods as well!

Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past!

You may drop off food items on Thursdays  
from 9.00 to Noon  
*in the back of the Community House  
on Main Street.*

*Please DO NOT come into the Food Bank, but leave  
outside the door.*

## Lections for this Week

### The Second Sunday of Advent

*Year B*

Isaiah 40:1-11;  
Psalm 85:1-2;  
II Peter 3:8-15a;  
Mark 1:1-8



## Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order  
to view  
past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays located  
on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

## Worship Services

**-Sunday-**

**Holy Eucharist**

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays;

Healing Service at 8.30,



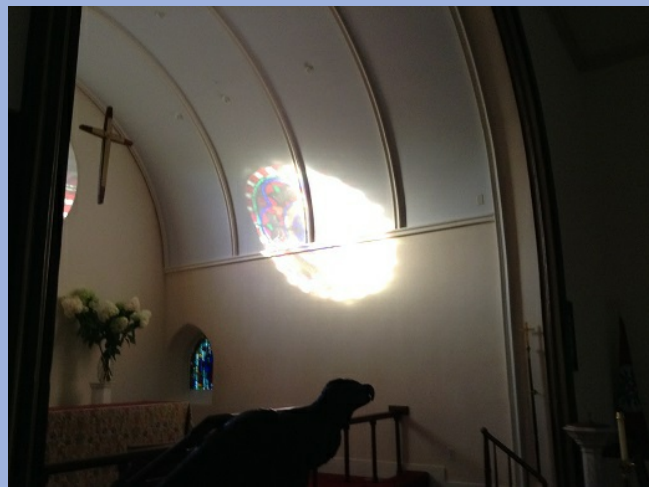
Third Sunday  
In person  
for 25 people with masks at  
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.  
(10.30 a.m. available live  
stream on YouTube)



**-Wednesday-**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
6.00 p.m.  
(25 people with masks)



**-Friday-**  
**Prayer & Meditation**  
5.30 p.m.  
(25 people with masks)



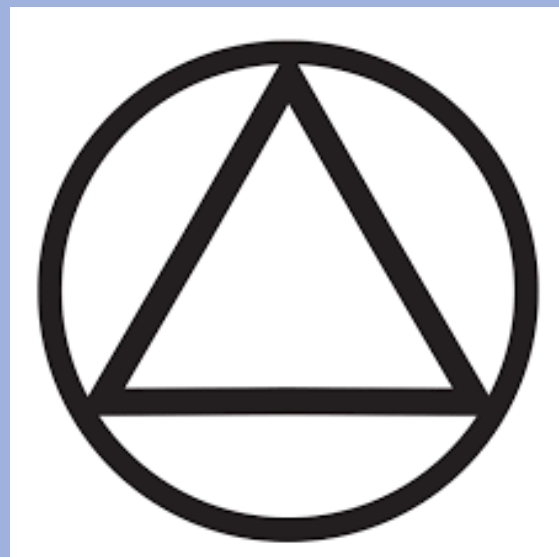
**-Holy Days-**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
6.00 p.m.  
(25 people with masks)

## 12 Step Meetings

**Wednesdays**  
A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.  
*Zoom meeting*  
*email us for info.*

**Thursdays**  
A.A. at 7.30 a.m.  
(Great Room)  
*suspended*  
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.  
(Great Room)  
*suspended*

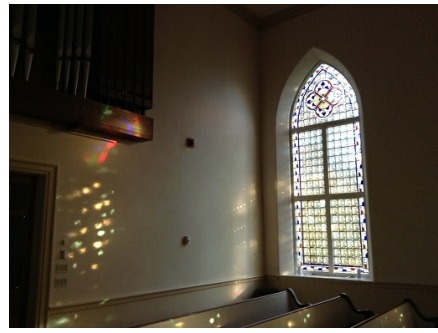
**Fridays**  
A.A. at 8 p.m.  
(Great Room)  
*temporarily until First Church opens*  
*suspended*



Parish Staff



**The Rev Douglas S  
Worthington,  
Provisional  
Priest in Charge**  
[frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)  
860-592-0171



**Thomas W Holcombe,  
Organist & Director of Choirs**

**Margie O'Brien,  
Director of the Children's Choir**

**Heather Scofield,  
Parish Administrator**

**Joan I Cassel  
Financial Secretary**

**Bill McLaren,  
Sexton**

**Randy Osolin,  
Verger**



**St Andrew's Church  
P. O. Box 309  
1 N. Main St.  
Kent, CT 06757**

**860.927.3486  
[st.andrew.kent@snet.net](mailto:st.andrew.kent@snet.net)**

**Parish office open everyday except Friday from 9 am-6 pm  
(2 pm on Thursdays)**

**Visit St Andrew's website at  
[www.standrewskentct.org](http://www.standrewskentct.org)**

**The Episcopal Church in Connecticut  
[www.ctepiscopal.org](http://www.ctepiscopal.org)**



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