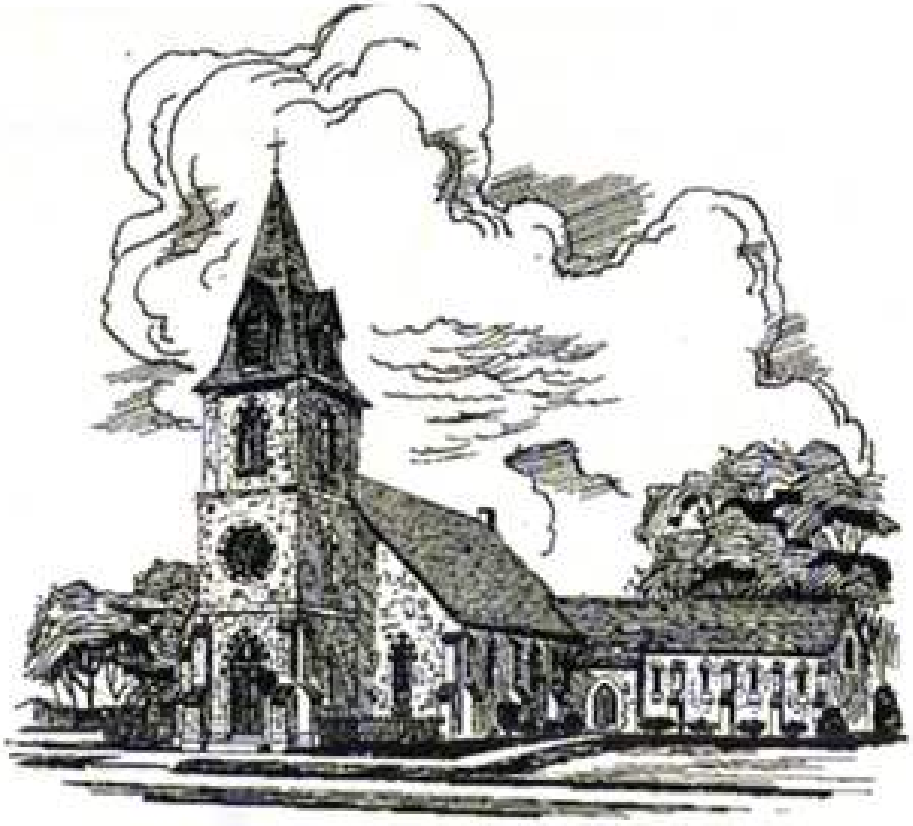
Saint Anne's Episcopal Church

THE MESSENGER

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15, 2026



SUNDAY AT SAINT ANNE'S

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist: Rite One

9:30 AM - Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

10:45 AM - Fellowship, Sunday School, Choir Rehearsal, and Rector's Forum

5:00 PM - Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

6:00 PM - Youth Group

THIS WEEK AT SAINT ANNE'S

2027 Pledge Campaign

2027 Pledge Letter

Thursday Gospel Study

Thankgiving Dinner

"Do we give from our abundance, or do we give from what's left over?"

The Rector, Wardens, & Vestry have launched the

2027 Pledge Campaign

To make your Financial Pledge to Support Saint Anne's Episcopal Church in 2027, you may click the email below:

Finance@SaintAnnes.Church

In your email, please

- Include your full name
- Include the amount of your pledge
- Indicate whether the amount is a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual donation

If you prefer to complete a printed pledge card, **2027 PLEDGE CARDS** are available at the church and can be submitted to the church office or placed in the Sunday offering plates.

The 2027 Pledge Letter is reproduced on the next page

Saint Anne's depends on your generous financial support to continue our worship, mission, and ministry. It's true. Church members provide 78% of Saint Anne's annual revenue. Without your substantial financial contributions, Saint Anne's could not continue.

Over the past several years, 6 Episcopal churches have closed in Delaware. Sadly, these closures reflect a broader trend in American Christianity. The World Council of Churches, along with other research groups, estimates that 41 churches will close each day in the United States, or 287 per week, or about 15,000 in 2026.

In 2026, Saint Anne's expects to pay $495K—almost half a million dollars—to support the Town Church and Old St. Anne's Church & Graveyard. To cover these costs, Saint Anne's expects to receive $386K in parishioner contributions. The church will also receive about $107K in investment income.

As the Vestry prepares the 2027 budget, we ask every church member to make a substantial financial pledge to support Saint Anne's in 2027. Your pledge is the total amount you will give to the church in the coming year. Your pledge is a promise and a sign of our commitment to and membership in Saint Anne's Church. Please return your pledge to the church by Sunday, November 8.

Since 2016, Saint Anne's Vestry has maintained a balanced annual budget. Since 2020, Saint Anne's has been debt-free. During Fr. Russ' tenure (since 2014), Saint Anne's has not drawn on investment principal to cover operating expenses, thereby preserving these legacies for future generations. At the same time, Saint Anne's has completed major property renovations at both the Town Church and Old St. Anne's. In other words, over the past twelve years, Saint Anne's leadership has exercised excellent stewardship of the gifts and resources entrusted to our church.

2026, however, has been a sad, difficult year for Saint Anne's. Too many of our beloved parishioners—the smiling faces who filled our pews on Sunday mornings, the friendly volunteers who served our church and community, the faithful donors who gave generously—have died, become seriously ill, or moved away. After twelve years of steady growth, Saint Anne's now faces a decline in church membership.

As you determine your 2027 Pledge, we invite you to consider what Saint Anne's means to you, our parishioners, our families, our visitors, our community, and our most vulnerable neighbors, and then make a financial pledge that reflects your commitment to and support for our beloved Christian community.

Thursday Morning Gospel Study

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Join Fr. Russ on Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 9:00 AM to explore the Gospel passage for the upcoming Sunday. To join live, email Russ at

rector@saintanes.church

If you can't join live, you can now view a recording of the session on Saint Anne's YouTube page:

www.youtube.com/@saintannes1705

On Saint Anne's YouTube page, you can also view worship services, sermons, and choir anthems ~

"Like" & "Subscribe" today

27th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 26, 2026
12:00 to 3:00 PM

On Thanksgiving Day, Saint Anne's invites the whole community to a complete, homemade, buffet-style Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixings, which is made possible by the generous donations of our parishioners.

Please support the dinner by volunteering, making a cash donation checks payable to Saint Anne's Church and write "Thanksgiving Dinner" in the memo line), or by purchasing food, which can be dropped off at the church.

We need the following items: Hams, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Stuffing, Macaroni, Carrots, Brussels Sprouts, Canned Green Beans, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Crispy Fried Onions, Canned Cranberries, Butter, Milk, Orange Juice, Ice Tea, & Lemonade.

Please contact Jessie Ventura or the Church Office if you have questions.

Our Daily Bread

Saint Anne's supports Our Daily Bread (ODB) in their weekly food distribution ministry.

Items of Greatest Need

Individual bottles of water
Fresh fruit (apples, bananas, oranges)
Canned Fruit
Shelf Stable Milk
Canned Meats
Ziplock Sandwich Bags
Canisters of Lemonade and Iced Tea Mix
33 Gallon Garbage Bags
Gallon Ziplock Bags
Sanitizing Wipes

Please drop off items Sunday mornings or at the Church Office during office hours - Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

Join us for the

Annual Advent Wreath Making

Sunday November 29, 2026

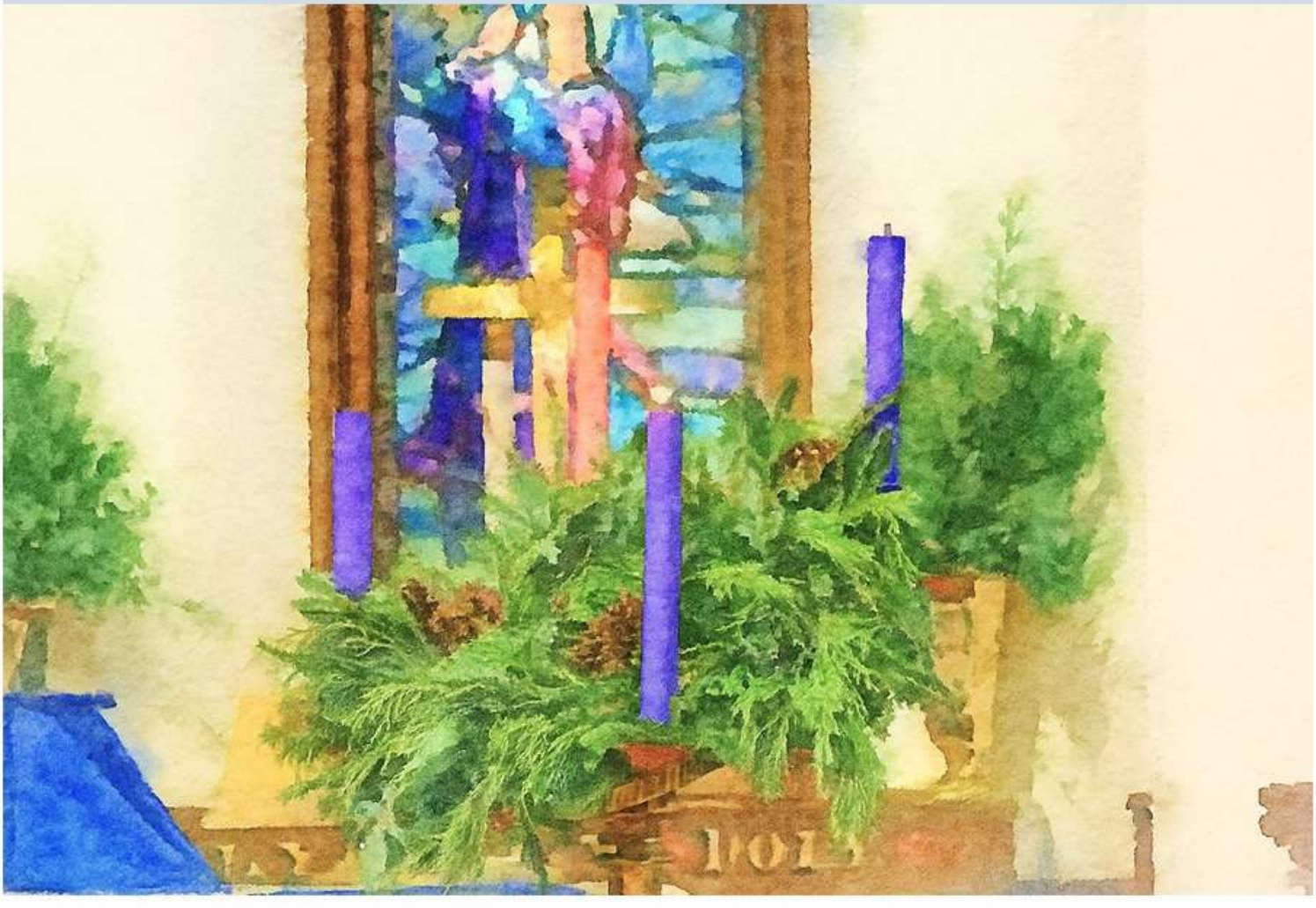
Following the 9:30 Service in the Great Hall

Supplies and greens will be provided.

If you have a wreath frame from a previous year please bring it with you.

We will have frames available for those that need one.

Candle sets will be available as well.



Friendship House

Creation Care Ministry and the Friendship House would like to thank you for your love and generous contribution of used clothing to their clothing bank. What a wonderful feeling to give something and know others will have what they desperately need. We are grateful for the tremendous response. We hope to make this a yearly event.

Our next project will be at Thanksgiving where we will be collecting anything that can be recycled from our dinner preparations. Last year we collected 10+ bags.

http://www.friendshiphousede.org

Parish Prayers

Parish Prayers – We pray for Rita Edwards, Andrea Lewis, Patty Robertson, Sandy Simpson, Sarah Grace Tuton, and Robert Willoughby, III.

In the Episcopal Church in Delaware, we pray for St. Anne's and St. Andrew's Schools and for the 242nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Delaware.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Iglesia Anglicana de Chile.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Jack Webb by Charlotte Webb.

SAINT ANNE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Church Staff

Rector	The Rev. Russell Bohner, TSSF
Minister of Music	Damien Jones
Parish Administrator	Carolyn Joynt
Finance Administrator	Nancy Koenig
Sexton	Cindy Cruz
Senior Warden	Mandy Catalfamo
Junior Warden	Chris Sadler
Church Treasurer	Lisa Elder

Church Office

15 E. Green Street, Middletown, DE 19709
Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
(302) 378-2401
www.SaintAnnes.Church

THIS WEEK AT SAINT ANNE'S

Visit our online calendar to see even more upcoming events

NOV 15 SUN	**THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** 8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist: Rite One 9:30 AM - Holy Eucharist: Rite Two 10:45 AM - Fellowship, Sunday School, Choir Rehearsal & Forum 5:00 PM - Holy Eucharist: Rite Two 6:00 PM - Youth Group
16 MON	
17 TUE	9:30 AM - Weekly delivery to Our Daily Bread 12:00 PM - St. Anne's serves at Our Daily Bread
18 WED	6:30 PM - Vestry Meeting 7:15 PM - Women's Book Club (Zoom)
19 THUR	8:00 AM - Gospel Study (Zoom) 6:15 PM - Bell Choir
20 FRI	5:00 PM - St. Anne's serves dinner at Our Daily Bread
21 SAT	
Nov 22 SUN	**CHRIST THE KING: THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** 8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist: Rite One 9:30 AM - Holy Eucharist: Rite Two 10:45 AM - Fellowship, Sunday School, Choir Rehearsal & Forum 5:00 PM - Holy Eucharist: Rite Two 6:00 PM - Youth Group

REV RUSS SERMONS

Click the link below to access video recordings of Fr. Russ' sermons
Rev Russ Sermons