

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The Good News!

Sunday Services

January

- 1 **1st of Christmas**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
No Sunday School
- 8 **Baptism of Our Lord**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 15 **2 Epiphany**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 22 **3 Epiphany**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 29 **4 Epiphany**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am

February

- 5 **5th Epiphany**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 12 **6th Epiphany**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 19 **Transfiguration of Our Lord**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 26 **1st of Lent**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am

**Sunday School is at
11:00 am weekly**

Find us on



facebook.com/StPaulsTorrington





A Word from Pastor Cady



Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

The turning of the year, whether the liturgical year beginning in Advent, or the secular New Year, brings reflection and opens the way for a new beginning. There are several ways in which I'd like to start up or refresh some ministries at St. Paul's. I'll be eager to work with any of you who would like to be involved in any way.

There are 4 specific areas I'd like to address early on.

1. Our summer concert series. To do this well, we need a larger team and earlier planning. So I've scheduled a 6pm Zoom meeting on Sunday, January 15 for any interested. We need at least 4 more adults or 2 families to assist those who already work on these events. The meeting on the 15th will be brief, but will allow us to set future meeting dates, begin contacting bands, setting our own concert schedule, etc. These concerts are great fun, but also draw potential members to us, and are a sign to the wider community of the vitality of our parish.
2. Our summer Farmers' Market table. This is a form of Evangelism. Those who plan to staff the table will welcome community shoppers, introduce folks to some of our ministries, offer them a tour of the space, hand out brochures, etc. I will schedule a 6pm Zoom meeting for Sunday, Jan 22. This will be a brief meeting to discuss future meeting dates and specifics of how to effectively use such an opportunity. To do this well, we need 8 adults or 4 families who would rotate Saturdays in the summer. Each team would only need to do 2 weeks.
3. A Year-Round Stewardship Team. Strong congregations have an on-going emphasis on generosity. We need that here. There will be a Zoom meeting at 6pm on Jan. 29 to discuss future meeting dates, and some of the ways we might encourage regular and special offerings to local, regional, and global ministries.
4. Youth Ministry. We need to re-vitalize our opportunities for our youth. We'll meet on Zoom at 6pm, Feb 5 to brainstorm some ideas and set future meetings. Young people are very much encouraged to join this meeting. We'll need several adults and younger adults to get some momentum on this. We'll consider events that might include worship, learning, recreation, fellowship, and service. One possibility would be an ecumenical group, which has worked well in some places over the years.

For each of these, I need to hear from any of you who want to be invited to those initial Zoom meetings. Please use whatever means is easiest for you - phone, email, Facebook, etc. to let me know of your willingness to join in.

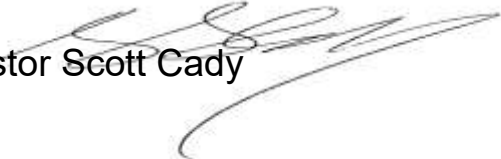
In addition to these initiatives, some other ministries that are spearheaded by others are in need of some extra help. The Soup Kitchen is a great ministry that is staffed by great folks, but has very little back-up if someone can't make it. We really need a few more folks to sign on as fill-ins. Jeanette Richard is the lead for this. The Sharing Garden did not have enough volunteers last year to do much. We can begin now to plan for a good '23. Hannah Winzler is the leader for gardeners. Our Choir is offering wonderful anthems each week. If you have any sense that you could offer your voice to augment their good work, call Bonnie Schaff.

We need to resume our Safety Committee to plan for emergencies like fire or illness and have a good response in place. Let me know if you'd like to be part of this. The Refugee Resettlement team is doing good work, but there has not been the buy-in from our overall membership that I had expected. If you want to make a difference in our world, this would be a good project. And we'll develop some excellent working relationships with new partners in the area as well. Simpler, and in-house is our Coffee Hour. It's not fancy, but it is one of the ways we develop bonds between our members. Please consider signing up to host one in the weeks to come.

These are only a few of the things going on here, but what I'm encouraging is to not simply look for a simple "back to old ways" process moving ahead. Newly active members, new ideas, new energies and a new and joyful interaction between members on these projects will take St. Paul's to great places.

Thank you for all you already do, and let's enjoy the new year with these exciting chances to be Christ's disciples in ways that spark new life into our beloved St. Paul's.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Scott Cady



Dear Members of St. Paul's,

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for the generous Christmas gift you gave me this year. It is always a pleasure and honor to serve as your Pastor. I am often moved by the warm spirit St. Paul's reflects. Your blessing to me is one example of this spirit. May each of you also feel blessed by your participation in our common ministry in Christ.

Yours in Jesus' name, Pr Scott Cady



“Soup”er Bowl of Caring Grinder and Chili Sale
and

Drive-Thru Food Drive

Fresh, Frozen, & Non-Perishable Foods
to Benefit Friendly Hands Food Bank

Saturday, February 11, 2023

(snow date Sunday, February 12th)

12:00pm – 2:00pm

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

837 Charles Street, Torrington, CT 06790

Detach and Return with Payment to St. Paul’s Office no later than 2/8/2022

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

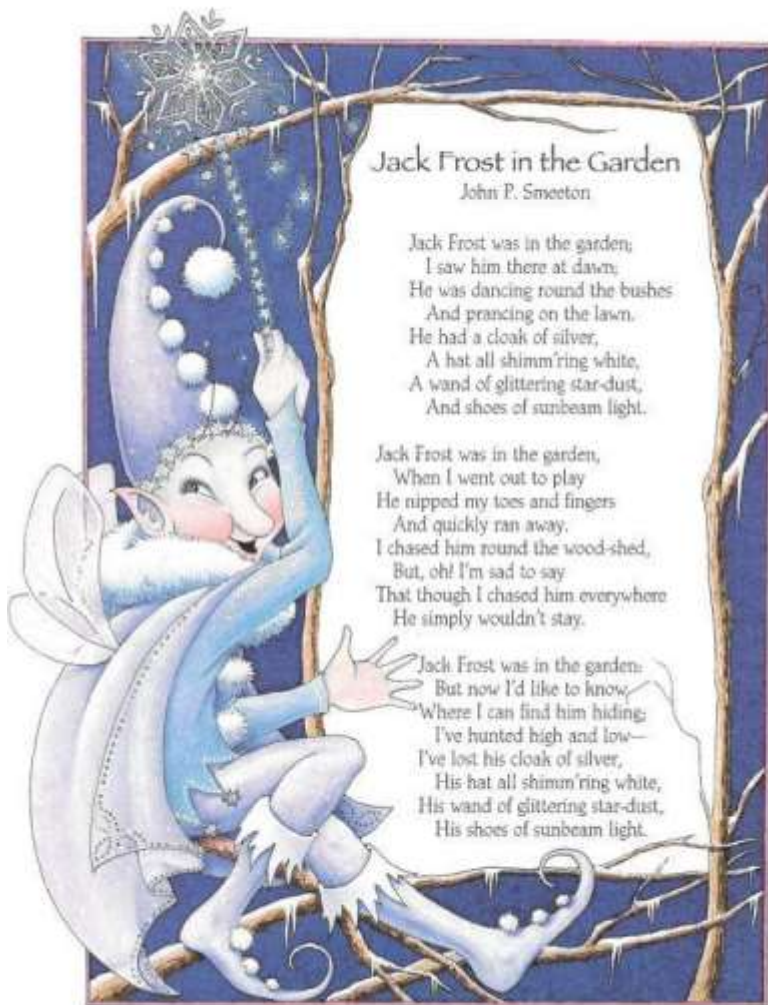
_____ Grinder, Chili, & Chips (Deluxe) = \$15.00 each
(Circle One) Ham, Turkey, Italian Combo

_____ Chef Salad, Chili, & Chips (Deluxe) = \$15.00 each

_____ Grinder & Chips = \$10.00 each (Circle One) Ham, Turkey, Italian Combo

_____ Chef Salad & Chips = \$10.00 each

_____ Chili & Chips = \$10.00 each



A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. We have a consistent group enjoying the fellowship after service, but few volunteers. As a volunteer you need to set up, make coffee, provide a simple snack and clean up. Please consider this opportunity to serve your fellow members.

12 Days of Christmas Challenge Results

On the 4th Sunday in Advent, following the Christmas Pageant, children and their adult helpers passed donated Target to members of the congregation as Pastor Cady explain the twelve-day challenge. The response was heartwarming. The Community Soup Kitchen will benefit from the many items that have been donated. As I scanned the many bags, staff won't have to search for cereals for breakfast, pasta and rice, veggies, and many other useful items to help make a nutritious meal for clients. Thank you for your generosity.

Garden of memories

If you would like more information on the Garden of Memories, whether it about interment or to volunteer to help with maintenance, please contact Lisa Bodnar 860-491-6342 or bodnar983@gmail.com



Women's Breakfast
Wednesday,
18th of January
15th of February

George's Restaurant
East Main St. Torrington

Men's Breakfast
Wednesday,
18th of January
15th of February

A/C Eatery
South Main St. Torrington

Save the Date!



6 GAMES
2 PRIZES per GAME
Bingo Winner PICKS
Other Prize KICKS
to the Second Chance Drawing
12 PRIZES
\$100 & Designer
Gift Cards Handbags



B I N G O

@ 7pm

On-Line Event
 brought to you via



**Friday
 FEB 10th**

BINGO CARDS		KICK Drawing
\$20	Single 1 card/game	\$10 per ticket
\$35	3-Pack 3 cards/game	
\$50	6-Pack 6 cards/game	

HOW TO ORDER

On-Line:

Scan this QR Code
 using your
 smartphone
 Camera



Call/Text: 860.550.3249

*Bingo Cards/KICK Draw Tickets
 are Pre-Sale Only*

What is the Initial Offering?

The initial offering is a gift of money to the Church which is not considered a Christian's payment of his/her tithes.

What does this mean for us? Recently we went through our Stewardship campaign and many of us filled out our pledge sheet for the coming year. We listed how much money we plan to give weekly, monthly or annually. The initial offering is what you decide to give above and beyond this. Some may decide to give 10% of their annual pledge while others may decide to give the equivalent of their monthly offering. This initial offering helps to kick off the upcoming year and is greatly appreciated. Envelopes will be made available in late December/early January.

Whatever you decide, please pray on it.

May our Heavenly Father bless you and Keep you,
 The Finance Committee



“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”.

2 Corinthians 9:7

hilltopelc

November went by too quickly, maybe because we were not physically in the building due to the abatement here at St. Paul's. We are extremely grateful and thankful for the KidsPlay museum and its staff for welcoming us with open arms for 13 days. The paperwork to get there was the most challenging part of the relocation but once that was approved, I can say, that everything went as planned without a hitch! The students are very accustomed to riding a bus. We were able to continue our quality programming as if we were here. Many thanks to the teachers for their flexibility and dedication to Hilltop. We could not have done this without them. We wish to thank our families and the St. Paul's congregation for your support in our relocation. Thank you especially to Mark Rose, Pamela Little, Diane Boscarino, Greg Weingart, Judy Ludwig, and Pastor Cady for your suggestions and lending a listening ear!



We were delighted to have our families join us for Holiday Celebrations in the classroom. Parents and guardians were able to join in a sing-along and enjoy holiday treats.

Registration is now underway for the 2023-2024 school year. Right now, we are accepting registrations from St. Paul's members and current Hilltop families. A date for an Open House has not been set yet. Private tours are also an option. As we have done in the last few years, it is not required for people to show up in person for registrations. They can be mailed or emailed, to keep the in-person contacts at a minimum in the church office. If your family has a child eligible for our 2-, 3-, or 4-year-old classes, be sure to register early to save your spot! If you know someone with a preschooler, let them know! In September we are offering another full "school day" classroom for those families needing a longer day than our usual 2.5-hour preschool program. This class will be a mix of 3- & 4-year-olds that has lunch and rest built into the curriculum. The day will begin at 9:15 am and end at 2:45 pm.

As always, the school portraits were adorable! In spite of lower enrollment and Covid safe sessions, we still earned a bit of commission. We receive 20% on what parent's purchase. These funds will help to offset our budget due to lower than usual enrollment this year.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us with our Spice Fundraiser. This event helped us to raise over \$900.00 that we will be able to apply to much needed supplies. We have been making do with what we have, and some teachers have bought supplies with their own money for their classrooms. It will be great to restock our empty shelves!

Our next fundraiser is "BINGO With a Kick!" join us online for a fun night of BINGO, with amazing prizes! This is run by "Everything Happens for a Reason Fundraising" and will be done using the ZOOM platform on Friday, February 10th at 7 pm. Look for the event on Facebook at Everything Happens for a Reason Fundraising. More information on purchasing BINGO cards will be forthcoming.

We covet your prayers for the Hilltop ministry. We pray that 2023 will bring health, happiness & PEACE!

In His Service,

Barbara J. Mazzei, Director & Head Teacher



St. Paul's has been a very busy place over these last couple of months. Thanksgiving has come and gone and we were blessed by a fine and meaningful Thanksgiving Ecumenical service. Jeanette Richard and the Altar Guild made a lovely display on the altar. St. Paul's Women provided two beautiful and plentiful Thanksgiving baskets for two families in our congregation. Thanks to Brian and Diane Miller for their generous donation of two large turkeys that were given in loving memory of Brian's Mom, Erna Miller. During that same Thanksgiving

weekend, we began the season of Advent. With that comes the Cookie Project! Hundreds of cookies were baked, packed, and delivered to sick, shut-in, elder, and college students. Many thanks to those who baked so that these gifts of love could be enjoyed by friends not able to get out to church on a regular basis. Thanks, too, for those who helped deliver the cookies to neighbors, friends, and relatives. Many notes of thanks have been received and are posted on the bulletin board outside of the office. That same day, as cookies were done, Mark Rose and Will Siss and friends played carols and lit the outdoor Christmas tree. It isn't as impressive as it would be in the dark, but lighting the tree is a sure sign that we begin the (Advent) Season of Waiting. On the Second Sunday of Advent children and families gathered for the Advent Project; this year the children made Gingerbread (graham crackers) Churches. While it is a messy project, the children had fun spreading royal frosting and crackers/candy over a milk carton. The pretzel cross atop finished off a fun Sunday morning. Thanks to those families who participated; everyone had fun!

Throughout the Advent season the Angel Project is in full swing. For me, it wouldn't be Christmas with the Angel Project. St. Paul's Women made 42 fruit baskets for folks who had lost a member of their immediate family in the last year. These gifts of love bring comfort to the grieving families as they prepare to celebrate the holiday without their loved one present. Thanks to the folks who donated money for fruit baskets and to the women who assembled them. Again, many notes of thanks have been received. Then, ... the gifts. So many members and friends look forward to the Angel Project each year to provide a gift for a member in need. As I have explained previously, The Angel Project is no longer able to be solely supported by donations. To that end, we had two fundraisers during the past year – a Palm Sunday Candy Sale and the Red, White, and Blue Pancake Breakfast held over Independence Day weekend. The proceeds of these two events meant that we were able to purchase the remaining gifts that weren't taken without having to ask St. Paul's Women or the Fellowship Committee for financial help. I pray you will continue to support events such as this. During December we also adorned the Hat & Mitten Tree with many hats, gloves, scarves, mittens and slippers for folks in need. St. Paul's Women added to the total with \$200 worth of warm gloves for adults served by the Soup Kitchen. Thanks to all those who bought or made these warming items for those less fortunate; thanks also to Greg Weingart for placing the tree each year. Finally, our beautiful Chrismon Tree that is lovingly adorned each year by members of the Property Committee and St. Paul's Women. Many of the Chrismons (Christian Monograms) are very old and fragile, having been created in the early 60's. Over the years some have been repaired or replaced. This year our own June Seiser worked on the tree top angel. Thanks to those who decorated the tree and even more kudos go to those who took the tree down while many of us were either in a meeting or teaching Sunday School! If I have forgotten anyone to whom thanks is due for quiet efforts to make Advent and Christmas brighter here at St. Paul's, consider yourself appreciated!



OFFERING COUNTERS

A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE COUNTERS

We are thankful for everyone who makes a weekly/monthly donation to the church. As counters, we'd like to invite you to do a couple of things. If you have envelopes (we are aware that the latest mailing has been delayed), please use them. If you can avoid it, please don't use tape to seal your envelope. The little gummy tab is usually pretty effective. The envelopes are processed each week and then saved for reference for a period of time.

About a year ago the Congregation Council decided not to put special envelopes (Missions,

World Hunger, Restoration and Repair, and the Discretionary Fund – Helping Members in Need) in offering mailings to save money. Rather, these envelopes are in a rack in the Narthex for your convenience. If you wish to make a donation to any of these funds, please grab an envelope; they are there for the taking.



St. Paul's Quilters will resume their sewing on Wednesday, January 11th after a brief hiatus for the renovation and holidays. Experience is not necessary; we have some master quilters who are very willing to lend a hand!

**We meet most Wednesdays
from 1pm – 4pm.**

ANNUAL MEETING



Annual Meeting of the Congregation Part II

**Sunday February 19th at 9:00 am
(prior to service!)**

**We urge all to attend to hear what are
various ministries and committees have done
in the past year!**



WELCA and more



PAINTING WITH JUNE

After a brief hiatus, St. Paul's Women will gather on Monday evening, February 27th for Painting with June. Each year our talented artist extraordinaire, June Seiser, teaches us to paint a picture. It is always an enjoyable evening filled with laughs, whines, sharing, etc. We will begin our business meeting early at 6:30pm so we can spend most of our time painting. Keep an eye out in the Narthex for an example of the picture. There will be a sign-up sheet so we are sure to have plenty of canvasses, paint, brushes, etc. A donation of \$7 to cover expenses is requested. Hostesses for the evening are Kathy DePaoli, Karen Marciano, and Linda Rosa.

Food Insecurity in our nation is becoming an increasing problem. Reasons probably differ from area to area but I believe nationwide, inflation is an ever-growing problem. At this writing the cost of a dozen eggs is exorbitant; gone are the dollar deals where you could feed a family of 4 for a few bucks; rarely can you find a cut of meat below \$4/lb. Those of us who are food secure are called to help fill the gaps for our hungry neighbors. Through the "Soup"er Bowl of Caring faith communities, school groups, businesses, and social organizations around the country are joining forces to "Tackle Hunger." Begun in 1990, countless groups nationwide have worked to help feed the hungry on the weekend of Super Bowl, when so many are gathered for the big game, feasting on snacks, pizza, and wings, while neighbors worry about what they will feed their children the next day. This year our cash donations and food will go to Friendly Hands Food Bank. Thanks for helping to make a difference in our community.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE GIFTS TABLE & CHAIR TROLLEYS

The need for transferrable equipment to move tables and chairs became evident when we were preparing for the renovation that has been taking place over the last several months. Tables and chairs had to be moved from the upper level to the main level so ministries and functions could continue. Mark Rose and the Finance Committee approached the Fellowship Committee a while back asking us to purchase some chair and table trolleys to make moving and storage of these necessities easier and more efficient. After meeting with Mark on January 8th and hearing his proposal, the Fellowship Committee agreed to purchase 2 chair trolleys (each holding 16-18) tables and two upright chair trolleys for St. Paul's. The expenditure will total around \$1,400. This is made possible by your support of our fellowship events. Our Pork Fall Dinner gleaned a profit of \$826.65, which has already been transferred to the deficit budget for 2022. The next event we are planning the "Soup"er Bowl of Caring Grinder/Chef Salad/Chili Sale set for Saturday, February 11th. Simultaneously we will be collecting food and cash donations for Friendly Hands (see article in this newsletter).

The next Fellowship Dinner is set for Saturday, April 15th; while the menu is not set we usually do a Chicken Dinner of some sort. Please mark it on your calendar and plan to support our efforts so as needs arise, the Fellowship Committee is able to help so as not to interfere with the church budget.



JANUARY



2
Cynthia Rose

3
David Barone
Luca Reginatto

4
Ron Travis

6
Renate Duksis
Betty Grunder

8
Cathy Winzler

11
Bill Richards

13
Will Siss

14
Sterling Jones

16
Christian Braatz

18
William Hohensee
Curtis Stone

20
Ty Hogan
Colton Wilmot

21
Kathleen Olkowski

22
Renate Higgins

Kaylyn McDermott

23
Kenneth Muller
Joan Wolfinger
Martin Thompson
Jonathan Magyar

24
Heinz Beier

27
Maggie Cady

28
Margaret Clavette
Kendra Campbell

29
Sarah Corey

Walter & Liz Emmett

1-19-91



To the family and friends of

**Joseph Roller
Anita Menard
Sharon Kowalski
Leonard Campbell
Phyliss Carrol**



If you have any questions or concerns that you would like addressed, feel free to contact Mark Rose, council president. He can be reached at 860-978-5857 or emailed at markwrose@icloud.com



2

Eileen Schroeder

7

Pamela Little

9

Avery Rosenbeck
Pilar Weingart

10

Gene Schroeder, Sr.
Gabbie Abeling
Atlas Muhl

11

Edie Balkun
Dori Wityak
Emily Szabo

12

Arianna Begey

14

Richard Hanusch
Gianna Begey

17

Ely Barone

20

Rosemary Schibi
Laurel Siss

22

Christine Dickinson

26

David Nygren
Danielle Begey
Juilett Dziedzic
Tyler Clabaugh

28

Michael McDermott
Glenn Hornfischer

Dennis and Barbara Nalette
David and Laura Barone
Mark and Leslie Langenheim, Sr.

2/14/76
2/16/08
2/27/ 88



The funeral service for Mary Swienckowski, who died in October, will be Saturday, January 28 at 11:00 am, a reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. God bless all who mourn.



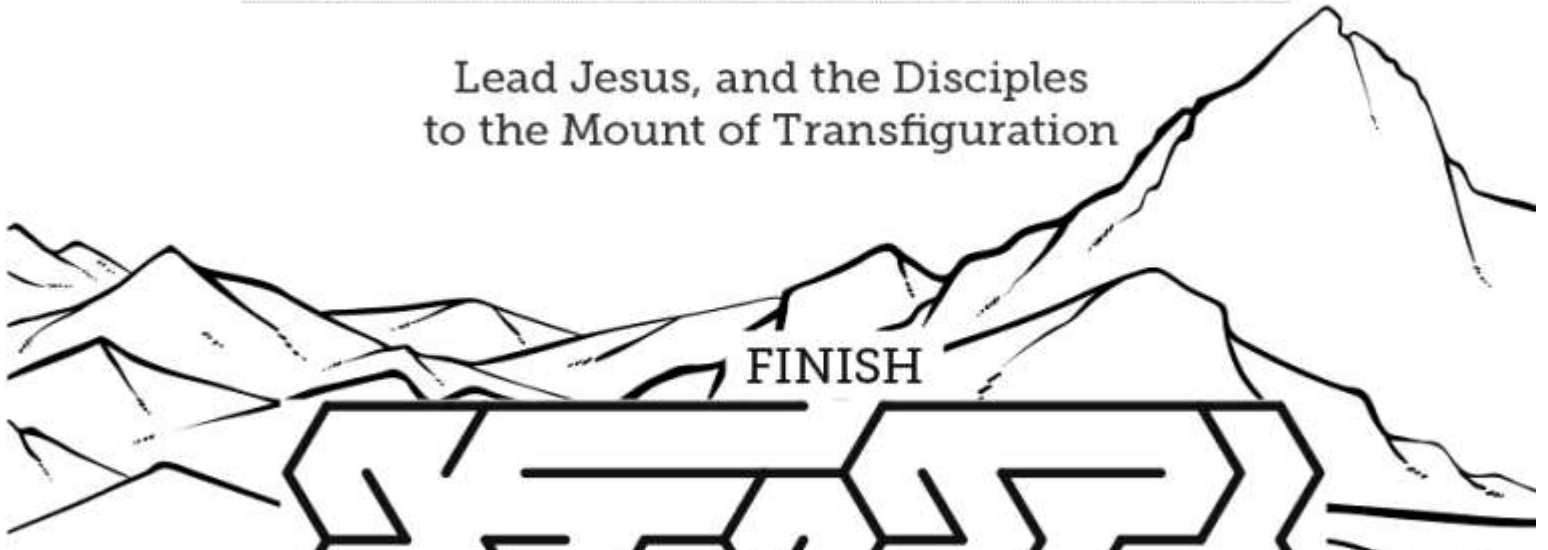
Tai Chi Wednesday Mornings
11:00

Drop in whenever the mood strikes. Free to all!
For more information
karen.trippodi@gmail.com

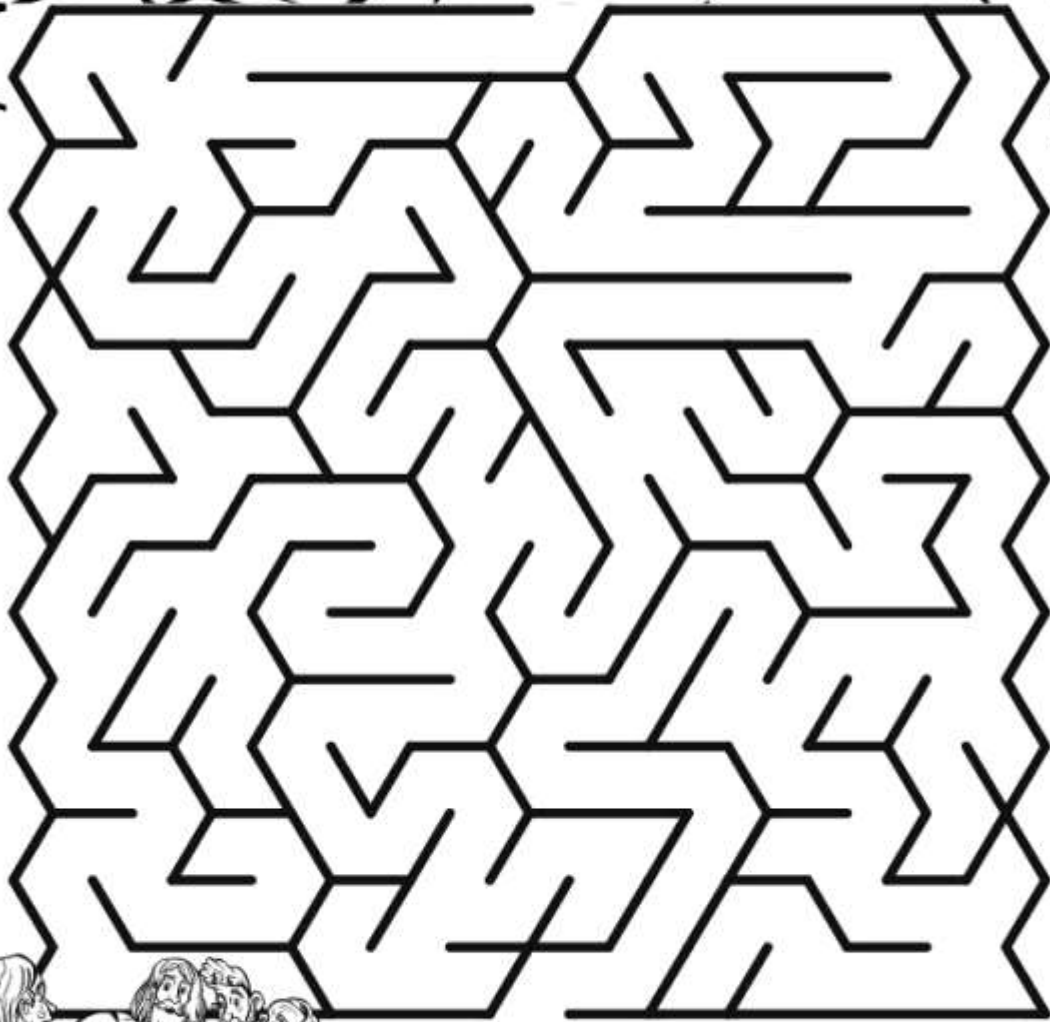
Kids Page!

JESUS TRANSFIGURED

Lead Jesus, and the Disciples
to the Mount of Transfiguration



FINISH



START





837 Charles Street
Torrington, CT
06790

Staff Directory 860-482-3555

The Reverend Dr. G. Scott Cady, Pastor
Rachel Harrel, Secretary
Jean Schlapfer, Bookkeeper
Marcia Newcome, Music Director
Lisa Bodnar, Custodian

pastor@stpaulstorrington.com
secretary@stpaulstorrington.com
bookkeeper@stpaulstorrington.com

Hilltop School Staff 860-482-3727

Barbara Mazzei, Director & Head Teacher
Nicole Sears, Teacher
Monica Valente, Teacher
Michelle Miller, Teacher
Christina Brzoska, Teacher
Nicole Waldron, Teacher
Melanie Beebe, Teacher
Teresa Guzman-Sanchez, Assistant Teacher
Shaelynn Holmgren, Custodian

director@hilltopchristianelc.com

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