



# The In Touch

Volume 59, Issue 1

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*Our Mission: To Seek, Know, Love and Serve Christ in all Persons and in all Creation*

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## From the Deacon.....

"You are walking backwards, because sometimes you like to, and you bump into a crocodile. What do you say dear?"

"Excuse me."

What do you say Dear? by Joslin Sesyle was one of our children's favorite bedtime stories. A book of manners set in silly circumstances that we hoped would help them remember their manners as baby elephants were given away or a patient bitten by a dragon was bandaged.

How much easier would it be if the more difficult conversations we have now came with instructions? According to Headspace.com: "But while these gifts are free to give, the simple offerings of being polite and kind — like saying please and thank you, listening carefully, and making eye contact with people — can bring huge benefits to ourselves and those around us." Listening, listening to understand, not listening to win the point. Especially since coming from a competitive stance is not likely to get a win. And to get our win we make the person we're talking with a loser. Not a path that's likely to bring any kind of agreement or harmony.

According to ABC News "As of Dec. 7, at least 40,167 people have died from gun violence in the U.S. this year, according to the [Gun Violence Archive](#) — which is an average of almost 118 deaths each day.

Of those who died, 1,306 were teens and 276 were children.

Deaths by suicide have made up the vast majority of gun violence deaths this year. There's been 22,506 deaths by gun suicide this year, an average of about 66 deaths by suicide per day in 2023." <https://abcnews.go.com/US/116-people-died-gun-violence-day-us-year/story?id=97382759>

The U.S. Mexican border is the world's deadliest land crossing according to The United Nations News. And while we continue to parrot all the old arguments God's children continue to suffer and die. Regardless of their political beliefs, no one I know celebrates that.

If we go forward with the belief that God has given us what we need, can we take it a step further and realize that he has not given the answer to ME (and thanks be to God, because that responsibility is more than I can manage) but to US. I need your perspective to balance the flaws in mine. I need to understand the challenges faced by those without the blessings I have and of those who have more. I need to look beyond my normal daily circumstances and understand that my normal is not everyone else's.

I have felt good when I've landed a snappy comeback at someone with whom I disagree, but ashamed later when I wonder how God saw it. Am I loving my neighbor? Am I fostering discussion and accord? Am I moving the needle forward toward loving my neighbor? Have I cut off a conversation that could have made a difference?

I wonder, if Jesus needed to listen? Didn't he already know? But listen he did. And in doing so, he showed others that he valued and respected them. Let us try to do the same.

Peace,

*Mel*





1/6 ~ Jeanne Corrin

1/9 ~ Mike Noland

1/12 ~ George Schlieff

1/21 ~ Layna Padesky

1/25 ~ Jan Menefee

1/30 ~ Nicholas Padesky



1/9 ~ John Briggs

1/24 ~ Taylor Wright

1/26 ~ Alan Wright



1/27 ~ Delbert & Bonnie Hickey

## Annual Meeting

Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 11:30 a.m.

We will need 4 Vestry members

## Community Café 2024

Holy Trinity Volunteers 4:00 pm

April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, July 30<sup>th</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

# Jan '24 Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

Dates	Celebrants	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
<b>7</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Epiphany</b>	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Tricia	
<b>14</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Molly	
<b>21</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Carole Johnson	
<b>28</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Jeanne Corrin	



# January 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Altar Guild
						Tricia
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	Vestry Meeting ? if info in Ruby's Pantry 5:00 - 6:30					Tricia
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						Donna & Karen
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting 11:30	Newsletter Deadline (Vestry)					Donna & Karen
28	29	30	31			
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						
