



Transfiguration  
Episcopal Church

THE

# JOURNEY

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2023

*Creator  
of the Stars  
of Night*





# FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Transfiguration friends and family,

Happy New Year! We are excited to embark on a new church year! December will be my official first anniversary as your Rector and I cannot be more excited about the many possibilities that await us! There have been many changes: ups, downs, and in-betweens in the past year. So many have been opportunities for learning and connecting!

God is very present in our congregation. I invite us, as a community and as individuals, to open our minds and hearts to listen to God's calling and to prayerfully speak our intentions, As we do so on Sundays, at fellowship dinners, on retreats, in passing conversations; let us wonder and delight. Let us ask one another how we can invite others to connect. There are so many people thirsting for a community like ours!

I am excited to welcome them and to see how we grow and change!

Happy New Year,

## Stewardship 2024

Thank you to each and every one of you who have made a pledge for 2024! Your contributions make a huge difference in growing our life at Transfiguration! We will continue to accept and bless all pledges.



If you made a pledge in 2023 we thank you for honoring your commitment! Giving statements have been emailed for your reference.

## ADVENT IS APPROACHING!

Advent, the church's new year and season of preparation, begins on December 3, 2023!

It's a time of year that often feels hurried and will be a short one as Advent 4 is also Christmas Eve. We have been planning and working to find ways to slow down here at church.



This year our theme: *Creator of the Stars of Night*, will be sung as we light the Advent candles.

For the season we will:

- light the Advent wreath in church each Sunday
- provide an opportunity to make wreaths to take home (*Sunday, December 3rd*)
- offer Advent votive meditations
- prepare the manger for Jesus with hay.

### **Something New: Making our own creche scene**

You are invited to add to a folk manger scene each week by bringing figures to church as we move through Advent:

Advent 1-the stable and surrounding area

Advent 2-animals of the land of every variety

Advent 3-people, including the Holy family, shepherds, innkeeper

Advent 4-decorations for joy and delight

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT TRANSFIGURATION

## ADVENT 1 - SUNDAY DEC 3

9am Joyful Noise Eucharist  
10:30am Musical Eucharist

with lighting of the Advent Wreath and making our community creche scene:

***The stable and surrounding area***

### ADVENT WREATH MAKING

During Community of Wonder (C.O.W.) and throughout coffee hour, greenery, candles and all the supplies to make your own advent wreath to take home. This year's Advent paper lantern will be available to take home.

## SNOW DAY! SATURDAY DEC 9

Join us for Snow Day! as we welcome friends and neighbors to snow play, cookies, beverages and caroling. ***Saturday December 9, 4-5:30pm***

## ADVENT 2 - SUNDAY DEC 10

9am Joyful Noise Eucharist  
10:30am Musical Eucharist

with lighting of the Advent Wreath and making our community creche scene:

***Animals of the land of every variety***

## ADVENT 3 - SUNDAY DEC 17

9am Joyful Noise Eucharist  
10:30am Musical Eucharist

with lighting of the Advent Wreath and making our community creche scene:

***People, including the Holy family, shepherds, innkeeper***

### GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Following the 10:30 service we will hang garlands and other decorations in preparation for Christmas

## ADVENT 4 - SUNDAY DEC 24

9am Joyful Noise Eucharist  
10:30am Musical Eucharist

with lighting of the Advent Wreath and making our community creche scene:

***Decorations for joy and delight!***

## CHRISTMAS EVE - SUNDAY DEC 24

5pm Christmas Pageant and Joyful Noise Eucharist  
10:00pm Christmas Eve Festival Musical Eucharist

## CHRISTMAS DAY - MONDAY DEC 25

10am - Spoken Eucharist for Christmas Day

## 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS - DEC 31

9am Joyful Noise Eucharist  
10:30am Musical Eucharist

## FIRST SUNDAY

## EPIPHANY POTLUCK - JAN 7 2024

Following the 10:30am Epiphany Sunday service we will have a potluck lunch in the Redwood Room, led by Vestry.

## Snow in San Mateo?

We can't promise a white Christmas, but we are excited that our many "snow angels" have enabled us to bring the Snow Day tradition back to Transfiguration.



***Please join us in front of the church on Saturday, Dec 9, from 4-5:30 to play in light flurries and a VERY localized deposit of snow, perfect for a little sled run.***

Cookies, hot beverages, and caroling will put you in the mood for the holidays. Please help us spread the word to friends and neighbors, and sign here to make sure we have enough elves on deck to make the event go smoothly and showcase our hospitality.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4BA8AD2EA31-45946819-snow>





# COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE

## Transfiguration Then and Now

*Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on  
January 20, 2024 from 6:30-9!*

We are planning a fifties themed cocktail/mocktail party in celebration of our founding and all those who have made Transfiguration what it is today, especially all those who gave time and resources to make our latest capital campaign renovations a success. In addition to beverages, we will serve up some 50s music, a short video tribute, appetizers, and desserts (we may pass on the jello molds, though). In order to continue to keep our financial foundation strong for future generations, we are planning a silent auction with some fantastic items:

- Ramen noodle making lesson and dinner for a family
  - Trivia night at the Foxes
  - Paddleboarding outing for two in the Half Moon Bay harbor
  - Slime making party for kids (or adults!)
  - Italian and Asian style dinners for 8
  - Weekend stay at a Pinecrest cabin
  - Your family portrait hand-drawn in your favorite cartoon style
  - The one and only Gari's cookie of the month club
- ... and many more lessons, tickets, and events! Some items will be available for online bidding, but come in person for the full selection!

Please continue to reach out to Kristen [kristen.kearns@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.kearns@gmail.com) or Virginia [vrwfox@hotmail.com](mailto:vrwfox@hotmail.com) with auction donations or ideas.

Please contact the office if you did not receive a paperless post invitation, and please also take a minute to both RSVP on the invite and purchase your tickets (\$25/person) through this link or QR code:

<https://square.link/u/MVyFuuYN>



## Transfiguration Then and Now

**Fifties Cocktail Party Gala**  
**Saturday, January 20**  
**6:30 - 9:00pm**

If you would like to pay by check or cash, you will be able to do that during coffee hour any Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Early responses are very much appreciated for planning purposes.

**Want to get involved in making the event a success?**  
Contact Kristen [kristen.kearns@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.kearns@gmail.com)-- we have an amazing team who are working hard, and the big jobs are covered, but we'd love your help on some small projects and night-of-event jobs like bartending, rental table pick-up/return, and set-up/clean-up. High schoolers are welcome to volunteer as food servers for community service hours - invite a friend or two and make it a fun night!

# ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH!



## Joyful Noise

### Eucharist

Sunday mornings at  
9:00am

A worship especially for families with our youngest members with stories and singing and Eucharist. Join Us!



## Youth Group

The next Youth *adventure together will be bowling in January. Watch for details soon!*

Youth Group is for grades 6-12.

If you have questions please reach out to us!

Jennifer [jennifer@transfig-sm.org](mailto:jennifer@transfig-sm.org)

Mike [miker47@gmail.com](mailto:miker47@gmail.com)

Rebecca [rhr942@gmail.com](mailto:rhr942@gmail.com)

## Dungeons & Dragons

Our youth, grades 6-12 have been gathering for Dungeons & Dragons once a month.

***We play the 3rd Sunday of each month from 12:30-2:30.*** Although we will not be meeting in December, we will gather next on January 21.

If you want to play, email/text me so I can prepare for you. No D&D experience is necessary; we can walk you through the rules while we play. What's most important is to be willing to roleplay a character and respond to what happens in this imaginary world we're all creating together.

-Mike Robinson

[miker47@gmail.com](mailto:miker47@gmail.com)

## Community of Wonder

***Sunday mornings will begin in the Redwood Room at 10:30,*** unless otherwise advised. It will require an adult volunteer signed up to assist Rebecca. We are thankful for the many volunteers who have supported Rebecca and the children each week.

Please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4DAFAF22A13-cowvolunteer#/>

If an adult volunteer is not signed up by the previous Wednesday, Rebecca and the children will join us in the sanctuary for worship!

***Community of Wonder will be for 4 year olds - 6th graders.*** If an older child or teen would like to volunteer, they can request to do so with Rebecca.



# MUSIC MINISTRY & ADULT FORMATION

## MUSIC MINISTRY



Come, join the Christmas Choir for our Christmas Eve service Sunday, December 24 at 10:00pm.

Rehearsals are in the church on Thursday evenings from 7:00 till 8:30PM. All are welcome.

Do you love to sing? Consider joining our wonderful Transfiguration Adult Choir. No previous experience necessary. The ability to read music is a plus but not a requirement. We will teach you everything you need to know as we go. Rehearsals are on **Thursdays from 7:00 pm till 8:30 pm in the church.** We sing at the 10:30 service through early June and special Holy Days such as Christmas and Easter. What a beautiful way to give your gift of time and talent to the Church.

## YOUTH CHOIR

**Join our Youth Choir!**

Rehearsals after the 10:30 service - we gather around the piano in the Redwood Room. Youth Choir sings about once a month for the 10:30 service, including Sunday, November 26!



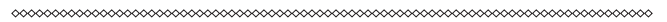
**School age youth are encouraged to join. Bring a friend!**

## INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

Do you play an instrument? Guitar, Drums, Violin, Trumpet or something else? Instrumentalists enhance the liturgy in so many ways. It has been great to have Michael Hutchinson accompanying on guitar and we invite others to join in!

Let us know what gifts you would like to share with us.

Contact Jim Dahlstrom, Director of Music with any questions [Jim@transfig-sm.com](mailto:Jim@transfig-sm.com)



## ADULT FORMATION

We are looking forward to offering some adult education and fellowship opportunities. Jennifer+ needs your input! What are great times, places, and forums for you? Please send her an email at [jennifer@transfig-sm.org](mailto:jennifer@transfig-sm.org) or talk to her in person or by phone!

--Jennifer+

## CONTINUING WEEKDAY MORNING OFFERINGS

### MORNING MEDITATION - WEEKDAYS AT 8:30AM

This lay-led group gathers for meditation at 8:30am every Monday thru Friday on zoom.

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88547949492?pwd=S3ZwUklteG15YjJsMEtMSnJXRzU3UT09>

All are welcome! Those who have participated have found it to be a wonderful way to begin the day. Questions? email: [mmaia456@gmail.com](mailto:mmaia456@gmail.com)

### MORNING PRAYER - WEDNESDAYS AT 9AM

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00, a group gathers for Morning Prayer via the Transfig zoom:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89761032046?pwd=Y1NoYTl2MGx3WUgwZk9lYU5yU1ptZz09>

All are welcome! Questions? email: [garipatton@astound.net](mailto:garipatton@astound.net)

# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS





# COASTAL CLEANUP, OKTOBERFEST & DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS





# THIS WEEK AND BEYOND



## THIS WEEK

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

8:30am - Morning Meditation via zoom  
6:30pm - Masterworks Chorale Rehearsal (church)

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

8:30am - Morning Meditation via zoom  
7-9pm - NMCO Chamber Group rehearsal (church)  
7:00pm - AA Meeting (Redwood Room)

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

8:30am - Morning Meditation via zoom  
9:00am - Morning Prayer via zoom

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

*Thanksgiving Day Holiday - parish office closed*

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

*Day after Thanksgiving Day Holiday - parish office closed*  
8:30am - Morning Meditation via zoom

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

#### THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00am - Joyful Noise Eucharist (*in-person*)  
10:30am - Musical Eucharist (*in-person & via livestream*)

## AND UPCOMING

### ADVENT 1 - SUNDAY DEC 3

**ADVENT WREATH MAKING** during Community of Wonder (C.O.W.) and throughout coffee hour.

### **SNOW DAY!** SATURDAY DEC 9

Join us for Snow Day! **Saturday December 9, 4-5:30pm**

### ADVENT 2 - SUNDAY DEC 10 (*regular morning services*)

### ADVENT 3 - SUNDAY DEC 17

**GREENING OF THE CHURCH** following the 10:30 service

### ADVENT 4 - SUNDAY DEC 24 (*regular morning services*)

### CHRISTMAS EVE - SUNDAY DEC 24

5pm Christmas Pageant and Joyful Noise Eucharist  
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9am Joyful Noise Eucharist  
10:30am Musical Eucharist

## Looking ahead into 2024...

### FIRST SUNDAY: EPIPHANY POTLUCK

*Sunday, January 7 following the 10:30 service*

### TRANSFIGURATION THEN & NOW GALA

*Saturday, January 20, 2024, 6:30-9pm (see page 4)*

## Transfiguration Annual Meeting

We will hold our parish annual meeting:

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**

following the 10:30 a.m. worship service

Mark your calendars for a lively and lovely annual meeting to share updates, elect vestry members, and look forward to the year ahead!

## Men's Retreat

February 2-4, 2024

St. Dorothy's Rest  
Retreat and Camp  
Center

Join us at St.

Dorothy's Rest for the

Transfiguration Men's Retreat, **February 2-4, 2024.**

Our weekend begins with a Friday evening dinner and culminates with Sunday morning prayer after breakfast. Together, we'll engage in a service project and enjoy fellowship, strengthening our bonds and nurturing our spirits.



## Women's Retreat

February 23-25, 2024

St. Dorothy's Rest Retreat and  
Camp Center

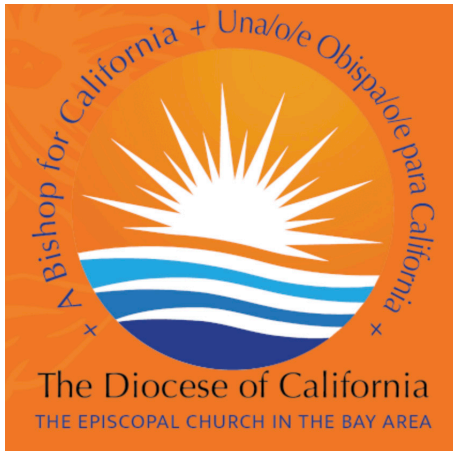
Our 2024 women's retreat will be held at St. Dorothy's! We are trying something and someplace different! We will be embraced in the heart of the Redwoods at

the oldest camp west of the Mississippi. St. Dorothy's is located in West Sonoma County just outside of the town of Occidental. Please mark your calendars **February 23-25, 2024** and invite friends and family members!





# DIOCESAN NEWS



## Prayer for the Election of the 9th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California

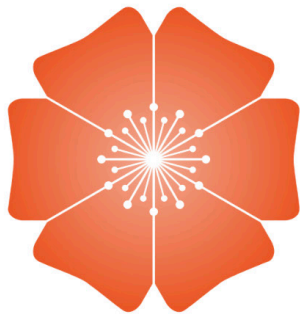
*Almighty God, giver of every good gift, by your grace you have called us into one fellowship of faith: Look graciously on the people of the Diocese of California during this time of transition. May we be guided in heart and mind by your Holy Spirit to seek and welcome a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us to perform the work of the Church. Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do. Save us from all false choices, that in your light we may see light, and on your path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Election of the 9th Bishop of California

In the Episcopal Church ordained and elected lay delegates gather at Grace Cathedral to elect the Bishop. Delegates have read the profiles of each candidate, attended meet and greets, prayed, and discussed the candidates who have been selected by the Diocesan Bishop Search Committee.

There will likely be several ballots until the candidate who receives enough votes from the ordained and lay delegations. You can watch by following this link:

<https://www.diocalconvention.org/live-stream/>



# Electing Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of California

*Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3\**

\*Please also reserve Sunday, December 3 in case a decision is not reached on December 2.

To review updates for the upcoming Electing Convention follow this link:

<https://www.diocalconvention.org>

To view the livestream on the day of the Electing Convention follow this link:

<https://www.diocalconvention.org/live-stream/>

# LAY LEADERSHIP AT TRANSFIGURATION

## VESTRY CLASS OF 2024



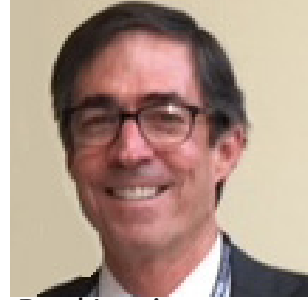
Tim Fox

timothyjfox@gmail.com



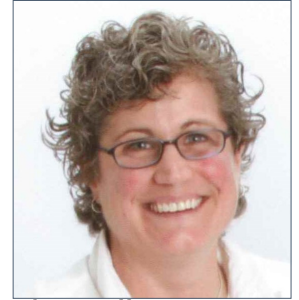
Kristen Kearns

kristen.kearns@gmail.com



Brad Lewis

bclhome@gmail.com



Chris Villanis  
Treasurer

chrisvillanis@yahoo.com

## VESTRY CLASS OF 2025



Cheryl Blalock  
Junior Warden

cablalock@gmail.com



Amanda Duquette

nectarhoney@gmail.com



Eric Manning

enrique\_pallazzo@yahoo.com



Jennifer Robinson  
Senior Warden

jennshome@gmail.com

## VESTRY CLASS OF 2026



Cathy Apsley

chapsley@yahoo.com



Bob Shields

rlshields76@gmail.com



Hillary Smith

hillary.smith22@gmail.com



Greg Spurrier

greg.spurrier@gmail.com

## DEANERY / CONVENTION DELEGATES



Skip Howie  
Deanery Delegate



Keith Jobe  
Deanery Delegate



Aidan Jobe Sea  
<sup>11</sup>Deanery Delegate



# PARISH DIRECTORY

## STAFF

**Rector:** The Rev. Jennifer Hornbeck  
415 830-1717 [jennifer@transfig-sm.org](mailto:jennifer@transfig-sm.org)

**Community of Wonder Director:** Rebecca Robinson  
650 245-3571 [rhr942@gmail.com](mailto:rhr942@gmail.com)

**Director of Music:** Jim Dahlstrom  
650 200-8122 [jim@transfig-sm.org](mailto:jim@transfig-sm.org)

**Operations Manager:** Noreen Huey  
650 341-8206 - [office@transfig-sm.org](mailto:office@transfig-sm.org)

**Bookkeeper:** Christine Semenza  
*Contact via the parish office*

## PARISH OFFICE

650 341-8206  
[office@transfig-sm.org](mailto:office@transfig-sm.org)  
3900 Alameda De Las Pulgas  
San Mateo, CA, 94403  
[www.transfig-sm.org](http://www.transfig-sm.org)

## VESTRY LEADERSHIP

**Senior Warden:** Jennifer Robinson

**Junior Warden:** Cheryl Blalock

**Clerk to the Vestry:** Kristen Kearns

**Treasurer:** Christine Villanis

## VESTRY MEMBERS

### Class of 2024

Tim Fox  
Kristen Kearns  
Brad Lewis  
Chris Villanis

### Class of 2025

Cheryl Blalock  
Amanda Duquette  
Eric Manning  
Jennifer Robinson

### Class of 2026

Cathy Apsley  
Bob Shields  
Hillary Smith  
Greg Spurrier

## DEANERY/CONVENTION DELEGATES

Skip Howie  
Keith Jobe  
Aidan Jobe Sea