

Dear Friend in Christ:

The people of The Church of the Epiphany in Trumansburg, NY, greet you and invite you to read the following profile which we offer prayerfully for your consideration.

We are searching for a priest to join us and minister to us on a part-time basis. (The actual percentage of time may be negotiable, but will probably not exceed 50 percent. Having a priest to celebrate the Eucharist 46 or 47 Sundays in a year would be ideal.)

We are a loving community of about 50 souls, with an average attendance of 30 at Sunday services. We are seeking to continue to deepen our relationships with God, strengthen our faith, and serve others as Christ calls us to do, with inclusivity and love.



The Church of the Epiphany



Two of our artists

We are a people committed to our church and to each other, walking together in faith through the challenges of life. While we are an aging population, with many of us past the midpoint of life, it must be clearly stated that we welcome and embrace all comers of all ages, races, abilities, orientations, points of view, financial status, and personal and spiritual development. We are a peace church, in love with God's world, its people, and its mysteries, as seen through our Christian faith.

Worship ~ Our Sunday service is at 9:30 a.m., and although we are small in number by some standards, we are huge in heart and spirit. Using the *Blue Hymnal 1982*, supplemented by *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, we fill the nave with heartfelt praise. The celebration of the Eucharist is central, of course, to our worship, and we embrace the acceptance found in the Open Table invitation of the Iona Community:

This is the table, not of the righteous, but of the poor in spirit. It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before, you who have tried to follow and all of us who have failed. These are the gifts of God for the People of God. Christ invites everyone to be known and fed here.

We are eager to learn and we welcome sermons that help us expand our understanding of God's word and how we can live that word in our daily lives.

At intervals throughout the year, we enjoy special services and activities which enrich our parish life. Among them are the Blessing of the Animals, Remembrance Sunday, Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Christmas carol sings, a parish picnic, Stewardship in-gathering and harvest dinner, Mother's and Father's Day brunches, and study and book discussion groups.



Annual "Poetry Soup" Reading

The creative gifts are a particular joy to our people. We have among us artists, musicians, writers, quilters, historic costumers, chefs, expert gardeners, and cabinet makers. We celebrate these gifts in various ways—by folding them into our services and with exhibitions, readings, performances, and beautiful hand-crafted items which grace our church.

Leadership ~ Our wardens, vestry, and committee leaders are dedicated and faith-filled people who strive to lead Epiphany with wisdom and grace. This has been especially evident following the illness and death of our beloved Vicar, Gurdon Brewster, and a year later, the subsequent and much-lamented departure of our equally-beloved Priest-in-Charge, Clark West, who relocated with his family to the Midwest. In what could have been a rudderless situation, our leadership and our people have continued in hope and equanimity through this process of seeking a new priest. Our vestry meetings, unlike some we have heard of, are equable, without contention, and often laced with warm laughter.

Careful stewardship of our resources and our building and grounds has given us a church that is financially sound. Our building is beautiful in its simplicity, well-maintained, with recent insulation, new roof, new furnace, and as a dramatic background to the altar, a restored stained glass window of the Epiphany. Behind our building in a quiet and sheltered spot, we maintain a Memorial Garden for the interment of the ashes of our beloved deceased and their families, if they so wish.



Memorial Garden

Outreach ~ Our Outreach Committee meets regularly and using budgeted funds and additional funds generously donated by parishioners, distributes them to organizations and needs on local, national and international levels.

Community ~ Our church is set, like a little gem, in the Village of Trumansburg in the heart of the Finger Lakes where state parks, waterfalls, dramatic gorges and serene lakes abound. Our village with its tree-shaded homes and neat shops on Main Street is a neighbor to Ithaca, with its wealth of restaurants and interesting shops, and home to Cornell University and Ithaca College, with their many music and theater performances, lectures, and other events open to the public.

Our parish is a member of TAC (Trumansburg Area Churches), which is comprised of the pastors and representatives of village churches, meeting regularly and sharing in a number of ecumenical events.

We invite the reader to visit our website at <https://www.epiphanytrumansburg.org/> where you will find a link to our history, among other topics of interest. (Please note that our former Priest-in-Charge is still listed there as our clergy. This will be updated soon, hopefully with information about our new priest.)

In closing, we underscore that The Church of the Epiphany is a church with a stable, healthy foundation, joyfully open to the Holy Spirit and possessing a powerful desire to reach out with love and generosity to the world around us. Our new priest will find himself or herself warmly welcomed by a mature people eager to learn, to grow in faith, and to share our hearts. We invite you to consider becoming a shepherd to this little flock of dedicated Christians and to be part of the evolution of our collective journey of faith and service.



Prayerfully and sincerely yours,

The Church of the Epiphany Profile Committee,
on behalf of the vestry and our brothers and sisters in the parish.

