

On the mind of the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser...

Last week I visited Incarnation Camp in Ivoryton, Connecticut. Founded by our church in 1886, Incarnation Camp is the oldest co-ed summer camp in the United States. I was there to speak to the camp counselors and other staff as part of their orientation week before the campers arrived. I talked about the Episcopal history and identity of the camp. Then I took them through a celebration of Holy Eucharist to show them what will happen every Sunday night at Camp Chapel.

Summer camp can make a strong impression on a child. Just ask political and cultural commentator David Brooks, who spent his youth as an Incarnation camper and counselor from age 8 to 22. Incarnation Camp is one of the reasons Brooks eventually converted from Judaism to Christianity and became an Episcopalian.

Brooks has written about his experience at Incarnation Camp more than once for *The New York Times*. He points to the camp as a profound, formative influence in his life in three key areas:

- **Thick Institutions:** He describes the camp as a "thick institution" that leaves a mark. It is a community that doesn't just pass through your memory but becomes part of your identity and engages your whole person (head, hands, heart, and soul), teaching youth to form lifelong, loyal bonds away from the segmenting influences of modern society.
- **Social Range:** He highlights the camp as a deeply effective cross-class community that integrates youth from vastly different backgrounds—from affluent children of Wall Street executives to kids from the poorest areas of the Bronx—teaching campers social range and a rare capacity for unexpected friendships.
- **Lifelong Connections:** He writes movingly about how the camp fosters deep, enduring, lifelong connections. Friends become like family and support one another through trials and tribulations, shared grief, and navigating life's challenges over the years.

I hope Brooks would say the same thing about church. I for one can say it about Incarnation, and I know many of you can too. In fact, a few of our Vestry members testified to the life-changing power of this faith community at our recent Newcomers Reception.

If Incarnation has had a profound impact on your life, we want to hear about! Email me if you feel moved to share, and watch this space for parishioner testimonials. Some news is too good to keep to ourselves.

Adrian+

TODAY AFTER CHURCH

12:50 to 1:50 p.m. The Sunday Book Group meets in the Parish Conference Room for session four of our summer study of *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Bishop Maryann Budde.

2:45 p.m. Join the Episcopal Diocese of New York for the Pride March! The Marcher Formation Entrance is on W. 26th St. between 5th and 6th Aves. The Diocese has space for the first 100 marchers who sign up. Register here: bit.ly/4eROwKv.

STORYTIME AND PLANT WORKSHOP WITH OSBORNE KIDS

Saturday, July 25, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Children whose parents have been affected by the criminal justice system will gather in the Assembly Hall for lunch, followed by storytime and a plant workshop for kids. Parishioner Michael Wang will offer a reading of his book *Leif's Gift*. Michael will also demonstrate plant propagation, and children can decorate a small pot for planting.

This event is in partnership with the Osborne Association, part of our ministry to children of incarcerated parents. Volunteers are needed to set up before the event, help during the event, and clean up afterward. If you'd like to volunteer, speak to Vestry Member Eleanor Flach or email the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser (adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org).

JOURNEY BAGS FOR LOVED ONES LINK

Loved Ones Link, sponsored by the Osborne Association, is a free bus service that brings families to visit their incarcerated loved ones in prison. The service is designed to help families maintain crucial connections during incarceration that can strengthen their bonds and support successful reentry.

One of the ways Incarnation can help is by preparing “journey bags” filled with items such as toys, games, and snacks that help children and their caregivers pass the time on the bus and feel supported as they embark on a trip that can sometimes be difficult.

Our goal is to create 100 journey bags at a cost of \$12 each. You can participate by buying items from our Amazon Loved Ones Link gift registry: bit.ly/4wcnep5. Or you can donate toward the cost of the bags by scanning the QR code below:



We'll be assembling the bags after the 11:00 a.m. service on **Sunday, August 16**. Please join us!

GIVING FOR GOD'S HOLY PURPOSES

We're almost there! To date, **65 households have pledged to give a total of \$270,022** to Incarnation in 2026. We invite you to join them and help us reach our goal of **\$275,000**.

Fill out a Commitment Card at the back of the church or pledge online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your commitment to the life we share in Christ.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – HELP MAKE WORSHIP MEANINGFUL

Liturgy is the “work of the people” and requires a village of volunteers – ushers, lay readers, chalice bearers, altar guild, hospitality committee, and church tour guides. Volunteers get thin on the ground during summer months, and we welcome your help! If you would like to serve in leadership at either of our Sunday services, or simply learn what these ministries entail, please contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser.

IMPORTANT SUMMER ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Air Conditioning: We now have industrial fans in the church to keep it cool. Our air conditioning system (from the 1950s!) has served us well but is finally beyond repair. We are currently working with mechanical engineers to craft a plan for a newer, more eco-friendly system, which will be installed at the start of 2027. The fans should keep the church at a comfortable temperature for worship, and we encourage you to wear lightweight clothing once temperatures rise.

Summer Hiatus: We recently wrapped the program year. This means our Sunday morning Bible Study and certain other ministries go on hiatus for the summer. The Incarnation Choir also takes a break, and we enjoy individual soloists at the principal Sunday service. This summer we are also suspending Candlelight Communion on Thursday evenings starting in June. Candlelight Communion will return on September 10, the first Thursday after Labor Day. *Please note that Sunday School for children will continue through June.*

Open Church Hours: The slower rhythms of summer coincide with a lighter church calendar, but we there is one thing we're adding for the benefit of our surrounding community. We will have open church hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., as we already have on Wednesdays. We have seen an uptick in visitors during open church hours on Wednesdays and trust that making our sacred space more available will be well received. We might even designate an “organ hour” when our organ can play a prerecorded concert for anyone coming in off the street!