



The

Clarion

Volume 28, Issue 4, March 2024

A Monthly Publication



March Happenings



Day of Change: March 10th

As our clocks “spring forward”, we will once again collect loose change (bills gladly accepted too!) to support our Christ Church Food Pantry. Use your change to make a change in the lives of the hungry. Special baskets will be passed during the 8 and 10 am in-person services. If you would like to mail in an offering, send it into the office: Christ Church, 409 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio 45505.

Easter Flowers: Deadline: March 10th (*see back cover for the form*) Easter can be a wonderful time to remember loved ones with a gift to Christ Church for flowers.

Palm Sunday: March 24th

Join us at 8 AM for a Quiet Rite I service and/or 10 AM Festive Rite II service for The Liturgy of the Palms.

Maundy Thursday: March 28th at 7 pm

We remember Jesus’s mandate to break the bread and drink the cup together as we remember his life, death, and resurrection.

Good Friday: March 29th at 7 pm

On this most somber occasion, we recall the day of our Lord's execution. The Good Friday liturgy includes the full Passion Gospel, the Solemn Collects, and the Veneration of the Cross.

The Feast of the Resurrection: March 31st

Join us for 10 AM Festive Rite II service with choir and brass. On this holiest day of the Christian year, we rejoice at Christ's victory over the powers of death. ***There no 8:00 service on Easter Sunday.***

March Calendar at a Glance

Sun. 3/3 Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum

Tue. 3/5 Lenten Supper and Book Study 5:30 PM

Wed. 3/6 Pantry: 1st food pick-up at 8:00 AM

Thurs. 3/7 Virtual Prayer Service at Noon

Sun. 3/10 Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum **DAY OF CHANGE; EASTER FLOWERS ORDER DEADLINE**

Tue. 3/12 Lenten Supper and Book Study 5:30 PM

Wed. 3/13 Pantry: 2nd food pick-up at 8:00 AM

Thurs. 3/14 Pantry bagging day 9:00 AM; Virtual Prayer Service at Noon

Sun. 3/17 Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum

Tue. 3/19 Lenten Supper and Book Study 5:30 PM

Wed. 3/20 **PANTRY DAY** 8:15 AM;

Thurs. 3/21 Virtual Prayer Service at Noon; **Game Night**, Mother Stewart’s 6-8 PM

Sun. 3/24 **PALM SUNDAY** Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum; **How to Succeed in Springfield** 1:00 PM

Tue. 3/26 Lenten Supper and Book Study 5:30 PM

Thurs. 3/28 **MAUNDY THURSDAY** Virtual Prayer Service at Noon; Worship at 7 PM

Fri. 3/29 **GOOD FRIDAY** Service at 7pm

Sun. 3/31 **EASTER** Festive Rite II worship at 10 AM; **NO 8:00 service**

The Clarion

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Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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Provisional Bishop:

The Rt Rev. George Wayne Smith

Rector:

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard

Senior Warden:

Scott Yeazell

Junior Warden:

Steve Sharp

Music Director:

Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

**Parish Administrator/
Program Coordinator:**

Kelly Zeller

Facility Manager:

Paul McAfee

Bookkeeper:

Tina Knox

Clarion Editor:

Joyce Spangler



Church's Facebook page and Website. Be safe! Whatever the snow emergency level, use your best judgement to be safe.

If the Clark County Sheriff calls a Level 2 snow emergency, Christ Church is closed. If Christ Church has to close on a Sunday, we will send out an email via Newsnote, post it on Channel 7, and put it on the

Lenten Book Study

Join Christ Church, located at 409 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio 45505, during Lent on **Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 pm** for a supper and discussion of the Way of Love. Living the Way of Love is a 40-day devotional with each day's reading including a reference to a passage of Scripture and a short reflection on one of the seven steps in Bishop Michael Curry's "Way of Love" path to a Jesus-centered life.

African Bible Study

As we approach the Lenten Season, Pat Cary and Keith Doubt would like to invite people at Christ Church to join us for African Bible Study. We meet **online at 1 PM on Wednesdays**. If interested, send Keith an email at keithdoubt@123mail.org and he will tell you how to join.

Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday, 2024



March



Experiencing Lent as a Community, and as an Individual

This Lent, I launched a sermon series on institutional sin. Also known as collective sin or corporate sin (or – in Augustinian terms, concupiscence), institutional sin refers to the ways in which the way our life is organized keep us from God. In some ways, decisions made long before we were born limit our choices today, and keep us from the realm that God had imagined for us.

For those of us who normally think of sin as something an individual does, this might be quite a change. It sees sin as something that happens in community, and something that therefore affects a community. For some, it may seem as if this ducks the problem – blaming society for what one person does. For others, it may seem depressing: knowing that God has something beautiful in mind for us, which we cannot attain in this world, because of things seemingly beyond our control. But, I imagine (I hope) it is reassuring as well: sometimes, when we struggle to see good in the world, or to do the work of God, it helps to understand the reasons why we struggle. If it seems like we are swimming upstream to return to God's perfection, it's because in many ways, we are. But, if I've been focusing on society throughout most of Lent, I'd like us to focus a bit more on the individual during Holy Week, and how God is present with each of us.

Palm Sunday on some level serves as the perfect pivot from our observance of Lent, to Holy Week. As we celebrate Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, let us focus a minute on what it felt like to be in the crowd. The crowd that celebrated, but also turned. Let remember those times when we have been swept away – whether in moments of joy, or of anger. Palm Sunday invites us to find ourselves as individuals, in the midst of a mob. It brings us back, to remember that while sin might affect all of society, God

reveals Godself to each of us, individually. God seeks a unique relationship with each of us.

On Maundy Thursday, as we gather to remember the Last Supper, let us remember that Jesus invited each person to the table, knowing exactly who they were. Jesus knew he would be betrayed and denied. And yet, Jesus dined with all the disciples. More significantly, Jesus insisted on bathing their care-worn, calloused feet. Maundy Thursday invites us to show our most vulnerable selves to Jesus.

On Good Friday, we recount the story of the crucifixion. Let us remember that Jesus didn't have to be crucified. But Jesus submitted to the most degrading type of punishment, to show that nothing could separate us from God, and that God could be present in even the most horrific moments. Good Friday invites us to see God in the midst of the worst of humanity, in the places we find grace most unimaginable. It reminds us that Jesus forgives the seemingly unforgiveable, and will forgive us, too.

And, of course, there is Easter: the day of celebration and rejoicing. Without the emotions of Holy Week before, Easter pales in significance. But, for those who have walked through Lent and Holy Week, Easter is a most special remembrance that God can truly bring good out of horror – whether that's the horror of social sin, or of individual emotion, vulnerability, or suffering. At Easter, we celebrate as a community. We celebrate Jesus's triumph as an individual over those things that we fear most, and those evils that lurk in the worst of society.

Easter comes at the very end of March this year. Lent and Holy Week help to prepare us, to remind us why it is the greatest celebration of all – for us as individuals, and our communities, too.



Worship... Offering meaningful, relevant, and welcoming worship in the Episcopal tradition for people of all ages.



Altar Flowers

2024 Altar Flower Dedication Chart

If you would like to sponsor the Altar flowers for 2024 in memory of or thanksgiving for someone or something, e-mail Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com. Please be very specific in what or who you are dedicating the altar flowers, and if you have a particular choice of flower. The suggested donation is \$45.

April 14th

May 12th

June 9th

July 14th and 28th

August 11th and 18th

November 24th



Watch Us on YouTube

Here's how to watch our services on YouTube: First, open the YouTube app on your smart TV.

- Go to "Search." Enter *Christ Church Springfield*. As you enter *Christ Church Spr*, a list will appear on the left side of the screen. Do **NOT** type *Christ Episcopal*. If you do, our church will not appear on the list.
- Select *Christ Church Springfield*, about the third one down. That's all there is to it!

Thursday Chapel Virtual Noonday Prayer Services

Judy Johnson offers a Noonday Prayer service on Christ Church's Facebook page at noon. (facebook.com/christspringfield.org/) The service's text is located on p. 103 in the Book of Common Prayer or online at <https://www.bcponline.org>

Revised Common LECTIONARY

March				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
3/03	Exodus 20:1-17	19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
3/10	Numbers 21:4-9	107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
3/17	Jeremiah 31:31-34	51:1-13	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-30
3/24	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15
3/31	Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2, 14, 24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18



Each month this column will highlight a different ministry in hopes that we can assist parishioners in becoming more familiar with the ministries that Christ Church supports.

Habitat for Humanity

Since 1976, Habitat for Humanity has brought people together nationally to help build homes for people who would not otherwise be able to afford home ownership. The Clark County branch of Habitat is part of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Dayton which serves Montgomery, Greene, and Clark Counties. Currently, Clark County Habitat is working on finishing two homes in New Carlisle. They still have a ways to go to finish the insides, but they are hoping that volunteers will be able to complete the homes this Spring. Because housing is a significant crisis, Habitat's work is more important than ever.

Habitat offers several ways to support their organization:

- **FLEX YOUR MUSCLES!** Those interested in helping with physical labor can contribute to the construction and finishing work of the actual structures.
- **SHOP!** The ReStore, located at 2990 Derr Road and open Monday-Saturday, offers everything from cabinets to toilets to home décor.
- **DONATE!** The ReStore also takes donations of gently used major household items (check with them to make sure they can take your donation).
- **FILL A BANK!** Christ Church parishioners will have the opportunity to fill Habitat banks during the month of March to financially support the organization. This can be spare change or bills of any denomination. Anyone wishing to participate in this project can pick up a bank at the east entrance or see Linda Mortensen after the 10 AM service.

One of Habitat's staff recently mentioned that the support that Clark County has received from Christ Church over the years has been a huge encouragement to their team!

REMINDER: Her Story, highlighted in the February *Clarion*, is having its annual fundraiser on March 2nd at 11 AM at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Christ Church is sponsoring the event. We have set a goal of sending 8–12 people from our congregation to learn more about the valuable work of the ministry and to enjoy connecting in ways that might support the ministry practically and financially. Visit <https://www.herstoryhouse.com/better-together-2024.html> to register (please specify Christ Church on your registration), and contact Linda Mortensen linda.c.mort@gmail.com so we can have an accurate count of who is attending.

March Birthdays

Alan Ladd	Mar 1
Rick Everingham	Mar 1
Joann Albright	Mar 2
Judy McGregor	Mar 8
Wayne Southward	Mar 14
Deb Southward	Mar 16
Babs Reed	Mar 16
Olivia Chitkara	Mar 17
Ian Shelburne	Mar 18
Traudie Milleck	Mar 25
Lori Swafford	Mar 27
Wade Smith	Mar 28

March Anniversary

Wayne and Deb Southward	Mar 15
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Hospitality...welcoming, nurturing, and supporting the members of our parish and greater community.

ONLINE GIVING

- Go to christsspringfield.org or use the QR code at right.
- Go to the tab in the upper right-hand corner marked “Online Giving.”
- Click on the blue online giving link.
- Fill in the amount you want to give.
- Next, use the drop box **Pledged Giving** for a pledge or **Miscellaneous Giving** for other giving.
- If you choose **Miscellaneous Giving**, there is another memo drop box for giving type. Choose one.
- Complete the rest of the form.
- Press “Continue.”
- On the next page, press “Continue.”
- Enter your **billing information**.
- Thank you! If you have questions or concerns, contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com.



All are welcome to join the “We Should Do Something Group!” They meet at different locations once a month to play a variety of board and card games. The next meeting will be

Thursday, March 21st from 6-8 PM at Mother Stewart’s. Feel free to bring a friend or a game to share. If you have questions, contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christsspringfield.org.



Join us to explore the season of Lent through poetry. Each week, a parishioner will lead a discussion to unpack a poem’s theme.

March 3 - Judy Johnson

March 10 - Anne Strothman

March 17 - Fred Bartenstein

March 24 - Marjory Wentworth



If you like to make soup *and* nurture others, this is the ministry for you! Place homemade soup in disposable containers

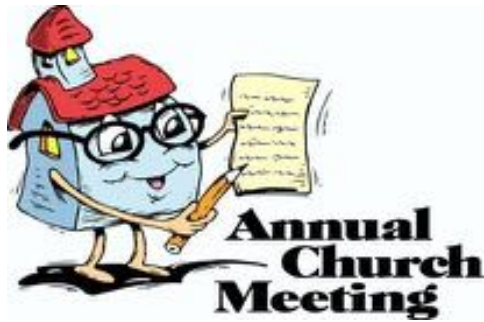
(labeled with the type of soup and date) in the church refrigerator and then let Kelly know <zellerk0611@gmail.com> that you’ve dropped it off. The soup is used to provide a little TLC for parishioners. Thanks so much for considering helping with this ministry.

Church Staff

- **Rector:** The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard
- **Senior Warden:** Scott Yeazell
- **Jr. Warden:** Steve Sharp
- **Treasurer:** Ken Bladh
- **Clerk of Vestry:** Kelly Zeller
- **Parish Administrator/Program Coordinator:** Kelly Zeller
- **Music Director:** Dr. Christopher Durrenberger
- **Facility Manager:** Paul McAfee
- **Bookkeeper:** Tina Knox

Your Vestry at Large

- Rick Everingham, Bill Hicks, Joy Meyers, Anne Strothman, Lori Swafford, and Marjory Wentworth



Results of the 190th Annual Meeting

During the Annual Meeting held February 25th, 2024, the following business of the church was conducted:

- **Marjory Wentworth** and **Anne Strothman** were elected by acclamation to positions of Vestry at Large.
- **Kay Koeninger**, **Steve Sharp**, and **Brian Shelburne** were elected by acclamation as delegates to the diocesan convention:
- Retiring Vestry members **Linda Mortensen** and **Kay Koeninger** were thanked for their service.
- **Anita Beardsell** was honored for her service as she retires from Altar Guild.
- Reports were given by **The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard**, Sr. Warden, **Scott Yeazell**, Jr. Warden, **Steve Sharp**, and Treasurer, **Ken Bladh**.



Empty Bowls

The annual Wittenberg University Empty Bowls is **Thursday, April 4th** from 4:30–7 PM (Central Dining Room, Student Center of the Wittenberg Campus). Bowls are \$20, which includes a humble meal of soup and bread. The goal is to raise \$50,000 this year. All proceeds go to Second Harvest Food Bank. For more information, contact Scott Dooley (937-327-6327 or sdooley@wittenberg.edu).



If you were unable to attend the annual meeting on February 25th, or have not picked up your updated directory yet, please check the greeter table in the East Entrance.

Scenes from Shrove Tuesday 2024





Outreach... helping to provide the physical, material, social, and spiritual needs in Springfield and beyond

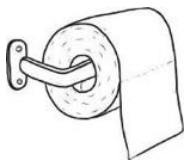
A big **THANK YOU!** to all the pantry volunteers! At the February Food Pantry, we served over 140 households! Clients were offered chicken quarters and drumsticks, ground beef, fish, pork, cereal, eggs, chips, canned goods, fresh produce, and the extras of toilet paper, pet food, soap, toiletries, baggies, and cleaning supplies. The clients are always grateful, and volunteers have a good time! To volunteer, please contact Brian Shelburne at bshelburne@wittenberg.edu, Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com, or Anne Randolph at annejrand@aol.com.

The March Drive-thru Pantry will be on the 20th. Volunteers are needed to:

- help pick up and unload food,
- help bag food, and
- help with customer service.

	Time	March
1 st Food Pick-Up	8:00 AM	6
2 nd Food Pick-Up	8:00 AM	13
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	14
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	20

Groceries are pre-bagged so that on pantry distribution day, filled bags can be placed directly into client's cars. If you can commit a block of 3–4 hours on **March 14**, let Brian Shelburne know. Most groceries should be bagged by **March 20**.



TP Donations

Thanks to all who continue to donate TP. Ours is one of the few pantries to give out this necessary item. A donation of a package of toilet paper is a great contribution to this amazing ministry! Place donations in (or near) the basket outside the elevator on the upper level.

Woof! Woof! Purr...



There's a growing need for pet food in our community. If you would like to donate, place your dog food, cat food, or dog biscuits in the black receptacle in the East Entrance or email Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com to drop it off at the Parish office. Donations are distributed through the Food Pantry. Hungry cats and dogs and their humans thank you!

Reminder from the Outreach Team

Please continue to \$AVE PENNIES for the Warder Literacy Center & PULL-TABS for Dayton Ronald McDonald House. Rolls or baggies of pennies and pull-tabs can be dropped in the Hollenbeck House mail slot or placed in the church building. THANKS in advance for everyone's continual support!

Client's Choice Table

Our pantry provides a miscellaneous table, AKA the clients choice table. We accept donations for this table and also order items from Second Harvest. Below is a list of some items not covered by SNAP that are greatly appreciated.

- foil, waxed paper, plastic wrap, plastic storage bags
- trash bags and paper towels
- paper plates/bowls, plastic utensils
- soap: laundry, body, or hand soap
- cleaning products: window cleaner, bathroom cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, etc.
- diapers
- hygiene items: feminine products, deodorant
- salt and pepper, herbs, and spices must be unopened



Easter Flowers

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is a wonderful time to remember loved ones with a gift to Christ Church of flowers. Please email Kelly Zeller at Zellerk0611@gmail.com with your dedication, drop it in the offering plate along with your donation, or mail it in with your donation to the office: 409 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio 45505. **The deadline is Sunday, March 10th.**

Donor(s) _____

In thanksgiving for _____

In memory of _____
