



The

Clarion

Volume 28, Issue 4, April 2024

A Monthly Publication

Hope Rising Convocation with Bishop White for the Northwest Region April 28th at 4 PM St. George's, Dayton

All congregations in our region are encouraged to participate in a special service and reception to welcome our new bishop, The Rt. Rev. Kristin Uffelman White! We will begin with Choral Evensong followed by a special reception to hear from Bishop White, have conversation with her, and learn more about the congregations in our area. Although it is not essential for you to RSVP, it will be helpful. Please go to <https://forms.gle/zHD7Bezhhc8ddgyKA> to RSVP. This event will be held at St. George's, 5520 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton, OH 45429.



For participating Kroger Plus Card holders, **April is Annual Re-Enrollment Month!** Just follow the instructions listed below, and Christ Church receives a rebate based on your purchases for another year!

This needs to be completed by April 30th.

1. Access www.krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Sign in with your email address and password
3. Click on "My Account"
4. Scroll down to Community Rewards
5. Click "Edit"
6. Enter our organization number (**80354**) and click "Search"
7. The church's information will appear
8. Click on "Enroll"
9. That's it!

April Happenings at a Glance

- Wed. 4/3 Pantry: 1st food pick-up at 8:00 AM
- Thurs. 4/4 Virtual Prayer Service at Noon; Empty Bowls at Wittenberg 4:30-7 PM
- Sat. 4/6 Care Portal Training
- Sun. 4/7 Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum; Lily distribution
- Tues. 4/9 Bible Study 4:00 PM
- Wed. 4/10 Pantry: 2nd food pick-up at 8:00 AM
- Thurs. 4/11 Pantry bagging day 9:00 AM; Virtual Prayer Service at Noon
- Sun. 4/14 Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum
- Tues. 4/16 Bible Study 4:00 PM
- Wed. 4/17 **PANTRY DAY** 8:15 AM
- Thurs. 4/18 Virtual Prayer Service at Noon; **Game Night**, Mother Stewart's 6-8
- Sat. 4/20 Procter Open House 3-5
- Sun. 4/21 Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum
- Tues. 4/23 Bible Study 4:00 PM
- Thurs. 4/25 Virtual Prayer Service at Noon
- Sat. 4/27 Churchyard clean-up 10-1
- Sun. 4/28 Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum; Bishop Reception at St George's, Dayton
- Tues. 4/30 Bible Study 4:00 PM

The Clarion

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Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Kristin Uffelman White

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



“Day of Change” Results

As the clocks were springing forward one hour, we brought our change to church. Thanks to your generosity, \$153.93 has been given to the Christ Church Food Pantry to support their work in feeding hungry people of Springfield.



There are so many people to thank for helping everything to run smoothly so we all could experience a meaningful Holy Week and festive Easter Day! To name a few:

- ... all who helped with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter services.
- ... the Altar Guild for all of their extra work during Holy Week and Easter.
- ... the Christ Church Director, Choir, and The Brass for the extra music during Holy Week and Easter.
- ... the Lectors, Ushers, and Chalice Bearers!
- ... and many more!!

ONLINE GIVING

- Go to christspringfield.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.





Michelle's Musings
On Expecting Miracles

As I write this, the world (or at least, North America) is preparing for the total eclipse on April 8; making travel plans, in some cases; closing businesses and schools in others. It's worth musing a bit about how very revolutionary that statement is. While astronomers thousands of years ago (including the Mesopotamians, the Chinese, and possibly the Mayans) noticed the patterns of solar darkening and began to predict when they would occur, the ability to pinpoint exactly when and where such things might happen is only about two hundred years old. And, while scientists and scholars might have wanted to visit the site of such phenomena, rarely did ordinary people do so – or even know when they were going to happen. Most of the time, peasants, merchants, and city dwellers had no idea, even if their neighbors in nearby universities or castles did. For the majority of people, for the majority of history, eclipses were unexpected, and terrifying.

Today they are cool.

As science and public education for the masses have advanced, our world has become more predictable in many ways, and less terrifying. We no longer blame witches for crop failures. From my modest perspective, this is for the best. Admittedly, that's because I remember doing a humorous online quiz a number of years ago entitled "Why is the Inquisition after you?" – suffice it to say, a lot of my seminary- or university-educated female friends seemed to be witches.

But, as we have grown more educated, I wonder if we haven't lost some of our ability to wonder. To stand in awe or amazement. And, our ability to contemplate the more important things in life.

For some of us, the springtime, with the buds emerging from seemingly nothing, and seeds sprouting without warning, fill us with joy and wonder. For others, we can point to the scientific processes that lead to this growth, or point out quite rationally that the seeds are sprouting exactly where we had planted them. We have an explanation. We have more – we have an expectation that seeds WILL sprout. That colds WILL resolve after we pop a pill. Science brings certainty, not wonder.

And, the flip side is also true. For many people, the Bible is unbelievable, because miracles like the Resurrection or the crossing of the Red Sea could never happen. (This is not a new sentiment, by the way. Thomas Jefferson famously edited all of the impossible stories out of his Bible, and was left with a very thin volume to read). Or, they try to explain "how God did it."

But the amazing sights of nature aren't miracles because we can't explain them. And, they aren't any less miraculous because we think we know how God did it, or because we have the ability to predict them. They are miracles because God created a world in which they were possible, and created us with the capacity to wonder about them.

Bring on the eclipse. Give thanks for the knowledge that allowed us to predict it (and the knowledge that creates safety glasses to watch it). And, give thanks to God for the amazing things God does every day.

-Michelle+



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

LITURGY NOTES

In April, we will try a slightly new thing during our 10 o'clock service. Instead of a full sequence hymn, which we normally sing after the Epistle, we'll sing a shorter chorus, sometimes (inaccurately) called a Gospel acclamation. In this case, we'll sing the refrain and a single verse from Hymn 178, "Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord."

Doing this will emphasize the fact that the Gospel is Good News, for Christ is present in it. This is why we sing Alleluia. Also, the short refrain will be easier for our younger members to learn and remember – I'm hoping it will be something familiar for them throughout this month. We might also then teach them that when we hear this song and see the Gospel being processed into the middle of the church, we turn our bodies to follow it (like sunflowers follow the sun, in the words of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry).

We'll go back to singing longer sequence hymns in May. However, there is a chance that the acclamations will return for brief periods in the future.



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

April				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
04/07	Acts 4: 32-35	133	1 John 1: 1-2:2	John 20: 19-31
04/14	Acts 3: 12-19	4	1 John 3: 1-7	Luke 24: 36b-48
04/21	Acts 4: 5-12	23	1 John 3: 16-24	John 10: 11-18
04/28	Acts 8: 26-40	22:24-30	1 John 4: 7-21	John 15: 9-17



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.

Jefferson Street Oasis Garden (JSO)

Located at 1100 West Jefferson Street
More parking behind the Children's Rescue Center 1027 West High

Spring has sprung and JSO is preparing for its 12th growing season!

What was conceived in 2010 and started in 2012 with only 4-5 plots is now the current **Pollinator Garden** in the middle of the **4 Quadrants**, each of which have 12-15 plots. An **Annex Garden** provided another 25 plots, and this year over 100 plots additional plots will be available in an **Extension Garden**. Plots range in size from 15'x15' to 30'x30'. Assignments are based on tenure, family size, and ability. These allotment style plots are provided at no-charge to individuals and families, civic organizations, churches, and educational institutions. Tillage and seeds are provided free and various implements are available for use.

The **Children's Garden** has 20 raised beds where kids can get their thumbs green and learn first-hand about photosynthesis, pollination, and the growth habits of various vegetables. A **Children's Cottage/ Clubhouse** stores tools and educational materials.

The **Poly House/Hoop House** allows year-round gardening as well as a place to start seeds in the spring. Last summer a **Shelter House** was erected and a concrete floor poured in anticipation of a **Summer Kitchen** for canning and washing vegetables for immediate storage in fridge or freezer when taken home.

In cooperation with Cheryl Fitzgerald/**City Chicks**, a neighborhood-based social enterprise raising egg laying hens, JSO offers organic eggs for its gardeners on a rotating

basis. This also provides an opportunity for gardeners and volunteers to learn what is involved with raising hens for egg production.

Community Events At "**Grilling in the Garden**" the community can come see for themselves one of Springfield's best kept secrets, taste for free the variety of vegetables produced, and experience the many ways to prepare them. This year the event will piggyback onto **South Side in Bloom Tour, SAT. JULY 27th 10AM-4 PM.**

JSO's mission is to address food insecurity by providing garden plots and programs that promote health and wellness as well as making participants self-sufficient in growing, preparing, and preserving their own food. Our plan produced the following results in 2023:

- 82 individuals/families having plots which provided 450 family members & friends of gardeners receiving the benefit of 1000 pounds of fresh produce.
- 40 education classes with over 460 total participants
- 1 Shelter House and 6 Wheelchair-Accessible Raised Garden Beds

Our future depends on the social and physical infrastructure to thrive:

- **People:** Volunteers, Board Leadership, Paid Garden Manager. Note that your time can count twice if you Volunteer through USS/Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) or United Way's Volunteer United - 13+ or during CC Community Service Day.
- **Organic Soil Amendments**, ie Bacteria Based Compost
- **Equipment:** Ongoing Maintenance & Replacement of current equipment

The Jefferson Street Oasis Garden would like to thank Christ Episcopal for their continued financial support of their efforts through Outreach Grants as well as participation in their fundraising Efforts such as Rudy's Smokehouse Giving Tuesdays (watch for coupon on Facebook & Kroger & other Community Boards)

Individual donations can be mailed to:

Jefferson St. Oasis Garden
P.O. Box 2812, Springfield, OH 45501*

NOTE: There is no mailbox at the garden.



Procter Center Open House

Did you know that our Diocese's Camp and Conference Center is just 35 minutes away? They offer a wide variety of programs, including camps for all ages (including "silver adults"), conferences, and retreats. They are also expanding their farm program and offer Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares.

Procter will be hosting an Open House on **Saturday, April 20**, from 3 to 5. It's a great opportunity to see what they have to offer.

The Open House will include

- Farm Tours
- Cabin and Lodge Tours
- Summer Camp Info Session
- Lake Activities – Canoeing and Fishing
- Games – Cornhole and Basketball
- Crafts and Activities
- Summer Camp Info Session
- Food Trucks
- Group Rental and Retreat Info Sessions
- CSA Program Sign-Up
- Raffle
- Farm Shop

Bring the friends and family! See what Procter can offer as a retreat and meeting space, as well as what it means to be a camper. Take in the grounds during one of our site tours, then enjoy dinner from the food trucks as you relax under our Pavilion, overlooking the 10-acre lake. This is also a chance to get the kids out to play at Procter! If you'd like to go, let them know so they can expect you. Fill out this form:

<https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/let-us-know-youll-be-here/>

Calling All Gardeners!

Do you have a strong back, a green thumb, or just a love of making the church grounds welcoming? If so, consider joining us for a monthly grounds spruce-up from 10 AM–1 PM (with a possible group lunch following) on the 4th Saturday, April to October. We welcome Christ Church parishioners as well as their friends and families! As a master gardener and coordinator, I propose the following dates (with rain dates, if needed): **April 27; May 25; June 29; July 27; August 24; September 29; and October 26**. Anyone who wants to focus on general cleanup is welcome too!

Please:

- bring your own tools for weeding, planting, watering, and cleaning the parking area on April 27,
- contact Linda Gatten Butler (937-408-6295; linda1950@ameritech.net) to confirm your interest by April 25th, and
- network with your friends and family for volunteering, networking, and experiencing this rewarding NEW opportunity.



Thanks, and blessings,

Linda Gatten Butler



Hospitality...welcoming, nurturing, and supporting the members of our parish and greater community.

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



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, April 18th from 6-8 PM at Mother Stewart’s**. ** NOTE: there won’t be a food truck at Mother Stewarts, so feel free to bring your own meal.** Feel free to bring a friend or a game to share. If you have questions, contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christsspringfield.org.



Join us in April for All Things Episcopal!

April 7: No forum

April 14: Ask Rev. Michelle anything (about Episcopal things...) – Join us for an informal chat in the parish hall, to answer everything you ever wondered about the Episcopal Church, and Christ Episcopal Church’s practices. You can submit questions anonymously in advance or just ask them as we chat. What color were the Lenten vestments, and why did they change? What’s with the big candle? All will be revealed!

April 21: Getting started with Morning Prayer (or any of the other daily offices) – a brief introduction to the liturgy of Morning Prayer, and how to make the most of the offices in the Prayer Book.

April 28: Updates from Province V – This year, Rev. Michelle was elected to serve as the clergy delegate to the April Province V synod. Join us for an overview of what happened there.



Bring Your Own Bible Study will be held in Hollenbeck House from **4–5 PM on Tuesdays starting April 9th**. Join us for fellowship, insight, and maybe a little inspiration as we study the book of Genesis together. Feel free to bring your favorite Bible translation to share.



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.



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).



Help share Easter joy!

On **Sunday, April 7** (the second Sunday of Easter) you can help share Easter joy by bringing one of our lilies to a parishioner who is unable to come to church. We will provide the lilies and the names and addresses - all you provide is the smile. Please consider joining our effort. If you have questions, contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christsspringfield.org.



Birthdays

Ann Summers.....	Apr 11
David Warren	Apr-11
Gretchen Hicks	Apr-13
Richard Martin	Apr-13
Alice Kelly.....	Apr 14
Kay Koeninger	Apr-16
Wendy DeLong.....	Apr-20
Keith Doubt.....	Apr-23
Bonnie Shelburne	Apr-24
Rand Smith.....	Apr-26

Anniversary

Vijay & Ann Chitkara.....	April 22
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You are invited to the
7th annual

PERENNIAL PLANT SWAP

MAY 25th, 10 AM–1 PM

270 S. Broadmoor, Springfield 45504

"4 for \$5" (Bring 5 perennials in labeled, disposable containers and pay \$5 fee.)

No perennials? No problem!

Pay \$10 fee; Leave with 4 perennials!

Proceeds benefit Clark County

MASTER GARDENERS!!!

For more info, contact Linda Butler
(linda1950@ameritech.net; 937-408-6295)



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

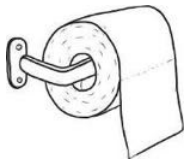
A big **THANK YOU!** to all the pantry volunteers! At the March Food Pantry, we served over 140 households! Clients were offered a chicken, ground beef, fish sticks, assorted meat, canned salmon, cereal, eggs, chips, canned goods, fresh produce, and the extras of toilet paper, pet food, soap, toiletries, 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 April Drive-thru Pantry will be on the 17th. Volunteers are needed to:

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

	Time	April
1 st Food Pick-Up	8:00 AM	3
2 nd Food Pick-Up	8:00 AM	10
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	11
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	17

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 **April 11**, let Brian Shelburne know. Most groceries should be bagged for distribution by **April 17**.



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



Palm Sunday~ March 24th, 2024



RESPONDER TRAINING

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH

10:00 AM- NOON

(light snacks provided)

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

409 E HIGH ST.

...



SESSIONS:

- ✔ Best practices around meeting needs
- ✔ Identifying trauma & its impact on the people we serve.
- ✔ Understanding poverty's affect on the families we serve.
- ✔ Establishing good relationships with our CarePortal Requesters.

For more info contact:

Interested in doing more with CarePortal?

In January, we heard a bit about CarePortal, an online platform that helps connect families in need with churches who are able to help. Christ Church has been using CarePortal for several months, but it would be more effective if we had a team of people who responded to the needs of families in Springfield. Christ Church will host a training on **April 6th from 10 am until noon** for churches across the county who would like to be part of this ministry. If you would like to get more involved, or just know more, talk to Rev. Michelle.