



The

# Clarion

Volume 28, Issue 5, May 2024

A Monthly Publication



## Feast of Pentecost Sunday, May 19th

Pentecost is a time of gratitude for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for the Spirit's movement in ourselves and all of Creation. Pentecost is a day (and a season) to recognize the Spirit's action in our lives and in the world.

The Feast of Pentecost is also a day traditionally designated for Baptisms in the Episcopal Church. If you or anyone in your family would like to be baptized, please let Rev. Michelle know as soon as possible so that we can do the necessary preparations before **May 19<sup>th</sup>** at [mboomgaard@christspringfield.org](mailto:mboomgaard@christspringfield.org) or call the Church Office (937-323-8651).



**Don't Forget to Wear Red!**

### May Happenings at a Glance

**Wed. 5/1** Pantry: food delivery at 8:00 AM; Bible Study 4:00 PM

**Thurs. 5/2** Virtual Prayer Service at Noon

**Sun. 5/5** Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum: CARE PORTAL

**Wed. 5/8** Bible Study 4:00 PM

**Thurs. 5/9** Pantry bagging day 9:00 AM; Virtual Prayer Service at Noon

**Sun. 5/12** Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum: Women and the Lectionary

**Wed. 5/15** **PANTRY DAY** 8:15 AM; Bible Study 4:00 PM

**Thurs. 5/16** Virtual Prayer Service at Noon; Game Night @ Cohatch, 6-8 pm

**Sat. 5/18** Yard Clean-up Day, 10-1

**Sun. 5/19** **Feast of Pentecost;** Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Meeting after the 10 am service: Nurturing our Youngest Members; Oakwood service at 1 pm

**Wed. 5/22** Bible Study 4:00 PM

**Thurs. 5/23** Virtual Prayer Service at Noon

**Sun. 5/26** Worship at 8 & 10 AM  
Outreach meeting after the 10 am service in the Parish Hall.

**Wed. 5/29** Bible Study 4:00 PM

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*Christ Episcopal Church*  
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard

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Joyce Spangler



The Church Office will be closed on May 27<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day. Please plan accordingly!



## On Home Communion

First, the big announcement: Christ Episcopal Church has commissioned Eucharistic Visitors again! Once fully licensed, these two teams – Jack and Dawn Ivy, and Keith and Susan Doubt – will be making regular visits to members of the parish who are unable to attend church on Sunday mornings. I'm happy that they will be taking part in this important ministry.

But it's important to consider why this ministry is so important, and what it is really all about. And, I suppose, what it is not about.

At the risk of stating the obvious, Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) visit. They are licensed by the Diocese (and supervised by their clergy or other pastoral body) to personally call on members of the parish. On a merely practical level, they add a great deal to the efforts of the clergy and the pastoral care team, who offer support and companionship to those who cannot come to church.

But a Eucharistic Visit offers more than that. The visit is meant to be an extension of the Sunday worship service. Indeed, in the Early Church (the Church in the first few centuries after Christ), people would go to worship, and then immediately take what was left to share with families who could not attend. In a way, the service didn't end until the last people had been visited.

We recreate that idea, a bit, in church. When we send people out, we do so immediately after all of us at church have had a chance to have Communion. We use the wafers and wine that were consecrated at that service. The Eucharistic Visitors will usually also bring with them a bulletin from that particular service, and during their visit, they will likely talk a bit about the readings and other things that happened in church that day. It's meant to bring the experience of church to those who cannot attend.

Equally importantly, Eucharistic Visitors embody the fact that we are a community at prayer. Those who cannot be with us physically are still a part of our community. Visits from Lay Eucharistic Visitors embody that – members of the congregation praying together on Sunday and partaking of the sacraments, just in a place that's not church. These visits just feel different than a visit from the priest, and they're supposed to.



I should also point out that visits from LEVs are not meant to replace visits from clergy; as I noted, they are different. I will still be visiting people as well. In part, this is because there are sacramental acts that priests offer (absolution, blessing, “last rites”) that lay people cannot. More importantly, I feel it is important for any clergy person to maintain a connection with all the members of the congregation. But I also believe it’s important for every member to feel that they remain a part of the congregation, even if they cannot come to church in person. LEVs help make that connection.

Since I’ve been ordained, I’ve noticed that sometimes, when I call to set up a visit with someone who cannot come to church, they hesitate. It’s not a good time, they say, or the house is a mess. But, Eucharistic Visits (and clergy visits) are not meant to be social calls. They are meant to share the love of God. God understands messes. And so do priests and LEVs.

Long before I was ordained, I served as a LEV. (Back then, they were called Pastoral Visiting Lay Eucharistic Ministers, or PVLEMs, which did not exactly roll off the tongue.) It was at times a very difficult ministry. But I have some very happy memories as well. For example, I remember visiting a fellow choir member who was on complete bedrest due to a difficult pregnancy. I have fond memories of bringing her communion, with her toddler daughter joining us and babbling throughout our visit (yes, she received Communion, too). But my favorite memory is from my last month or two of being at that parish—the parish I had attended throughout most of my PhD program. When I finally defended my dissertation, they all offered their congratulations. One man even offered to take me to lunch to celebrate. I didn’t

know him very well, so I held off on accepting. Shortly before I was about to move away for my first teaching job, he had a massive heart attack. My rector was about to leave on vacation, but I asked if I could bring him Communion that Sunday.

She agreed. I found a few of his friends from church, and we all tramped to the hospital. We found him, alone – a man who had usually seemed robust and healthy looked a bit lost, and pale (for an Afro-Caribbean man, this was startling). There was a look of surprise and joy in his eyes as we knocked on his door. We said hello, and asked how he was doing. We chatted about church, read the lessons, reviewed the sermon, said the prayers. We shared the bread and wine and the love of God. We embodied the prayers of everyone who had been at church that day and prayed for his recovery.

We stayed much longer than we should have. He was exhausted and weak, but he didn’t want to say goodbye. But we knew we had to go. At the door, I told him, “I may not be able to take you up on your offer of lunch, but I think this meal was better.”

Eucharistic Visitors offer holy meals and comfort. I am delighted that we will once again have Eucharistic Visitors ministering in our parish.

*Hope Rising Convocation with Bishop White for the Northwest Region.*





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



Bring Your Own Bible Study is held in Hollenbeck House from **4–5 PM on Wednesdays**. 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.



*Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.*  
ACTS 2:3, NRSV



**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/](https://www.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**

<b>May</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>First Lesson</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Lesson</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
May 5	Acts 10: 44–48	98	1 John 5: 1–6	John 15: 9–17
May 12	Acts 1: 15–17, 21–26	1	1 John 5:9–13	John 17: 6–19
May 19	Ezekiel 37: 1–14	104: 25–35, 37	Acts 2: 1–21	John 15:26–27, 16:4b–15
May 26	Isaiah 6:1–8	29	Romans 8:12–17	John 3: 1–17



*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.*

### Partners in Ministry in Liberia

This month we highlight Partners in Ministry in Liberia (PIMIL), a connection we have had through Mother Abeoseh (Mother Abby) who has presided at Christ Church services several times. Christ Church has been sponsoring two young men, Solomon and Joseph, to finish high school. They and their families are profoundly grateful for the sponsorship Christ Church has provided for these many years and both young men are set to graduate this year. Solomon hopes to receive further education to become a nurse, and Joseph desires to become an IT specialist. It is because of the money our Outreach Committee has designated for years that these two young men are on their way to careers that will lift themselves and their families out of poverty. To see more about PIMIL, visit their website at [www.pimil.org](http://www.pimil.org) or visit the Liberian Episcopal Community in the United States at [www.lecusa.net](http://www.lecusa.net).

### Freedom School

This month we would also like to highlight an opportunity to support the Freedom School program that Christ Church has supported over the years. This laudable program is held at Covenant United Methodist Church. It teaches children at risk of losing their reading skills over the summer and provides enrichment activities that enhance their learning. Covenant Freedom School will hold a benefit concert at the John Legend Theater on **June 5th at 7 PM**. The concert will feature the Imani Milele Children's Choir from Uganda. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students.

## ONLINE GIVING

- Go to [christspringfield.org](http://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](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com).



*Easter Sunday during the Children's Homily*



**Birthdays**

Peg Curtin .....	May 05
Katie Mellett .....	May 14
Logan Mellett.....	May 17
Ross McGregor .....	May 18
Holly Wolfe .....	May 18
Marj Vasileff .....	May 20
Zoë Spangler.....	May 21
Rev. Lou Hays.....	May 26
Scott Yeazell .....	May 29

**Anniversaries**

Bill & Gretchen Hicks .....	May 13
Christopher Durrenberger & Peng Chen .....	May 20
Rick & Jeanie Everingham.....	May 25
Scott & Cathy Yeazell.....	May 27
Jack & Dawn Ivy.....	May 31

**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

# Calling All Gardeners!

**Garden Clean-up on May 18**

Join us at CEC one Saturday of each month April to October for garden clean-up and maintenance. Our next scheduled day is Saturday, **May 18<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please bring your own tools for weeding, planting, watering, and cleaning the parking area. If you have questions, contact Linda Gatten Butler at 937-408-6295; [linda1950@ameritech.net](mailto:linda1950@ameritech.net). Anyone who wants to focus on general cleanup is welcome too!

**Annual Perennial Plant Swap**

You are invited to the 7th Annual Perennial Plant Swap, **May 25<sup>th</sup>**, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at 270 S. Broadmoor, Springfield.

- Bring 5 perennials in labeled, disposable containers and pay a \$5 fee and take home 4 new perennials.
- No perennials? No problem! Pay a \$10 fee. Leave with 4 perennials.

Garden items are also for sale. Proceeds benefit Clark County Master Gardeners! If you have questions, contact Linda Gatten Butler at [linda1950@ameritech.net](mailto:linda1950@ameritech.net).



## Procter Center

Procter Summer Camp is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, that creates a place for children, youth, and families to grow in faith, sing, learn, play, and pray in the peaceful farmland of London, Ohio. Check out [proctercenter.org/camp](http://proctercenter.org/camp) for more details.



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



### Empty Bowls Results

Wittenberg University's Empty Bowls fundraiser for Second Harvest Food Bank raised \$40,633.00 which will provide 234,333 meals to hungry families in the Springfield area. Thanks to all who participated!



If you like to make soup *and* nurture others, this is the ministry for you! We need homemade soup brought to the church in a disposable container with the type of soup and date written on the lid, then placed in the church refrigerator. Then, let Kelly Zeller know that you have dropped off the soup. The soup will be used for people in the parish needing a little TLC. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Zeller at [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com). Thank you so much for considering helping with this ministry!



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, May 16th from 6-8 PM at Cohatch**. Feel free to bring a friend or a game to share. If you have questions, contact Rev. Michelle at [mboomgaard@christsspringfield.org](mailto:mboomgaard@christsspringfield.org).



### Join us in May for All Things New

Join us for some discussions and planning for new initiatives during the adult forum hour in May.

#### May 5: Care Portal Next Steps

Come hear more about how Care Portal works, including what some of our parishioners learned during CarePortal training, as we discuss how Christ Church will more fully use this tool to support local families in need.

#### May 12: Women and the Lectionary?

In honor of Mother's Day, Rev. Michelle will lead a discussion on the Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, a new resource developed by the Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, and currently in use at a number of Episcopal parishes across the country.



**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 April Food Pantry, we served 179 households! Clients were offered chicken, hot dogs, salmon, cheese, cereal, eggs, chips, canned goods, fresh produce, and the extras of toilet paper, pet food, soap, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. The clients are always grateful, and volunteers have a good time! To volunteer, please contact *Brian Shelburne* at [bshelburne@wittenberg.edu](mailto:bshelburne@wittenberg.edu), *Kelly Zeller* at [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com), or *Anne Randolph* at [annejrand@aol.com](mailto:annejrand@aol.com).

**The May Drive-thru Pantry will be on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to:**

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

	Time	May
1 <sup>st</sup> Food Pick-Up	8:00 AM	1
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	9
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	15

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 **May 9**, let Brian Shelburne know. Most groceries should be bagged for distribution by **May 15**.



**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](mailto: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 **SAVE 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 are some items 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



*Rev. Michelle at Province V synod April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*



## **Calling all Graduates!**

If you or your child will graduate from high school, college, or graduate or professional school this year, please contact the church office (via email [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com)) and let us know so we can recognize them in the June Clarion. Please send in the name of the graduate, the school from which they are graduating, and plans for the future.