

## Adult Forum Returns September 8



Special Adult Forum:



## Preparing for Our Autumn Days

How do we care for ourselves and our loved ones as we near the end of life? Join us for a series of presentations and conversations that can help us prepare to face the days ahead, as we make important decisions for ourselves and the people we care about.

Topics include: staying safe at home, housing options for older adults, dementia, how to plan for the end of life, and memorials.

These conversations are open to all - feel free to invite neighbors or friends!

September 8-October 12

All conversations begin at 11:30 in the parish hall



## Returning September 15!

Children's Chapel services for ages 2 through 6 will start September 15th and meet twice a month through May. We will meet in the Chapel, which is found on the lower level down the hall from the nursery, at the start of the 10 AM service. We will use the Spark Program, which is lectionary-based and includes a fun activity page. The service will take 15–20 minutes, after which the children either return to the nursery or go upstairs to the service.

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www.ChristSpringfield.org

*Christ Episcopal Church*  
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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**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

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Joyce Spangler



## Lessons from an Old Wrought-Iron Fence

A few weeks ago, a pickup truck hit the fence that separates Christ Church property from the sidewalk. The truck hit the fence on a diagonal, and with considerable force, taking out stretches of fencing on both High Street and Linden, and in some cases, carrying those pieces all the way across Linden until it stopped.



We are committed to replacing the fence, and as much as possible, making sure the repair work matches the historic fence. As you can imagine, that's not easy. As they say, "They don't make 'em like that anymore." Walking along the fence with Jeff Spradlin from Spradlin Brothers Welding, along with our wardens, showed how true that was. The fence is likely over a century old, made from solid iron, twisted into its decorative shape, reinforced and supported from behind. When it was installed, large rocks were dug into the soil. To place the fence, people drilled holes into the rocks, stuck the fence posts in, and then poured hot metal into the hole to fix the post in place. It was meant to last forever.

Likewise, the Episcopal tradition is meant to remain sturdy, no matter what may come. That tradition, expressed in the Creeds and a particular worship style, has deep roots. The Creeds, of course,



The Church Office will be closed on September 2<sup>nd</sup> for Labor Day. Please plan accordingly!

date from the second and fourth centuries. But our worship style is also ancient. Some of our Eucharistic prayers have elements of liturgies written in the first centuries after Christ.



Just as our fence was supported by visible posts along the street and some reinforcements that leaned behind, our worship style rests on both Word and Sacrament. In other words, most Sundays we can lean on the reminders of God's love found both in the Bible and Communion. We read through a cycle of Bible readings over three years to ensure that we hear most of the history of God's people, but the Eucharistic prayers, the bread, and the wine remind us that God is also with us in the here and now. The two support our faith in different ways; both are present every Sunday.

I wonder what people thought of our fence. Did they see it as a quaint historic artifact, part of being in the Historic District? Or did they see it as a barrier, something to keep outsiders from entering? Or, to keep the faithful of Christ Church from wandering away? Likewise, I know that our tradition can spark reactions. Some find our Creed or elaborate liturgy confusing, or off putting. Others see it simply as an irrelevant historical artifact, not really relevant today. Yet, I firmly believe that our worship style and Creeds – when properly understood – can be profoundly beautiful, but also prevent real psychic and spiritual harm. Just as our old fence was beautiful, and, in its own way, protective. Think of how much more serious the accident might have been if the truck had not hit our fence but instead had barreled straight into our building instead! Thanks to our fence, the driver and his passenger could walk away from the accident.

It will be interesting to see what develops. I imagine that when the truck driver's insurance company admitted they were liable, they did not realize what they might need to pay. I fear that they may try to convince us to simply replace our historic fence with the type of imitation plastic fencing available at hardware stores. That type of fencing can serve many purposes. But it is not the same. Similarly, there are a lot of different Christian traditions, and now, a number of more modern nondenominational worship centers. All can serve a variety of needs and provide help and assistance. But your wardens and I are committed to our history and tradition – in fences and in faith.

### **Soldier-Priest: The Life of John Morrett**

Clark County Historical Society at the Heritage Center invites you to join them for a special evening looking back at the life and experiences of Reverend John J. Morrett. Born in Springfield in 1916, during WWII survived the Bataan Death March in April 1942 and thereafter 2.5 years in 4 Japanese prison camps and the torpedoing of his Japanese ship moving prisoners. The program will include portions of an interview with him from the early 2000s and stories about his life and ministry following the war from friends and family.

**Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6–8 PM at Crabill Discovery Hall. The cost is \$10 for nonmembers; FREE for members.** Register at: <https://cutt.ly/nesBE1Pw>



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

### Virtual Thursday Noonday Prayer Services

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

### 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!



### Calling all Christ Episcopal Church singers!

Come one, come all for good fellowship and music making with the Christ Church adult choir commencing Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am. No tryouts are required. All are welcome to join! Contact Chris Durrenberger at [cdurrenberger@wittenberg.edu](mailto:cdurrenberger@wittenberg.edu) for more information.



## Revised Common **LECTIONARY**



September				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
Sept. 1	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	45	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23
Sept. 8	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	125	James 2:1-10, 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
Sept. 15	Proverbs 1:20-33	19	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
Sept. 22	Proverbs 31:10-31	1	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
Sept. 29	Ester 7:1-6,9-10; 9:20-22	124	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50



# NOVEMBER Baptisms

## Baptisms Scheduled for Nov. 3rd

The next opportunity for children and adults to be baptized at Christ Church will be Sunday, November 3rd, which is the Sunday after All Saints' Day. This is one of four specific days set aside for baptisms according to the *Book of Common Prayer*. Holy Baptism is one of the two great sacraments of the Gospel, given by Christ to his Church (along with the Holy Eucharist).

A pre-baptismal counseling session with the priest is required, so if you or a member of your family are considering baptism, contact Rev. Michelle in a timely fashion at [mboomgaard@christspringfield.org](mailto:mboomgaard@christspringfield.org). And if you are unsure about baptism but would like to know more, just let her know!



Bonnie Bingman.....	Sept. 4
Angus Randolph.....	Sept. 6
Brian Shelburne .....	Sept. 7
Joy Bartenstein .....	Sept. 8
Madison Smith .....	Sept. 14
Dawn Ivy .....	Sept. 15
Julie McGregor.....	Sept. 21
Gates Drew .....	Sept. 23
Myra Dean Banion.....	Sept. 27
Jeannie Everingham.....	Sept. 29
Diana DeVoe.....	Sept. 30



Dana & Cathy Waggoner.....	Sept. 16
Brian & Jillian Drew .....	Sept. 17

## Directory Update

In the next few months, we will be updating our database. We realized that in some cases, we don't have current or correct information for folks – a number of people have moved away, but still have their old addresses listed. In other cases, people have transferred in, but we don't have the information that the Diocese and National Church would like us to have (like information about baptisms or confirmation). And we also want to give people a chance to be included in our birthday and anniversary prayers. We can't do that, if we don't have your birthday!

We'll be sending update forms out a few at a time. When you receive one, please take the time to fill it out and send it back to us.

When we are done updating all our records, we hope to begin putting together a new photo directory. Your quick responses will help make this a reality.

Thank you!

## 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.
- Use the drop box **Pledged Giving** for a pledge or **Miscellaneous Giving** for other giving.
- If you choose **Miscellaneous Giving**, choose giving type in the next drop box.
- 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).





**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
- **Nursery Attendant:** Madison Smith

### 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, August 19th from 6-8 PM at Los Mariachis, located at 1815 W. Main St.** Feel free to bring a friend or a game to share. If you have questions, contact Rev. Michelle at [mboomgaard@christspringfield.org](mailto:mboomgaard@christspringfield.org).



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!

## Calling All Gardeners!

### Garden Clean-up on September 15

The next opportunity to garden at Christ Church is on Sunday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> after the 10 AM service from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Bring your tools, gardening clothes and joy of plants! We have fun and enjoy the beauty of nature!!! For info, contact Linda Gatten Butler at 937-408-6295 or [linda1950@ameritech.net](mailto:linda1950@ameritech.net). Folks wanting to help with general cleanup are welcome too!



## Have You Met Yet???

(A New Monthly Column About New and Returning Christ Church Members)

**Linda Gatten Butler, MSW, ACSW,  
LISW-S**

As one of the few baby boomers who *grew up in Springfield and stayed*, I am proud to have attended Highlands Elementary, Hayward Junior High, and South High School (GO WILDCATS!) My father worked at the *News and Sun* newspaper, while my mother worked for Rotary Club and was President of the League of Women Voters. After her passing in April 2024, the newspaper featured her on Mother's Day as a leader, activist, and progressive.

My younger sister and I attended Central Methodist Church with our active parents. I was involved with Methodist Youth Fellowship, choir, and bell choir (that was where all the cute boys from other schools attended, too!)

In 1965 my father, Jim Gatten, wrote a series of articles about racism in Springfield that won an Associated Press Award. He was a "voice for people of color" and our family suffered consequences such as having a cross burned in our front yard, being ostracized by the community, losing his job and being "dismissed" by our church. My father's truth, stories, and courage strongly impacted our family and our community.

After that experience, I became disenchanted with churches. I started college at Ohio University (GO BOBCATS!). I graduated with degrees in Sociology and Social Work. While working in mental health services, I enrolled in THE Ohio State University (GO BUCKS!). My Social Work Masters focused on Planning and Administration. I remember meeting with my Practice Class professor to share that I was commuting to Columbus from Springfield, working part-time in mental health, AND asking his understanding that I might be late for class since my patients came first. He responded,

"I've heard about you, and you're going to be a hell of a social worker!"

Actually, in 2014 I was awarded "Social Worker of the Year" for this 7-county area! Familiar with the region and the missions of nonprofits, I worked with strong teams to create four local nonprofits [Rocking Horse Center, Child Advocacy Center, Grant Professional Association of the Miami Valley (the longest standing chapter in the country) and Association of Fundraising Professionals, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter in Ohio].

After 50 years of social work service (including forming my own business—Butler Consulting) with over 250 nonprofits nationwide, I retired in 2022. Retirement is awesome with biking, gardening (I became a Master Gardener in 2018), serving on many nonprofit boards (including the National Grant Professional Association), singing (in the Springfield Chorale and churches), and traveling (we are traveling to Japan in September to celebrate our 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary). My husband, Rick Butler, was the principal at South and retired in 2015. Our daughter, Jessica, has her PhD in Sociology, teaches at Mills College in California and lives in Berkley with her partner, Isaac, an astrophysicist.



Linda and Eric hack down a "Pokeweed" during August's garden clean-up.



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

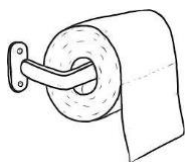
A big **THANK YOU!** to all the pantry volunteers! At the August Food Pantry, we served 109 households representing 347 individuals! Clients were offered chicken breast, pork chops, hot dogs, fresh produce, can goods, and a few treats~ chips, cookies, and the extras of toilet paper, cleaning supplies, pet food, and toiletries. 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 [annejr@aol.com](mailto:annejr@aol.com).

**The September Pantry dates are listed below. Volunteers are needed to:**

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

	Time	Sept.
Food Delivery	8:00 AM	4
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	12
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	18

Groceries are pre-bagged so that filled bags can be placed directly into client's cars on pantry distribution day. If you can commit a block of 3–4 hours on **September 12**, let Brian Shelburne know. Most groceries should be bagged for distribution by September 18.



**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 \$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 are some items that are greatly appreciated.

- foil, waxed paper, plastic wrap, plastic 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 (unopened)





## Stewardship is coming in October!

Stewardship is about expressing gratitude to God by imitating God's generosity through our own. Whether we are talking about time or talent or financial resources, when we think about what we give, we are thinking about how we give thanks to God in a tangible way.

**Stewardship Committee** Please keep the Stewardship Committee, Dan McGregor, Brian Shelburne, Diane Rode, and Isabella Mendes in prayer as they plan for the future of Christ Church.

**Pledges** If you would like an update of what you have given thus far in fulfillment of your pledge for 2024, please email Kelly Zeller at [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com) for a statement.