



The

Clarion

Volume 24, Issue 11, November 2020

A Monthly Publication

Where is God in times of uncertainty?

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:4, 6-7

St. Paul wrote these words to the church in Philippi as he sat in prison. “Rejoice!” “Have no anxiety!” From prison, Paul gave thanks to God and claimed Christ’s peace as his own.

We are at the end of a very contentious election season and may not know who our next president is for some time. We continue to live in the midst of an unpredictable pandemic. And Christ Church is in yet another transition process.

Opportunities abound for high anxiety. Yet we hear Paul’s hope for us as followers of Christ – rejoice, pray with thanksgiving, feel the peace of God as we keep the Christ in our hearts and minds.

Easier to say than to do, right? So, what *are* we to do? How do we move forward when anxiety is high and the future is uncertain?

PRAY. “With *thanksgiving* let your requests be made known to God.” I know that I have a different experience of prayer if I begin my prayers with thanksgiving. When I go directly to what I want for myself, for others, for the world, I tend to get stuck there. My complaining takes over and I forget to say, “thank you”. Or my thanks becomes an obligatory tag line at the end of my long list of grievances. On the other hand, when I begin with thanking God, I acknowledge that God is in charge, that God’s

compassion and mercy far exceed any of my hopes or expectations.

LISTEN. Prayer is a two-way street. We talk, God listens, then we need to listen in return. Answers don’t always come quickly to our prayers, but they always come if we have open hearts and open minds to receive even the most unexpected, and sometimes, unwelcome answers. We must allow the Holy Spirit to lead where God intends.

Remember the **BAPTISMAL COVENANT**. In Baptism we promise to “continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers”. We also promise to resist evil, seek and serve Christ in all persons, love our neighbors as ourselves, strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. In other words, we promise to be the Church through worshipping together and moving into the world in Christ’s Name. Unfortunately, God doesn’t make the promise that living the baptismal covenant will be easy or straight forward. And God definitely doesn’t agree to play by our rules or follow our dictates. That’s the work of the Holy Spirit, which leads us back to prayer and reflection on Gods’ Word.

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Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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**Office
Closed**

The Church Office will be closed on **Thursday, November 26** for **Thanksgiving.**

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FOLLOW JESUS. Jesus restored people to spiritual and physical health. We can, each in our own ways, extend that healing to others. And we can, as a community of faith, begin healing from the loss of beloved clergy, from the differing views of what we desire for the future of Christ Church, and from disruption the pandemic has caused in our communal life. That will require honesty and truth-telling. Even if that hurts in the short term, it is critical in our movement into whatever future God imagines for Christ Church. Jesus was not afraid of conflict. "Get behind me Satan!" he chastised Peter just before he proclaimed Peter the rock upon which the Church would be founded. And Jesus said repeatedly, "Do not be afraid," echoed by Paul in his teaching on anxiety.

Where is God in the midst of the anxiety that grips so many of us? God is with us in that anxiety, the source of a peace that passes all understanding. If we pray and listen. If we remember who we are as Christians. If we follow Jesus.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Lee Anne Reat



Diocesan Virtual Convention

The 146th Annual Convention will be held online via Zoom on **Saturday, November 7, 2020** beginning at 9 AM. This 2020 "virtual" convention is the first for the Diocese. However, it will have normal facets of the convention that take place within the virtual meeting, with the exception of exhibits. Our parish delegates are Ron Dowling, Kathleen Schubert, Brian Shelburne, and Dawn Ivy along with our clergy, The Rev. Canon Dr. Lee Anne Reat & The Rev. Rick Incorvati. Please keep them and the whole convention in your prayers as they make decisions that affect the entire Diocese and our individual congregations.





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

In-person Worship Services

Given the number of COVID cases in Clark County, there will not be in-person worship services until further notice. Clark County is listed as "Red" and on the state's watchlist. Online services will continue at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings



Wednesday Chapel Virtual Noonday Prayer Services

The Rev. Canon Dr. Lee Anne Reat and Judy Johnson will take turns offering a Noonday Prayer service on Christ Church's Facebook

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

"Seek Justice, Correct Oppression"
(Isaiah 1:17b)
 A guest preacher series presented by
 Christ Episcopal Church

Please join us as the Seek Justice, Correct Oppression Speaker Series continues through November. The speakers offer a reflection during Christ Church's virtual worship service on Facebook live (<https://www.facebook.com/christspringfield.org/>). Those not on Facebook can find the services on the Christ Church's website (www.christspringfield.org) under video sermons.

- **November 1st:** Springfield City Commissioner Rob Rue
- **November 15th:** President Elfred Pinkard, Wilberforce University
- **November 22nd:** Pastor Carl Ruby, Central Christian Church



Revised Common **LECTIONARY**

November				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
November 1	Revelation 7:9-17	34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
November 8	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	78:1-7	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
November 15	Judges 4:1-7	123	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
November 22	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	100	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
November 29	Isaiah 64:1-9	80:1-7, 16-18	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37

African Bible Study Tuesday at 7 PM

African Bible Study will meet each Tuesday evening using Google Meet, which is similar to Zoom. Each week's passage will be chosen from a set of recommended readings connected with the stewardship theme of Faith-Filled Generosity. These theme-related readings will continue through the remainder of Pentecost, and wind up the week preceding Christ the King Sunday (Nov. 22).

To join, share your interest and send your email address to Keith Doubt at kdoubt@gmail.com. Ten minutes before the meeting at 7 PM, Keith will send you and the other interested people an email invitation to the group. Click on the link, and you'll be in!

What is African Bible Study? The approach we will be using is sometimes called African Bible Study, which refers to the origins of this method of Bible study. What is it then? This small group Bible study is a very structured, very disciplined, and very meditative approach to learning from scripture. It not only discourages but prevents crosstalk and intellectualizing on a reading. It instead encourages listening to others and ourselves as opposed to talking at a group. The Diocese recommends this approach to Bible study for the small groups that churches are asked to organize this fall around the theme of stewardship.

THE FORMAT

Opening Prayer: O Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Procedure:

1. One person reads passage slowly.
2. Each person identifies the word or phrase that catches their attention. (1 minute)
3. Each shares the word or phrase with the group. (3-5 minutes, NO DISCUSSION)
4. Another person reads the passage slowly (from a different translation, if possible.)
5. Each person identifies where this passage touches their life today. (1 minute)
6. Each shares. (3-5 minutes, NO DISCUSSION)
7. Passage is read a third time (another reader and translation, if possible.)
8. Each person names or writes: "From what I've heard and shared, what do I believe God wants me to do or be? Is God inviting me to change in any way?" (5 minutes)
9. Each shares their answer. (5-10 minutes, NO DISCUSSION)
10. Each prays for the person on their right, naming what was shared in other steps. (5 minutes)

Closing: The Lord's Pray



NOVEMBER

Consumerism can prevent us from noticing needs, writes Walter Brueggemann (*The Prophetic Imagination*). A culture steeped in materialism and greed can "block out the cries of the denied ones ... so that no one discerns misery alive in the heart of God."

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday, and the start of Advent. What does it mean that Christ is our King? How can we truly give God thanks and prepare for Jesus' coming? It's a good time to ponder what hurts God's heart — and how we can help.

If someone is lonely, perhaps we can reach out with a card or phone call. If we sense inequality saddening God, we might advocate for fair policies. If God is in pain because some of his children have too little, we can share our resources. In so doing, we welcome Christ the King among us, and give him meaningful thanks.



Christ Church on Social Media!

If you're on Facebook go to Christ Episcopal Church's Facebook page and like the page. You'll receive information on upcoming events, learn historical facts, and view beautiful pictures. You will be in the know! If you would like to view the Facebook page and are not on Facebook you can visit Christ Church's web page at christspringfield.org, scroll to the bottom of the home page, click on the small **f** and it will redirect you Christ Church's Facebook page.



Calling in Via Telephone for Worship Audio

Here are the instructions for calling in via telephone if you'd like to listen to the audio of our online worship services on Sunday mornings.

Here's what you need to do:

1. A few minutes before 9:00 AM on Sunday, call **1-312-626-6799**.
2. A recording will answer, saying "Welcome to Zoom!"
3. It will ask you to enter your Meeting ID, followed by #. That's **841 1414 5583#**
4. Then it will ask for your Participant ID Number—but you don't have one! So just press #
5. Finally, it will ask you to enter the Password, followed by #. That's **712122#**
6. Now you will be able to hear our worship!

A special note: if you don't hear anything right away, don't panic. Sometimes we run a few minutes behind schedule due to various technical issues -- so just hang in there, and trust that we'll begin as soon as we can.



Missing conversation with your Christ Church friends? Longing to connect with someone outside of a virtual business meeting or schoolroom? Join our virtual coffee hour Sunday mornings after the 9 AM worship service! We'd love to see (or hear) you!

WANTED: Virtual Coffee Hour Hosts (no high-tech knowledge required!) We would love to add more hosts to the Virtual Coffee Hour. Email Kelly Zeller (ZellerK0611@gmail.com) if you're willing to help out!





Our Stewardship Theme this year is Faith-Filled Generosity. We are offering several opportunities to meet with others to reflect on the meaning of Faith-Filled Generosity as we move through the weeks of this year's stewardship season.

- **African Bible Study** with Keith Doubt each Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. Keith will choose one or two texts that relate to the theme of Faith-Filled Generosity.
- **Reflections** Each Thursday you'll receive a special NewsNote with a link to a reflection. Included are questions that allow you to apply the message to your own experience. These questions will also be the focus for a short portion of the **Virtual Coffee Hour** each Sunday.

Stewardship Packets have been mailed out. If you have not received one and you would like one, please contact the parish office (zellerk0611@gmail.com). Please return your pledge cards by **Sunday, November 15th**. We will have a blessing of the pledge cards as part of our Christ the King worship on Nov. 22.

Church Staff

All staff are currently working from home as much as possible!

Transitional Priest In-Charge:

The Rev. Canon Dr. Lee Anne Reat

Senior Warden: Dawn Ivy

Jr. Warden: Jim Whipp

Deacon: The Rev. Rick Incorvati

Treasurer: Ken Bladh

Parish Administrator/Program Coordinator:

Kelly Zeller

Music Director: Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

Nursery Attendant: Jerushia Knox

Facility Manager: Paul McAfee

Bookkeeper: Tina Knox

Your Vestry

Vestry at Large: Bonnie Bingman, Chris Oldstone-Moore, Cathy Hasecke, Denise Sharp, Brian Shelburne, Joyce Spangler, and Keith Doubt

Youth Representative: Sarah Schubert

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

We are in the midst of an anxious and uncertain time in our community and in our world, yet the many ministries of Christ Church continue on in a variety of ways. Our Church staff have been faithful, flexible, and dedicated to serving this parish as best they can.

As a faithful community that seeks to embody passionate discipleship and a heart for Christian justice, we are also committed to continuing to pay all staff members at their usual levels, including those whose normal work duties have been restricted by the pandemic. And although we are currently unable to gather on site, the normal operating expenses and costs of upkeep for our historic building remain.

We invite you to support the work of the Church financially by giving in one of two ways:

- **"Low-tech" giving:** Mail a check made out to Christ Episcopal Church to the church office (409 East High St., Springfield OH 45505).
- **"High-tech" giving:** Go to the Diocesan homepage EpiscopaliansInConnection.org and click on **Give online to your church**. Select Christ Church, Springfield from the drop-down bar.

2020 Pledges

If you would like an update of what you have given thus far in fulfillment of your pledge for 2020, please email Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com for a statement.





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

**Reminder from Outreach Team
Member Deb Southward**

Just a REMINDER! Continue to **SAVE PENNIES** for the Warder Literacy CENTER & **SAVE PULL-Tabs** for Dayton Ronald McDonald House. The Warder Literacy CENTER is opening on a limited basis & there will be a growing need for their services given that kids have been out of school (some without access to computers) & will need to play catch up. The Dayton Ronald McDonald House is continuing to be a safe haven for healthcare professionals to rest & relax without exposing their families if they so choose. Not sure when they plan to transition back to families. Rolls/baggies of pennies/pull-tabs can be dropped in the Hollenbeck House mail slot, or returned in the church building when we resume in-person worship. THANKS in advance for everyone's continual support!

A prayer initiative offered in advance of elections in the United States

Forward Movement and The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations are calling Episcopalians and all others to join in **A Season of Prayer: For an Election**. This prayer novena—nine days of devotional prayers—calls upon God for discernment in voting and for the well-being of our nation. All come from The Book of Common Prayer, and materials include a litany to use each day. The season begins Tuesday, Oct. 27, and continues through Nov. 4, the day after the elections in the U.S. "Through the ministry of RenewalWorks, we've found that one of the marks of vital congregations is that they pastor the community. By that we mean they are engaged with the world beyond the



BIRTHDAYS

- Marjy SmithNov 1
- Lisa PankratzNov 2
- Max DeLongNov 4
- Reilly SmithNov 5
- Joy CarterNov 5
- Daniel TuggleNov 9
- Miles DooleyNov 16
- Susan SmithNov 19
- Ava SullivanNov 21
- Katrina DooleyNov 22
- Hannah Spangler BentonNov 22
- Sara BoblittNov 23
- Donald WheelerNov 24
- Edward HaseckeNov 25
- Chris BingmanNov 25
- Pat DuncanNov 29

ANNIVERSARIES

- Rick & Anne Guyton DunbarNov 19
- Bob & Dawn WhiteNov 26
- Richard & Joyce SpanglerNov 27

walls of the church, present to the neighborhood, primed to serve," said the Rev. Jay Sidebotham, director of RenewalWorks, a Forward Movement ministry. "In this election season, we carry out that ministry with our prayers, making the commitment through personal spiritual practice to be present to our nation in this time, asking for God's grace for decisions made, thanking God for the grace that we can participate in this way in our common life, and trusting that grace will help us through. First, we pray. Then we vote." **Printable materials are available for download at <https://www.forwardmovement.org/Promotions/PDF/ASeasonofPrayer2020.pdf>**



**November Food Pantry:
Wednesday, November 18th,
2020**

The Drive thru Food Pantry will be on November 18th starting at 11 AM. Volunteers are needed to help pick up and unload food, pack food, and help with customer service. Please contact either Ann Chitkara at ann@nova.pcc.com or Anne Randolph at annejrand@aol.com to volunteer.