



The
Clarion

Volume 23, Issue 12, December 2018

A Monthly Publication



You're Invited...

Christmas Eve at Christ Church

2:00 pm Peaceful, meditative worship with traditional language, cello music & communion

4:00 pm Family Service with Interactive Christmas Story, carols and communion – Light refreshments and book giveaways for the kids afterwards

9:00 pm Festive worship with contemporary language, organ music and communion, ending in candlelight

Christ Episcopal Church
409 East High Street * 937-323-8651
www.ChristSpringfield.org



Baby Jesus needs His fruits & veggies!

Christ Church has a long tradition of collecting and donating baby food for little ones in need around Christmastime, through the work of the Parent Infant Center here in Springfield. This year, the need is especially great -- **the PIC's cupboard is bare!**

We'll be collecting baby food *throughout Advent and Christmas*, delivering donations to the PIC as they come in, and dedicating a few jars as a symbolic offering for God's service during worship on both Christmas Eve (12/24) and Epiphany Sunday (1/6).

Please drop off your baby food donations in the basket by the elevator anytime between now and January 6th. **THANK YOU** for helping feed hungry babies throughout this holy season!

The Clarion**Volume 23, Issue 12**

is the independently edited, local monthly newsletter of Christ Episcopal Church, 409 East High Street, Springfield, OH, 45505 and published by Christ Episcopal Church upon authority of its Rector.

Office: 937/323-8651

Fax: 937/323-8652

www.christ-in-springfield.org

Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio

**Bishop:**

The Rt Rev Thomas E Breidenthal

Priest:

The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

Deacon:

The Rev. Rick Incorvati

Senior Warden:

Dawn Ivy

Junior Warden:

John Richardson

Organist:

Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

Parish Administrator/Program**Coordinator:**

Kelly Zeller

Facility Manager:

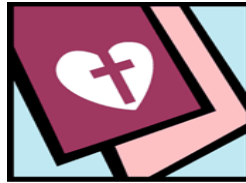
Paul McAfee

Bookkeeper:

Tina Knox

Clarion Editor:

Joyce Spangler



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear wonderful people of Christ Church,

Some of you have been checking on me lately, asking how I'm feeling, and how things are going... and I will admit that there are moments when I consider all of the various projects, events, and worship services between now and December 25th and think, "What on Earth have I gotten myself into?!?!" But when I remember to slow down, to pause and take a deep breath, to spend a moment in conversation with my Creator, my sense of this season becomes less chaotic and more beautiful, more precious, more wonderful.

Yes, there is much to be done (isn't there always?)—but regardless of what any one of us does or doesn't accomplish before the 25th, Christmas will come. Christmas is not about us, and it does not depend on us. Christmas is about the greatest gift of all time, the gift of Emmanuel, God-With-Us. The Prince of Peace, the Righteous Branch of Jesse's Tree, has come into the world for all the world.

This broken world, with all its aches and pains, is covered in sparks of Christ-light, flames that may flicker but never go out. These lights of Christ endure for months and years, they illuminate the lives of those around them, and occasionally they ignite tiny revolutions of love.

These living Christ-lights are us, you and me. May we shine forth for all to see, that the world might come to know the deep, abiding love of our infant King this year.

Blessings & love,

Rev. Maggie L-S

[\(RevMaggieLS@gmail.com\)](mailto:RevMaggieLS@gmail.com)



The Christ Church Office will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 1. Your staff will be enjoying some much-needed vacation time. The office will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 2.





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



The Altar Guild has made arrangement for gluten free wafers. Since some visitors need to avoid cross-contamination with the wheat wafers, the gluten-free wafers are kept in a separate container. Let Rev. Maggie know if you need one when she approaches you with the wafers. Thank you to the Altar Guild for this generous act of hospitality.

Activity Bags for Children

Quiet activity bags, books and coloring sheets are on a cart in sanctuary. We know that children are excellent multi-taskers, and in fact often absorb more of the liturgy when their hands are busy. So, they are welcome to choose an activity bag to use during the service. Please return it to the cart after the service. Thank you!

PRAYERS



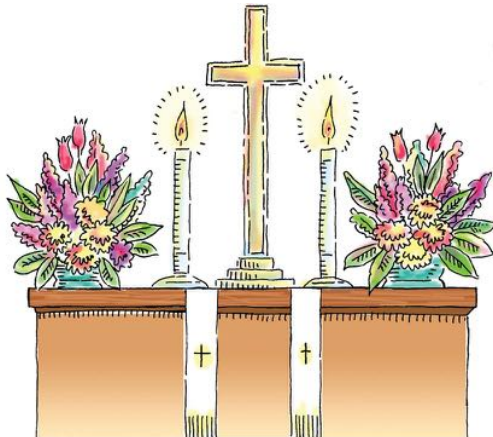
Most Sundays at the 10 o'clock service, Myra Dean Banion, retired social worker, former ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and registered nurse, offers prayers for healing to the right of the lectern. Worshippers are welcome to come to the station either before or after receiving Communion. If no one is present, remain after worship and Rev. Maggie will pray with you.

If you desire prayer for any reason, simply state your concern. You will be anointed with Holy Oil and the Trinitarian blessing followed by prayer. You will receive a card during the week with the message that you will continue to be remembered in prayer.

Revised Common **LECTIONARY**

Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
December 2	Jeremiah 33:14-16	25:1-9	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
December 9	Baruch 5:1-9	Canticle 4	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
December 16	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Canticle 9	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
December 23	Micah 5:2-5a	Canticle 3	Hebrews 10: 5-10	Luke 1:39-55
December 30	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	147	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-8

Worship... continued



2019 Altar Flower Dedication Chart

The Altar Flower Chart for 2019 is on the kiosk in the East Entrance. If you would like to sponsor the Altar flowers in memory of someone, in celebration of an event, or in thanksgiving for someone, please sign up. If you have donated in the past, check to see whether you're signed up on the correct date. The suggested donation to cover the cost of flowers is \$45. For more information or questions, please contact Gretchen Hicks at 937-390-2342.



**December 16th at 5 PM
Christ Episcopal Church**

The next Taizé service will held at Christ Church on Sunday, December 16th at 5 PM. Taizé is a quiet, peaceful service of readings, songs, prayers, and candlelight. Talk with Deacon Rick if you have questions or if you're willing to help out!



As we approach the end of 2018, your church staff are working on updating the parish membership rolls. If you would like to become an official member of Christ Church, or are unsure of your membership status, please talk to Kelly Zeller or Rev. Maggie. The process is simple, and it involves Christ Church requesting a Letter of Transfer from your previous church. Email us: ZellerK0611@gmail.com or RevMaggieLS@gmail.com or call the church office (937-323-8651)!

QUESTION: *What's missing from this image?*



ANSWER: *A delivery can!*

Do you buy tomato or fruit juice in 46 oz cans? Christ Church has an immediate need for such cans to use to deliver altar flowers to our homebound or ill parishioners. Please place any cans you can donate in the food pantry basket by the elevator. Thank You!!



Worship... continued

Christ Church on Social Media!



If you're on Facebook, go to Christ Episcopal Church's Facebook page. "Like" the page, and you'll receive information on upcoming events, learn historical facts, and view beautiful pictures. You'll 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 to Christ Church's Facebook page.

Youth – Cathedral Christmas Gathering December 8th

Christ Church Cathedral (in Cincinnati) is hosting a Christmas Gathering for the youth of the Diocese on Saturday, December 8th, in the late afternoon/early evening. This gathering will include yummy refreshments and a downtown Scavenger Hunt, among other things. Any 6th–12th graders who are interested, please talk to Maggie (RevMaggieLS@gmail.com)!



Prayer shawls are available in the East Entrance. The Prayer Shawls can be given to anyone needing comfort during difficult times. Please complete the last line of the card and place in the box on the table. If you have any questions contact Joan Hurley at jahurley500@gmail.com.



The Church is not just a building; nor is it restricted to what we do in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. The Church is all of us, the people of God, and all that we do to make God known in a variety of ways.

There are several opportunities available for folks of all ages and abilities to lend a hand and support the various ministries of Christ Church during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please consider how you might get involved this Christmas, and let your Clergy and/or Wardens know how you can help out! Current openings include:

- Assistants for Sunday School classes
- Security Team members
- Food Pantry leadership team
- Coffee Hour hosts/hostesses
- East Entrance Greeters
- Potential new Vestry members (for 2019)
- New Altar Guild trainees
- Interfaith Hospitality Network meal prep & servers
- Holiday Decorating Team members (to beautify the worship space for Christmas)
- Choir singers
- Shawnee Place Christmas party helpers
- Eucharistic Visitors

December Calendar at a Glance (plus a bit of January)

Sunday 12/2 **1st Sunday of Advent** — 8 AM & 10 AM services; Adult Formation @ 9:15 & 11:30 AM; Kids & Youth Sunday School @ 11:30 AM; "Big Read" Bible Study @ 4 PM

Wednesday 12/5 Crafting group @ 9 AM; 10 AM service

Thursday 12/6 Vestry @ 6:30 PM

Saturday 12/8 Cathedral Christmas Gathering for Youth

Sunday 12/9 **2nd Sunday of Advent** — 8 AM & 10 AM services; Adult Formation @ 9:15 & 11:30 AM; Kids & Youth Sunday School @ 11:30 AM; "Big Read" Bible Study @ 4 PM

Wednesday 12/12 Pantry delivery @ 9 AM; Crafting group @ 9 AM; 10 AM service; ECW Christmas Party @ 11:30 AM

Sunday 12/16 **3rd Sunday of Advent** — 8 am & 10 am services; Adult Formation @ 9:15 & 11:30 AM; Kids & Youth Sunday School @ 11:30 AM; "Big Read" Bible Study @ 4 PM; Taize service @ 5 PM

Wednesday 12/19 Food Pantry Day; Crafting group @ 9 AM; 10 AM service

Thursday 12/20 Holy Eucharist with anointing at Oakwood Village @ 10 AM

Sunday 12/23 **4th Sunday of Advent** — 8 AM & 10 AM services; No formation classes - All ages decorating the church

Monday 12/24 **Christmas Eve** — 2 PM, 4 PM & 9 PM services

Tuesday 12/25 **Christmas Day!**

{{{ Church Office closed 12/24 through 1/1 }}}

Sunday 12/30 8 AM & 10 AM services (with Rev. Terri Thornton); No classes

Wednesday 1/2/19 Church Office reopens; Crafting group @ 9 AM; 10 AM service (Morning Prayer)

Sunday 1/6/19 **Feast of the Epiphany** — Lessons & Carols with communion at 8 AM & 10 AM



Al Hurley	Dec 1
Peng Chen	Dec 2
Fred Bartenstein	Dec 4
Doug McGregor	Dec 4
Anita Beardsell	Dec 5
Andy Dunn	Dec 5
Dianna Maddox	Dec 5
Sam Schmitt	Dec 5
Blake Holland	Dec 6
Bryce Holland	Dec 6
Liz Wheeler	Dec 6
Kathy Schmitt	Dec 7
John Richardson	Dec 8
Richard Spangler	Dec 8
Marilyn Krohn	Dec 15
Lauryn Tuggle	Dec 17
Chris Wells	Dec 19
Leeza Wheeler	Dec 19
Isabelle Durrenberger	Dec 21
Bill Hicks	Dec 21
Caroline Oldstone-Moore	Dec 21
Rick Incorvati	Dec 23
Dawn White	Dec 23
David Reichel	Dec 24
Marty Smith	Dec 24
Joanne Harris	Dec 27
Silas Brooks Hedstrom.....	Dec 28
Bill Yeazell	Dec 28
Chris Durrenberger	Dec 29



Scott Dooley & Lisa Pankratz.....	Dec 18
Carl & Marie Hutchins	Dec 18
Norm & Pat Silliman	Dec 21
Bill and Laura Yeazell.....	Dec 29





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

Episcopal Calendars

2019 Calendars are available in the East Entrance on the Greeter table. *Thank you* to Richards, Raff, and Dunbar Funeral Home for providing them for our use.



Christ Church is responsible for providing dinner to the guests at Interfaith Hospitality Network **Sunday, December 16th at 6 PM and Saturday, December**

22nd at 6 PM. We have a group of four that have volunteered to provide dinner on December 16th, but need some volunteers for the 22nd. Lori Swafford and her family will be out of town. If you can help with this ministry please contact Lori at lori.swafford67@gmail.com or call (937) 605-7625.

GREETERS NEEDED!!



Christ Church needs a couple of more Greeters! A Greeter arrives at 9:30, welcomes parishioners and guests, hands out nametags, and is finished by 10 AM to attend the service. If you're interested in being a greeter please contact Kelly at 937-323-8651 or via email Kelly@zellerk0611@gmail.com.



Soup and bread is "comfort food", and we at Christ Church try to deliver this

combination to individuals who need a little extra love and special attention. Right now we are in need of soup – and perhaps you could help by providing containers of soup, with the date and kind of soup on the label. Please let Kelly, in the church office, know if you can help. We can guarantee that the soup will be appreciated.



ECW
CHRISTMAS
PARTY

All women of the church are welcome to attend the Annual ECW Christmas Party that will be held at the home of Joann Albright, 1970 Wedgewood Circle on Wednesday, December 12th. We will meet for the Chapel Service at 10 AM and carpool to Joann's following the service. It will be a catered luncheon, with the cost being \$10.00. Make the check payable to Shirley Artis. **Reservations must be made on or before Wednesday, December 5th.** Please call Dodi Holmes at 390-0764 or Juanita Artis at 399-4237. We look forward to seeing you there.



Education... *providing people of all ages rich opportunities to form a strong spiritual relationship with God so they may become good stewards of their faith to themselves and others.*

Christian Formation for All Ages in December

Dec. 2nd: The Lego Class (for kids);
Combined Youth Class;
Forward Week-by-Week;
Adult Forum (Intro to Luke/Acts)

Dec. 9th: The Lego Class (for kids);
Two Separate Youth Classes;
Forward Week-by-Week;
Adult Forum ("Killing Gavle" documentary)

Dec. 16th: The Lego Class (for kids);
Two Separate Youth Classes;
Forward Week-by-Week;
Adult Forum (Paul Weber, CEO of Springfield YMCA)

Dec. 23rd: No classes—All ages helping decorate the church for Christmas Eve!

Dec. 30th: No classes

STAFF HOURS

Rector: The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

Deacon: The Rev. Rick Incorvati

Senior Warden: Dawn Ivy

Junior Warden: John Richardson

Parish Administrator/Program Coordinator:

Kelly Zeller—Monday through Friday
8:00 AM–2 PM

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Denise Wells

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Christopher Durrenberger—Sunday mornings and by appointment

Facility Manager: Paul McAfee—Monday–Friday, 7 AM–11 AM

Bookkeeper: Tina Knox—Tuesday and Thursday 8-10 AM

Doing the "Big Read" Together!

Bishop Breidenthal has asked Episcopalians around the Diocese to read the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles together this year, beginning in Advent and lasting until the Day of Pentecost (early June). Judy Johnson will help us kick off the "Big Read" with a special Introduction to Luke/Acts in the Adult Forum on Sunday Dec. 2nd.

Later that same day, our "Big Read" Bible Study group will gather for the first time at Winans (32 N. Fountain Ave.) from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. All interested adults and youth are welcome to join us—no prior knowledge or expertise necessary!

This will be a friendly, relaxed discussion of Luke/Acts, moving through the narrative bit by bit, according to a reading schedule from the Diocese. Don't worry if you can't commit to being there every week. Just come when you can, bring a Bible if you've got one, and talk to Maggie if you have questions (RevMaggieLS@gmail.com)! You can find more info and resources at <http://dsobeloved.org/big-read-home/>.

Thank you to...

- ... Food Pantry volunteers!
- ... the Stewardship Committee and vestry for the delicious celebration breakfast!



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



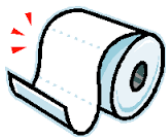
Kroger Community Rewards Program

Christ Church participates in the Kroger Community Rewards program. We receive a rebate quarterly based on purchases tied to Kroger Plus Cards enrolled in the program. These rebates are used to support our outreach. If you have questions, or do not have a Kroger Plus Card, call the office.

Volunteers Needed for Pantry Day, December 19 from 11–2!

Thank you to those who helped with November's Food Pantry! We gave out chicken, mac and cheese, milk, eggs and fresh produce and the extras of soap, stuffing, spices, toothpaste, dog food, cat food and toilet paper.

Pantry volunteers come from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church, and other faith communities. Volunteers are needed to help pick up, unload, and pack food and help with customer service. Contact either Ann Chitkara (ann@nova.pcc.com) or Anne Randolph (annejrand@aol.com) to volunteer.



Toilet Paper Reminder

Our pantry is one of the few to give out toilet paper. While T.P. is something most of us take for granted, this necessity cannot be purchased with the SNAP card. A donation of a package of toilet paper is a great contribution to this amazing ministry! Donations can be put in (or near) the basket outside the elevator on the upper level of the church.

Do Your Christmas Shopping on Amazon and Support the Food Pantry!



Help raise funds for our Food Pantry through the **Amazon Smile Program**. This program allows us to earn 0.05% on all purchases originating from

our web site. Here are two ways to do it:

(1) Go to <http://christspringfield.org>. Scroll down to **Quick Links**. Click on **Amazon Smile Program**.

As you shop, you can see the amount you are earning for the Pantry.

(2) Go to **Amazon.com**. In the search bar enter "Amazon Smiles," and then enter "Christ Episcopal Church Springfield Ohio" as your charity of choice. Supporting the Food Pantry could not be simpler!



The pennies collected help support the **Warder Literacy Center**. Once the pennies total \$25, a check is sent to the center to help support literacy in Clark County. What an easy way to help someone learn to read! If you have any questions please contact Dodi Holmes at 937-390-0764.





Priest: The Rev. Maggie
Leidheiser-Stoddard

Deacon: The Rev. Rick
Incorvati

Senior Warden:
Dawn Ivy

Junior Warden:
John Richardson

Treasurer: Ken Bladh

Vestry at Large:
Ann Chitkara
Cathy Hasecke
Marilyn Howat
Chris Oldstone-Moore
Brian Shelburne
Chris Wells
Don Wheeler

Youth Representative:
Emily Hasecke

Christmas Flowers

Parishioners give the flowers that adorn the church at Christmas in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones. To contribute to the beauty of our Christmas Eve services, please fill out the form below by December 9th and put it in the offering plate with a check payable to Christ Episcopal Church.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS & THANKSGIVINGS

Donor's Name

In memory of

In thanksgiving for
