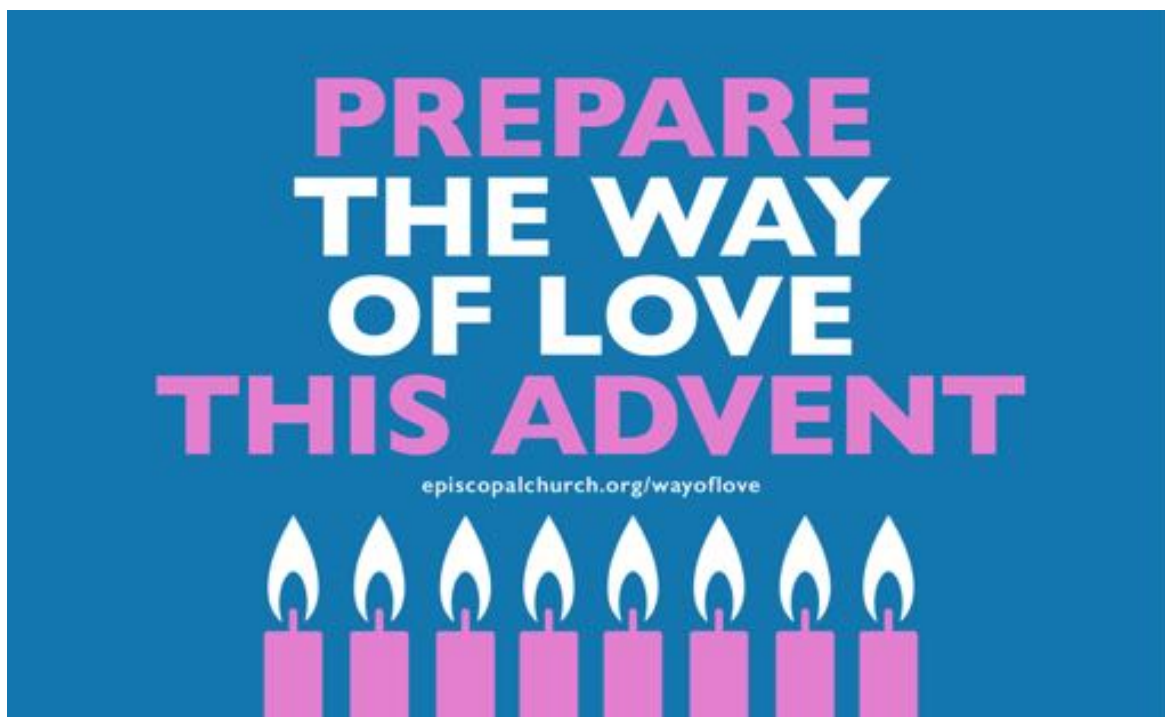




The
Clarion

Volume 23, Issue 12, December 2019

A Monthly Publication



Advent Is Here!

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st, and continues until we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior on December 25th. Please join us during this holy season as we heed the call of the prophet Isaiah, who urges us to leave behind our ways of fear and selfishness and usher in a new age and a new way of living - The Way of Love.

May *you* be blessed with time & space for *worship, prayer, and holy anticipation* this Advent!

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 8:00 AM (Rite I, spoken service, with sermon and Holy Communion)

Sundays at 10:00 AM (Rite II, with sermon, music, children's program and Holy Communion)

Wednesdays at 10:00 AM (Rite II, spoken, with Scripture reflection, healing prayer, and Holy Communion)

Christmas Eve at 3:00 PM (Rite I, with organ and classical guitar; a peaceful, meditative worship experience with sermon and Holy Communion)

Christmas Eve at 7:30 PM (Rite II, with organ, guitar, and choir; a festive, celebratory service with candles, sermon and Holy Communion)

The Clarion

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Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio

**Bishop:**

The Rt. Rev. Thomas
Breidenthal

Priest:

The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-
Stoddard

Deacon:

The Rev. Rick Incorvati

Senior Warden:

Dawn Ivy

Junior Warden:

John Richardson

Organist:

Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

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Jerushia Knox

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Paul McAfee

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Joyce Spangler



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear people of Christ Church,

I have a secret to tell you, and I hope you won't be too disappointed in me!

My secret is this: even as I'm typing these words, more than a week before the Season of Advent begins, I'm listening to Christmas music. Yes, I know it's early. Yes, I know it is highly improper -- liturgically speaking, of course. It's the lesser-known 11th Commandment: "*Thou shalt not sing 'fa-la-la-la-la' before the evening of December 24th!*" But I just can't help myself.

This time of year can be so busy and hectic for all of us. We're buying gifts, finalizing travel plans, filling our calendars with special events... and Advent can be especially overwhelming for those of us who work in the church. There are so many important things to be done, and not enough time to do them!

It's easy to fall into the harried and distracted patterns of our consumer-oriented society, and lose all sense of the tender, holy anticipation of these days. And that's why I need my Christmas music, even now. Those words we've known by heart for so long, words of joyous celebration and awe and grateful praise, remind me just what a precious gift it is I'm waiting for.

When I'm feeling scattered and distracted, the music calls me back to what really matters -- the miracle of Incarnation. In the bright shining light of the newborn Christ, all else falls away.

May your Advent be filled with reminders of the humble glory that awaits on Christmas morn!

Blessings & love,

Rev. Maggie L-S
(RevMaggieLS@gmail.com)



ADVENT CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Worship Advent 1 What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share these words with a friend or family member.</p>	<p>2 Go Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously, or who has a different perspective than you. Pray to hear them as God hears them.</p>	<p>3 Learn Read Luke 1:30. What are you afraid of that keeps you from saying “yes” to God?</p>	<p>4 Pray Set a timer for three minutes. Silently repeat this prayer: “Here I am, God.”</p>	<p>5 Bless The angel blessed Mary with the gift of presence. To whom can you give the gift of presence this week?</p>	<p>6 Turn In giving generously, St. Nicholas turned from a sense of scarcity to a posture of abundance. What do you need to turn from in order to be generous of heart?</p>	<p>7 Rest From what could you rest in order to receive renewed life? Take as long as you are able to find that rest today.</p>
<p>8 Worship Advent 2 What part of gathering for worship fills your heart with hope?</p>	<p>9 Go Read or watch your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing.</p>	<p>10 Learn Read Luke 1:45. Consider how your faith is a blessing. Share your faith story with a friend.</p>	<p>11 Pray Offer a prayer of thanks for each person you encounter – both stranger and friend – silently or aloud.</p>	<p>12 Bless Call or write a family member with whom you desire a closer relationship. Share with them how they are a blessing.</p>	<p>13 Turn Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends? Give thanks for the gift of fresh starts that we have through God’s grace.</p>	<p>14 Rest Set aside 30 minutes to rest, pause, and breathe deeply with a friend or family member. Give thanks for the restorative power of love in relationship.</p>
<p>15 Worship Advent 3 Pray for each person as they receive communion. Imagine who you would like to see at church next week. Invite them to join you.</p>	<p>16 Go Choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play today. Who or what did you encounter differently?</p>	<p>17 Learn Read Luke 1:64. When Zechariah could finally speak, he began by praising God. For what can you praise God? Share on social media or with a friend.</p>	<p>18 Pray Keep a lookout for anyone who might seem lonely, stressed, or sad. Offer this simple invitation: “May I pray for you?” Then offer prayers – silently or aloud – on their behalf as you move through your day.</p>	<p>19 Bless Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.</p>	<p>20 Turn Turn away from the busyness of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.</p>	<p>21 Rest In Genesis 1-2, God calls the creation “good” and rests. What can you proclaim to be “good” instead of “not enough” as a witness to God’s love for the world today?</p>
<p>22 Worship Advent 4 Linger before leaving worship today. Ask God to prepare and send you on a journey into the world to witness to God’s love</p>	<p>23 Go Go out into your neighborhood today. Where do you see God at work? What attributes of God’s love are visible? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate and join that love.</p>	<p>24 Learn Read Luke 2:8-10. When has God surprised you? Share with a friend.</p>	<p>25 Pray Christmas Day Read Luke 1-2. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ-child. Pray that you may follow Christ Jesus on his Way of Love with your whole heart, mind, body, and spirit.</p>			



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



The next Taizé service will held at **Christ Church on Sunday, December 15th at 5 PM.** Taizé is a quiet, peaceful service of readings, songs, prayers, and candlelight. Talk with Deacon Rick (rincorvati@wittenberg.edu) if you have questions or if you're willing to help out!



Christ Church on Social Media!

If you're on Facebook, go to our 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 aren't on Facebook but would still like to view the page, you can visit Christ Church's website at christspringfield.org, scroll to the bottom of the home page, click on the small **f**, and it will redirect you to our Facebook page.

Oakwood Village Worship

The final Oakwood Village worship service for 2019 will be on Thursday, **December 19th.** The service will be held on the 2nd floor chapel at 10:00 AM, and will include Scripture readings & discussion, anointing, and Holy Eucharist. We hope to sing some Advent hymns. All are welcome!

New Security Policy: No Weapons Allowed



Christ Church, like many other businesses, churches, and schools, has implemented a new policy prohibiting all firearms and weapons on church property. This was approved at the August 6th Vestry meeting. Signs have been posted which meet the legal requirements for this policy to comply with Ohio law. The policy is effective immediately. Questions? Contact Security Director, Jack Ivy at zis1942@yahoo.com

Revised Common **LECTIONARY**

December 2019

Date	First Lesson	Psalms	Second Lesson	Gospel
12/1/19	Isaiah 2:1-5	122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
12/8/19	Isaiah 11:1-10	72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
12/15/19	Isaiah 35:1-10	Canticle 15	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
12/22/19	Isaiah 7:10-16	80:1-7, 16-18	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
Christmas Eve	Isaiah 52:7-10	98	Hebrews 1:1-4	John 1:1-14
12/29/19	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	147	Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7	John 1:1-18

Worship... *continued*



Altar Flowers

If you would like to sponsor the Altar flowers for 2020 in memory of or thanksgiving for someone, please sign up on the sheets on the **kiosk**. Please be very specific in what or who you are dedicating the altar flowers, and if you have a particular choice of flower, also, please note when you signed up. The suggested donation is \$45. For more information, contact Kelly Zeller, zellerk0611@gmail.com.

The Nominating Committee Wants YOU!

At their November meeting, the Vestry appointed this year's Nominating Committee:

- John Richardson,
- Chris Wells,
- Joy Carter,
- Ann Chitkara, and
- Rev. Maggie L-S.

The Nominating Committee will meet in December and January to prepare a slate of candidates for election at February's Annual Meeting. We are looking for a new Junior Warden, one new At-Large Vestry Member, and one or two Youth Representatives to the Vestry. Please prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to serve!

Church Office Closed

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Church Office will be closed from Monday, December 23rd through Friday, January 3rd. Your staff will be enjoying some much-needed vacation time. The office will reopen on Monday, January 6th.

Current Service Opportunities

With Christmas approaching and a new year in sight, there are several opportunities available for folks of all ages and abilities to lend a hand and support the various ministries of Christ Church. Please consider how you might get involved and serve the church in the coming weeks and months! Current opportunities include:

- Members for the newly-forming **Worship Committee**
- Friendly **Greeters** for the 10:00 AM service
- A new **Junior Warden** for 2020
- One new At-Large **Vestry Member** for 2020-2022
- **PR Team** members (willing to take turns recording sermons, take photos, post to Facebook, and spread the word about Christ Church)
- **Sunday Closers** (working in pairs or trios to walk through the building after Sunday School & Adult Forum end, turning off lights & ensuring doors are secure)

Talk to Rev. Maggie if you are willing to serve (RevMaggieLS@gmail.com)!

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

ANSWER: *A delivery can!*



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

Regular Worship Notices

- **Books and other materials for children** are located in the back of the worship space.
- **Gluten-free wafers** are always available during communion.
- Myra Dean Banion offers private prayers at the **Healing Station** most Sundays.



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



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 11th. 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 Sunday, December 8th. Please call Dodi Holmes at 390-0764 or Juanita Artis 399-4237. we look forward to seeing you!



Al Hurley.....	Dec 1
Peng Chen	Dec 2
Fred Bartenstein.....	Dec 4
Doug McGregor	Dec 4
Anita Beardsell	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

Church Staff Hours

Rector: The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard
 Deacon: The Rev. Rick Incorvati
 Sr. Warden: Dawn Ivy
 Jr. Warden: John Richardson
 Parish Administrator/Program Coordinator: Kelly Zeller
 (Mon.-Thurs.
 8 AM – 2 PM and Sunday mornings)
 Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Christopher
 Durrenberger (Sunday mornings & by appointment)
 Facility Manager: Paul McAfee (Mon.-Fri. 7-11 AM—
 CURRENTLY ON LEAVE)
 Bookkeeper: Tina Knox (Tues. & Thurs. 8-10 AM)

Your Vestry

Senior Warden: Dawn Ivy
Junior Warden: John Richardson
Treasurer: Ken Bladh
Vestry at Large: Bonnie Bingman, Chris Oldstone-Moore, Cathy Hasecke, Denise Sharp, Brian Shelburne, Joyce Spangler, and Chris Wells



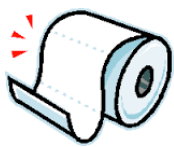
Scott Dooley and Lisa Pankratz	Dec 18
Norm and Pat Silliman.....	Dec 21
Bill and Laura Yeazell.....	Dec 29



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

December 18th from 11–2 is pantry day!

Thank you to those who helped with November's Food Pantry day. We gave out lots of meat, milk, cheese, soup, peanut butter, fruits, sugar, and fresh produce as well as the extras of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, cake mixes, stuffing, and toilet paper. Pantry volunteers come from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church and other faith communities. The next Food Pantry is December 18th from 11 am until 2 pm. 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.



Don't Forget the T.P.!

Our Food Pantry is one of the few pantries to give out toilet paper with the groceries. While toilet paper is something most of us take for granted, this necessity cannot be purchased with the SNAP card (formerly known as food stamps). 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.

Episcopal Calendars

2020 Calendars are available in the East Entrance on the nametag table. Thank you to Richards, Raff, and Dunbar Funeral Home for providing them for our use.



Interfaith Hospitality Network: Dec. 15th and 21st

Christ Church is responsible for providing dinner to the guests at Interfaith Hospitality Network Sunday, December 15th at 6 pm and Saturday, December 21st at 6 pm. If you can help with this ministry please contact Lori at lori.swafford67@gmail.com or call (937) 605-7625.

Baby Jesus needs His fruits & veggies!

Christ Church has a long tradition of donating baby food for little ones in need around Christmastime. We'll be collecting baby food throughout the month of December. Donations will be blessed on Sunday, January 5th and delivered shortly thereafter. Questions? Talk to Deb Southward, who is coordinating this effort. **THANK YOU** for helping feed hungry babies throughout this holy season!

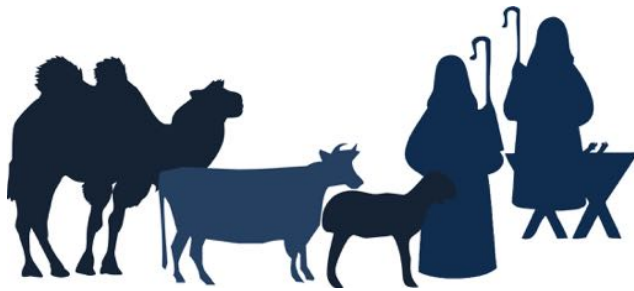


---NEW EMERGENCY NUMBER---

Christ Church has acquired a NEW phone number for you to call in the event of any after-hours pastoral emergencies -- **937-504-1319**. This replaces the previously published number, so please make a note of it, write it in your directories, store it in your cell phones, etc.



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.



During the season of Advent, the Adult Forum will focus on representations of the Nativity in art.

December 8

Jane Lieberth is a volunteer at the University of Dayton's Marian Library. She will speak on the library's creche collection, which encompass nearly 3,000 sets. Amazingly enough, each set has its own personality, its own reverence, and its own wonder. Jane will take a look at some of the more unusual creches and examine the wide variety of materials used to make them. Join her after the 10:00 service on Sunday, December 8 for the magic of Christmas!

December 15

After the 10:00 service, join Christ Church parishioner and art historian Kay Koeninger, who will offer an informal, interactive presentation on images of the Nativity. The focus will be on art from both the Italian and Northern Renaissances, the first era in which the Nativity was widely portrayed in European art.

(submitted by Judy Johnson, Convener of the Adult Forum Team)



Attention Families: Advent Pageant Coming December 22nd!

This Christmas, in lieu of a pageant or children's service on Christmas Eve (when many families are traveling), the children and youth of the parish will offer a special **Advent Pageant** during the 10:00 AM worship service on **Sunday, December 22nd**. All kids and youth are encouraged to participate! The pageant, called "Looking Forward to Christ," focuses on Advent themes of prophecy and preparation.

We'll prepare for the pageant during Sunday School time on December 8th & 15th. No memorization of lines necessary! All kids & youth who want to be part of the fun must be present on either the 8th or the 15th (being present for both is wonderful, but at least one is required). Parents and grandparents, please email Rev. Maggie (RevMaggieLS@gmail.com), or call the church office (937-323-8651), **by Wednesday, December 4th**, if your kids/youth plan to participate.



Christmas Flowers



The flowers that adorn the church at Christmas are given by parishioners 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 8th*** 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 _____
