



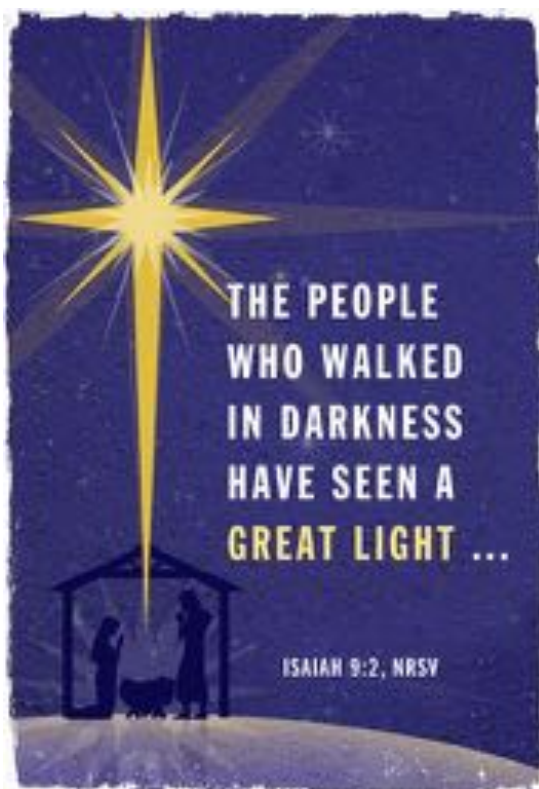
The

Clarion

Volume 24, Issue 1, January 2020

A Monthly Publication

ADVENT * CHRISTMAS * EPIPHANY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sunday 12/22 - the Fourth Sunday of Advent

8 AM Rite I spoken Holy Eucharist with sermon

10 AM Rite II Holy Eucharist with organ, choir and Advent Pageant
+ Hanging of the Greens to follow +

Tuesday 12/24 - Christmas Eve

3 PM (extended prelude begins at 2:30)
Rite I, with organ and classical guitar; a peaceful, meditative worship experience with sermon and Holy Communion

7:30 PM (extended prelude begins at 7:00)
Rite II, with organ, guitar and choir; a festive, celebratory service with candles, sermon, and Holy Communion

Sunday 12/29 - the First Sunday after Christmas

9 AM Combined Rite Morning Prayer with carols

Sunday 1/5 - the Second Sunday after Christmas

8 AM Rite I spoken Holy Eucharist with sermon

10 AM Rite II Holy Eucharist with organ, choir, sermon and Children's Chapel
+ Chalk for Epiphany home blessings distributed at both services +

Sunday 1/12 - the Sunday after the Epiphany

8 AM Epiphany Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion and Star Gifts

10 AM Epiphany Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion and Star Gifts

We'll return to our usual worship schedule on January 19th!

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

**Parish Administrator/
Program Coordinator:**

Kelly Zeller

Youth Teacher:

Abby Glass

Facility Manager:

Paul McAfee

Bookkeeper:

Tina Knox

Clarion Editor:

Joyce Spangler



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Dear people of Christ Church,

Merry (almost) Christmas! Below is the blessing I will use at the end of the 7:30 PM service on Christmas Eve. The words are from the late great Howard Thurman, African-American theologian, author, professor, and Baptist pastor. His writings have shepherded generations of clergy and seminarians, and his Christmas blessing is used in churches spanning many different denominations:

*"When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart."*

To learn more about Thurman's vast body of work, explore the Howard Thurman Papers Project online (hosted by Boston University at www.bu.edu/http/).

A few non-holiday notes:

- + I will be in Atlanta January 20th-25th for the Episcopal Church Foundation's annual **FORMA Conference**. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and others will speak and lead workshops about Christ-centered evangelism, discipleship, and formation in the new decade. I'll return in time for worship on 1/26.
- + During January, February, and March, I will be holding "**Office Hours**" every Tuesday & Thursday. I will be in the office every Tuesday from 8 am to 2 pm, and every Thursday from 11:30 am to 2 pm (unless I'm on vacation or sick, it's a holiday, or there's a pastoral emergency or diocesan event). Let me know if you have questions or feedback.
- + The Diocese of Southern Ohio did not designate a text for the "Big Read" **Bible study** this year, so we are free to study any text we choose! I would love to gather a group for a Sunday afternoon study of Revelation. We'd meet from 4 to 5:30 PM at Panera on Bechtle. Participants would take turns guiding the study and conversation with questions. If interested, email or text me by Monday, January 13th.

Christmas blessings of light and love to all!

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





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



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.

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. The office will close again on Monday, January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Oakwood Village Worship

The next Oakwood Village chapel service will be held on **Thursday, January 30th, at 10:00 am**. All are welcome to join in this service of Scripture reflection, prayer, and Holy Communion.

Baby Jesus needs 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!

Revised Common LECTIONARY

January 2020				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
1/5	Isaiah 60:1-6	72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
1/12	Isaiah 42:1-9	29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
1/19	Isaiah 49:1-7	40:1-12	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
1/26	Isaiah 9:1-4	27:1, 5-13	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23





Mark your calendars for the Parish Annual Meeting for 2020 on **Sunday, February 23rd**. We will worship together in a Combined Rite Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM, with brunch and the Annual Meeting to follow downstairs in the Parish Hall. In addition to different reports/remarks from staff and officers, we'll recognize our "ministry retirees" and elect a new Junior Warden, At-Large Vestry Member, and Youth Vestry Member(s).

And speaking of the Annual meeting... 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 At-Large Vestry Member, and one or two Youth Representatives to the Vestry. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to serve!

Christ Church Winter Weather Policy

If the Clark County Sheriff calls a Level 1 Snow Emergency, Christ Church will cancel the 8 am Sunday Service, the 10 AM Wednesday Chapel Service and the office, meetings and any other activities. If the Sheriff calls a Level 2 Snow Emergency the 10 AM Sunday Service will also be cancelled. If Christ Church has to close on a Sunday, we will do our best to send out an email and post it on Channel 7. Please be safe! Whatever the snow emergency level, use your best judgement.



Stewardship CAMPAIGN

UPDATE: Financial Support Pledged for 2020

As of December 16th, we have received 75 pledges of financial support for next year, totaling \$187,823.44. This includes 9 new pledging units, and 22 established units who increased their pledge amounts.

THANK YOU to all who have pledged to support Christ Church in 2020! We still have not reached our pledge goal of \$213,000; so if you have not yet pledged, please consider doing so to support your church and its ministries. Extra pledge cards are available in the east entrance.



---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.

+Christian Symbols+ Cross on the Rock



The rock is often used as a symbol of the Lord, our strength and firm foundation. A cross rising from the rock echoes many Bible verses that proclaim Christ as the rock of salvation; for example, "He alone is my rock and my salvation ..." (Psalm 62:2, ESV).

NEW KEYS ISSUED FOR EAST ENTRANCE



Due to unforeseen problems with the keyless entry system, your Vestry and Wardens, guided by the Security Director, have decided to install a brand-

new lock on the East Entrance door, and issue new keys.

When will the East entrance be re-keyed, and how do I get my key? You may sign for your new key in the East Entrance before either worship service on December 15th or 22nd, and then after Christmas we'll switch over the lock cylinders and your new key will be operational by Sunday, December 29th.

Who gets a key? The following get keys: Springfield fire/police, clergy, Parish Administrator, Facility Manager, Organist/Choir Director, Vestry officers & members, Security Director, Altar Guild members, Ushers & Greeters, Food Pantry leaders, Coffee Hour hosts, and Choir members. When you step down from your role in one of these categories, you must then return your key.

What if my category is not on the list and I need a key? If you need a temporary or permanent key, complete a "**Request for Access**" form you can either get from Kelly Zeller or from the church website explaining why you need a key and you'll get an answer from us in about a week.

How am I responsible for my key? The keys are sequentially numbered and can't be duplicated. By using your key you've assumed responsibility for church property. You're expected to safeguard your key and never loan it to another person. If you lose your key, you must report it immediately to the church office.

Questions? Contact Jack Ivy, Security Director, at zis1942@yahoo.com.



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



The next outing for the "Lunch Bunch" is on Tuesday, January 14 at 11:30 am at Teaberries (1600 E. Leffel Lane in Springfield). This group welcomes all men and women who are available at lunchtime for some good food and fellowship. Please email Anita Beardsell (anitabeardsell1234@gmail.com) to RSVP. If you need a ride, let Anita know that as well.



Rainbow Table

January is our month to help serve lunch at St. John's Lutheran Church each Friday. There are two shifts. The first shift prepares the meal and sets up from 9 AM to 11 AM. The second shift comes in at 11:30 AM to serve and clean up, finishing at 1:30 PM.

JANUARY Birthdays

- Margaret Mattox..... Jan 4
- Graham Waggoner Jan 4
- Audrey Chitkara..... Jan 5
- Emily Hasecke..... Jan 6
- Carol Harbaugh Jan 10
- Martha Chaney..... Jan 12
- Dan McGregor Jan 19
- David Farrar Jan 21
- Paul Cook..... Jan 21
- Denise Sharp Jan 27
- Steve Sharp Jan 30

Church Staff

Rector: The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard
Office Hours Tues 8 am - 2 pm
Thurs 11:30 am - 2 pm

Deacon: The Rev. Rick Incorvati
Sr. Warden: Dawn Ivy (dvivy0960@yahoo.com)

Jr. Warden: John Richardson
(richardsonjohnd@gmail.com)

Parish Administrator/Program Coordinator:
Kelly Zeller (Mon.-Thurs. 8 AM – 2 PM)

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Christopher Durrenberger (Sunday mornings & by appointment)

Facility Manager: Paul McAfee (Mon.-Fri. 7–11 AM)

Bookkeeper: Tina Knox (Tues. & Thurs. 8–10 AM)

Youth Teacher: Abby Glass (Sundays 9:45 AM – 12:15 PM)

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

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.



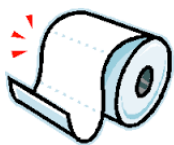
Questions? Contact Security Director, Jack Ivy at zis1942@yahoo.com



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

January 15th from 11–2 is pantry day!

Thank you to those who helped with December's Food Pantry. We gave out lots of meat, milk, cheese, soup, peanut butter, fruits, and fresh produce as well as the extras of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and toilet paper. Pantry volunteers come from Covenant Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church and other faith communities. 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.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS THANK-YOUS

- + to **Joanne Harris, Jim Whipp, and Joyce Spangler** for their Advent decorating
- + to the **Altar Guild, Acolytes, Lay Ministers, and Choir** for their work making all our services go smoothly
- + to the **kids, youth, and adults** who offered the "Looking Forward to Christ" Advent Pageant
- + to **Jake Studebaker & Alan Ladd** for coordinating, and all the folks who stuck around to help on "HOG" Sunday
- + to **Jeff & Joy Carter** for their beautiful musical offerings on Christmas Eve
- + to **Ann Chitkara and all Pantry volunteers, and Lori Swafford and IHN volunteers**, for feeding hungry people during the holidays
- + to **Deacon Rick, Kent Brooks, Judy Johnson, and Chris Oldstone-Moore** for a beautiful Advent Taize service and lovely meal
- + to **Myra Dean Banion**, for her musical accompaniment on 12/29

Episcopal Calendars

2020 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.



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.

ADULT FORUM IN JANUARY

Epiphany carries the ideas of light, sudden inspiration, and surprise. Join us for the following adult formation opportunities in January.

January 5 - An informal meeting in the Parish Hall for those interested in exploring a retreat at the Convent of the Transfiguration and/or a Quiet Day in Lent with Sister Diana. What would it look like? What themes would it address?

January 12 - Join us as Fred Bartenstein leads a roundtable discussion of our stories of being part of the Episcopal Church. Why did we come? Why do we stay? What are the challenges and blessings?

January 19 - How do Buddhism and Christianity fit together? How does each view enlightenment? Join Amanda Hayden of Christ Church and Sinclair Community College for this presentation.

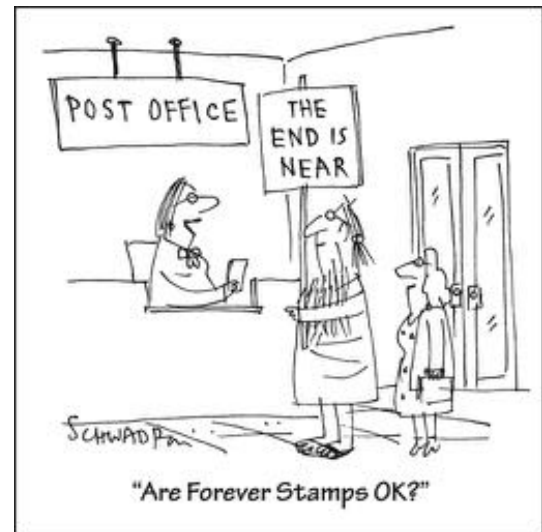
January 26 - Rev. Maggie will re-examine the Genesis story of Sodom and Gomorrah. What is it really saying, and how has it been mis-interpreted?

*(submitted by Judy Johnson,
Adult Forum Team convener)*



The **Lego Class** (for kids) and the **Youth Class** (for middle & high schoolers) will return on Sunday, January 12th.

Mr. Jon and Abby look forward to seeing the kids & youth back in class then!



"Of all persons, the Christian should be best prepared for whatever the New Year brings. ... In Christ he has disposed of a thousand enemies that other men must face alone and unprepared. He can face his tomorrow cheerful and unafraid because yesterday he turned his feet into the ways of peace and today he lives in God. The man who has made God his dwelling place will always have a safe habitation."

— A.W. Tozer

Happy New Year from your friends at Christ Episcopal Church!