

Preparing for Christmas at Christ Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Annual Alternative Christmas Market



Join us at Covenant Presbyterian Church (201 North Limestone Street, Springfield), which is hosting its Annual Alternative Christmas Market, **Sunday, December 3**, from **11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.** This is an **ALTERNATIVE** approach to commercial Christmas shopping while caring for our community. Shoppers talk to representatives from 15 local and global organizations and fill out a shopping list of items, such as containers of laundry detergent or kitchen trash bags (for Christ Church Food Pantry), or children's books (for the Clark County Literacy Center). These items symbolize a monetary contribution to the organization in the name of a loved one. While the shopper waits at the food court, a personalized card is prepared for the recipient of the gift, describing the item that has been given in his or her name. All gifts purchased are tax deductible (receipt provided), but no names are put on any mailing list.

Hanging Of The Greens

We will hang the greens on **Sunday, December 3rd**, immediately after 10 A.M. worship service. There are jobs for everyone, so plan to stay and join in the fun!

ADVENT ADULT FORUMS

On **December 10th and 17th**, we will look at ideas from the Sanctified Arts devotional *Those Who Dream*, with copies for each participant. Each lesson is self-contained and includes both words and images. Join Judy Johnson in the Parish Hall after the 10 A.M. service for some time thinking about God's dreams and ours.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

There will be **two** services on Dec. 24th.

- **9:00 AM:** Advent 4 combined Rite I Service
- **6:30 PM:** Special music offered by musical guest Christina Darding, guitarist; the Christ Episcopal Choir; and musical director Chris Durrenberger.
- **7:00 PM:** Festive Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist Rite II service.

The services can be viewed on Christ Church's Facebook page or on the church's website:

www.christspringfield.org

NOTE: There are no services at Christ Church on Christmas Day.

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Office: 937/323-8651
www.ChristSpringfield.org

Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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in the Diocese of Southern Ohio

**Provisional Bishop:**

The Rt Rev. George Wayne Smith

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

Clarion Editor:

Joyce Spangler



The office will be closed December 24th, 25th, and 26th for Christmas. Please plan accordingly.

Also in December and Beyond...

Join Us For Our Holiday Show

"Don We Now Our Gay Apparel"

www.daytongaymenschorus.org

Sunday, December 3rd
3 p.m.
First United Church of Christ
2000 E. High Street
Springfield, 45505

**Gay Men's Chorus at First United Church of Christ
December 3**

Ingathering of Baby Food Through January 7

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 Help Me Grow, FYI-Parent Network (Springfield), and others. We will be collecting baby food throughout Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas. A few jars will be dedicated as a symbolic offering for

God's service and blessed at the 10 A.M. service on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 7th.

Please drop off your baby food donations in the basket by the elevator anytime between now and Jan. 7th. Slips with Shopping Tips will be on the wall beside the basket.

Thank-you for helping feed hungry babies throughout this Holy Season! Questions? Contact Deb Southward 937-925-1977 (call/text) or email at dpsouthward@aol.com





On Advent and Calendars

I recently learned that the Advent wreath was a more recent invention than I had realized. I had assumed that it arose from the time that people had marked Advent; a tradition which goes back more than a thousand years. But I read one account that Advent wreaths had been invented in an orphanage (or maybe it was a boarding school) in Germany. Each morning in December, the children would pester the monks with questions about how soon Christmas would be coming—Christmas being one of the few bright spots in the year for the kids. One of the enterprising monks took a large wagon wheel, and placed four large candles evenly around the outside, representing the four Sundays in Advent. Between three of the large candles, he then placed six smaller candles, representing the weekdays. After the last large candle, he placed a number of small candles representing the number of weekdays between the last Sunday of Advent and Christmas. Each morning at breakfast, he would then light the appropriate candles, indicating how close they were getting to Christmas. Problem solved.

At some point, when I was a child, I got my first Advent calendar in Sunday school. It was printed on two pieces of somewhat flimsy card stock. On the outside was a picture of the desert—presumably the road to Bethlehem—at night. There were small numbers printed on the desert scape—numbers that weren't always easy to see—that corresponded to windows to open on the various days of Advent. Each window revealed a Bible verse, as I recall. At some point, I found it much easier to just carefully tear open the entire card to reveal the verses scattered across the inside. It kept my picture of the desert scene intact and was much easier than trying to find all the numbers. Problem solved.

Today, Advent calendars abound, but they seem to have solved the problem a bit differently. For those not wishing to destroy pretty pictures or contemplative scenes of the Holy Land—well, many of the calendars I see now are nothing more than a series of boxes, drawers, or pockets to open. And, for those who cannot wait for Christmas, these new Advent calendars come pre-filled with a different treat for each day: miniature chocolates, small toys, or in some cases, even beauty products or liqueurs. (I really hope nobody is giving those to Sunday School children!)

I have to admit, some of these are quite clever. I've seen some children's calendars in which each day adds a new piece to a project—a little machine or craft—that will be completed only on Christmas Eve. And I will admit that there was a time when I really appreciated my own, self-stocked, countdown calendar filled with my favorite chocolates. (Advent can be intense when working in Church-land. I figured I deserved a little reward for each day that I got through.) But I also marvel at the marketing genius who figured out how to get people to add to their Christmas wish lists throughout December, as children and adults opened little packages to discover new items—new flavors of candy, new beauty products to get in full size, new miniature toys that need accessories.

Those who once suggested that Advent should be “a little Lent” must be staring down at us in amazement.

So, here is the annual reminder: Advent is more than just the “countdown to Christmas,” and Christmas is more than just a day of frenzied unpacking of gifts and greetings with family.

Advent is the time to prepare—not only for the coming of Christ and Christmas—but also for the second coming as well. A time to do a little soul inventory, to prepare to meet Jesus as both baby in a manger and King of Creation. A reminder that this world, and all that we may buy and do, is not all there is.

And Christmas is the full twelve days to celebrate the miracle that God would come to Earth. To dwell with us and rely on us, to walk with us and eat with us. To share our every trouble, and our every moment of rejoicing. Starting with our party at his birth, a party that

will last through his naming, and the arrival of the foreign Magi who brought him gifts. Of course, they were astrologers ... they, of all people, didn't need calendars to tell them when to celebrate.

New Ministries (and Changes) at the 10 o'clock Service

Our 10 o'clock service will look a bit different, beginning in December. We have made a few changes to allow more people to serve in valuable ministries in the church.

Beginning in December, we will herald a new corps of acolytes. They will light the candles before worship and carry the cross during the procession. As our acolytes become more experienced, their responsibilities will increase. We want to prepare this ministry to be a place where, in time, young people can find a place to serve in church.

Also, in December we will move to a standing Communion station. You may have experienced standing Communion stations in other Episcopal churches, including the Cathedral in Cincinnati. This will allow our Eucharistic ministers (chalice-bearers) who have difficulty with steps to continue to serve in this ministry. You may also notice that some Eucharistic ministers may sit in the front pew instead of the chancel, and they may read the Prayers of the People from this pew as well. Interestingly, this recovers the old tradition—the Prayers of the People in many churches are read from the congregation, reminding us that these are, in fact, the prayers all of us offer together.

When we use a standing Communion station, the priest will stand in front of the altar gate, in the center of the aisle. The Eucharistic Minister will stand just behind her, and slightly to her left. Those wishing to receive Communion will form a line down the aisle, and walk up to the priest, who will place the bread into each person's outstretched hand. The person will then step to the left, and either intinct (dip the wafer in the chalice), or take a sip from the chalice, all while still standing. Those wishing to pray before the altar after receiving Communion may

step behind the priest, and to the right, to kneel at the altar rail. Those who wish to return to their pews should move left and make their way down the side aisle, back to their seat.

The 8 o'clock service will continue to receive at the altar rail. Also, those attending the 10:00 service who would like to have Communion brought to them, can let the ushers know.

It may take a try or two to get used to our new way of doing things. We hope that it will allow everyone – including our many lay ministers – ways to continue to participate meaningfully each Sunday.

“Stepping Out into the Vision”

Thank you to all who have returned your pledge cards. If you haven't, it's not too late! If you need another pledge card, or want to send in your pledge via email, contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com or 937-323-8651. Your pledge makes a difference! Thank you.

DSO Convention Update!

The Rev. Michelle Boomgaard, Beth Deger, Kay Koeninger, Brian Shelburne, and Steve Sharp attended the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio in Portsmouth on Nov. 11. Delegates passed two resolutions, approved the budget for next year, and elected clergy and lay representatives to various committees. Rev. Boomgaard was approved as the Diocese's clergy representative to Province V of the Episcopal Church. Our current bishop Wayne Smith addressed the convention and stressed the importance of our continuing work on racism and creating Beloved Community as well as the need for transparency and trust in the Diocese, especially regarding our budget. Our incoming bishop, Kristin White, also spoke. She will be consecrated on February 17, 2024, in Columbus. Please contact the members of the delegation if you have any questions about the convention.



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

Thursday Chapel Virtual Noonday Prayer Services

Judy Johnson will offer 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>



2024 Altar Flower Dedication Chart

If you would like to sponsor the Altar flowers for 2024 in memory of or thanksgiving for someone, please Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com. Please be very specific in what or who you are dedicating the altar flowers, and if you have a particular choice of flower. The suggested donation is \$45.



Watch Us on YouTube

Here's how to watch our services on YouTube: Open the YouTube app on your smart TV.

- Go to "Search." Enter *Christ Church Springfield*. By the time you have entered *Christ Church Spr*, a list will have appeared 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!

Wednesday Bible Study

Bring Your Own Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 4 PM in Hollenbeck House. Join us for fellowship, insight, and maybe a little inspiration as we study the book of Genesis together. Feel free to bring your favorite Bible translation to read and discuss.

Revised Common LECTIONARY

December				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
Dec. 03	Isaiah 64:1-9	80:1-7, 16-18	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark: 13:24-37
Dec. 10	Isaiah 40:1-11	85:1-2,8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Dec. 17	Isaiah 61:1-4	126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 24	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	89	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 31	Lessons and Carols			





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



If you like to make soup *and* nurture others, this is the ministry for you! Place homemade soup in disposable containers (labeled with the type of soup and date) in the church refrigerator and then let Kelly know <zellerk0611@gmail.com> that you've dropped it off. The soup is used to provide a little TLC for parishioners. Thanks so much for considering helping with this ministry.

December Birthdays

Al Hurley	Dec 1
Peng Chen.....	Dec 2
Fred Bartenstein.....	Dec 4
Doug McGregor.....	Dec 4
Anita Beardsell	Dec 5
Blake Holland	Dec 6
Bryce Holland	Dec 6
Liz Wheeler	Dec 6
Richard Spangler.....	Dec 8
Marilyn Krohn	Dec 15
Leeza Wheeler	Dec 19
Isabelle Durrenberger.....	Dec 21
Bill Hicks	Dec 21
Dawn White	Dec 23
David Reichel	Dec 24
Marty Smith	Dec 24
Joanne Harris	Dec 27
Chris Durrenberger.....	Dec 29

December Anniversaries

Alex and Chris Bicke	Dec 11
Scott Dooley and Lisa Pankratz.....	Dec 18

Toys for Promise Neighborhood Christmas Store

Thank you to everyone who bought toys for the Promise Neighborhood's Christmas Store! The support of Christ Church will help lift the spirits of more than a few of our neighbors.



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, December 21st** from 6-8 PM at COhatch, 101 S Fountain Ave, Springfield. Feel free to bring a friend or a game to share. If you have questions, contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christspringfield.org.

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

Your Vestry

Vestry at Large: Rick Everingham, Bill Hicks, Kay Koeninger, Joy Meyers, Linda Mortensen, and Lori Swafford

Episcopal Calendars

2024 Calendars are available in the East Entrance on the table. Thank you to Richards, Raff, and Dunbar Funeral Home for providing them for our use.



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



Food Pantry News

At the November Food Pantry, we served over 150 households! Clients were offered hot dogs, chicken, pork, tomato sauce, cereal,

fresh produce, canned goods, and a few treats—chips, cookies, and the extras of toilet paper, pet food, flour, spices, toiletries, and Reynolds Wrap. The clients are always grateful, and volunteers have a good time! To volunteer, please contact Brian Shelburne at bshelburne@wittenberg.edu, Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com, or Anne Randolph at annejranda@aol.com.

The December Drive-thru Pantry will be on Dec. 20th. Volunteers are needed to

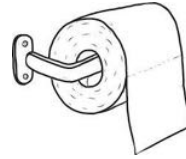
- help pick up and unload food,
- help bag food, and
- help with customer service.

	Time	December
1 st Food Pick-Up	8:00 AM	6th
2 nd Food Pick-Up	8:00 AM	13th
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	14th
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	20th

Groceries are pre-bagged so that on pantry distribution day, filled bags can be placed directly into client's cars. If you can commit a block of 3–4 hours on **Dec. 14th**, let Brian Shelburne know. Most groceries should be bagged by **Dec. 20th**.

“Day of Change” Results

As the clocks were falling back one hour, we brought our change to church. Thanks to your generosity, \$63.83 has been given to the Christ Church Food Pantry to support their work in feeding hungry people of Springfield.



TP Donations

Thanks to all who continue to donate TP. Ours is one of the few pantries to give out toilet paper. 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 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

Just a REMINDER! Continue to \$AVE PENNIES for the Warder Literacy Center & PULL-TABS for Dayton Ronald McDonald House. THANKS in advance for everyone's continual support! Rolls/baggies of pennies/pull-tabs can be dropped in the Hollenbeck House mail slot or returned in the church building. We look forward to your continued support this year we continue to make a difference!



The Vestry's Nominating Committee is asking for nominations for two new members to join the Vestry for a three-year term beginning in February 2024, and for delegates to our annual Diocesan Convention. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for any of these positions, please contact Kay Koeninger or Linda Mortensen, either in person or by email kaydavid7485@att.net or linda.c.mort@gmail.com.

The Vestry functions as a board that oversees the spiritual, pastoral, and operational aspects of Christ Episcopal Church. It is composed of the rector and members of the congregation who have been elected at the parish annual meeting each February.

To be eligible for Vestry, members must:

- attend worship regularly
- make a pledge, or otherwise financially support the parish
- be able to attend and participate in the Vestry meetings, held once a month at Christ Church or via Zoom. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, starting at 6:30 PM.

Diocesan Convention meets annually to conduct the business of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. This includes passing the Diocesan budget, and providing guidance on priorities and policies. Diocesan Convention will meet November 22-23, 2024, in Wilmington, Ohio.

The Nominating Committee will contact nominated individuals and will present a slate of candidates at the Annual Meeting in February 2024.

Food For Thought . . .

In his poem "The Inn That Missed Its Chance," Amos R. Wells writes from the perspective of the "fairly crazed" innkeeper who recalls Bethlehem becoming "a hive at swarming-time." Of the couple who requested shelter on what became Christmas Eve, the proprietor asks, "Could I know that they were so important?"

There was a sign, they say, a heavenly light resplendent; but I had no time for stars. And there were songs of angels in the air out on the hills; but how was I to hear amid the thousand clamors of an inn?

If the innkeeper had only known Jesus' true identity, he says, he would have turned the place upside down, sending other guests out to the stables instead. When Jesus returns — "as he will surely come" — the anonymous innkeeper wants everyone to know: "Tell my Lord that all my inn is his, to make amends."





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 10th*** and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the Parish Office, 409 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio 45505, with a check payable to Christ Episcopal Church.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS & THANKSGIVINGS

Donor's Name _____

In memory of _____

In thanksgiving for _____