



The *Clarion*

Volume 24, Issue 5, May 2020

A Monthly Publication

Our Parish and the COVID-19 Pandemic

As we continue walking through this season of uncertainty, there is so much we cannot control... and yet, no amount of physical separation can deny our connection, our spiritual unity as members of the Body of Christ!

We are sending out daily NewsNote emails to keep members and friends of the parish 'in the loop' and share thoughts of inspiration and strength. If you do not already receive these emails, and would like to, just email Kelly Zeller (zellerk0611@gmail.com). If you do not have access to the internet at home, and would like us to 'snail mail' you each Sunday's order of worship during the previous week, please call the church office at 937-323-8651 and leave a message with your mailing address.

We continue to offer online worship opportunities, including Virtual Wednesday Chapel and Live-Streamed Sunday Morning Prayer, which can be viewed on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/christspringfield.org/). Anyone with internet access can view the page, regardless of whether or not they have a Facebook account. You may get a pop-up window asking if you want to open an account, but simply click on "Not Now" to continue viewing the material on our page.

socially distant but
spiritually alive!

New content to keep you connected every day

SUNDAYS Live-Streamed Worship at 9 am (Morning Prayer & candle lighting)
MONDAYS Food for Thought (Christian formation)
TUESDAYS Deacon's Corner (outwardly focused)
WEDNESDAYS Virtual Chapel at 10 am (COVID litany & Scripture reflection)
THURSDAYS Musical Interludes (soothing sounds for peace)
FRIDAYS Inspirational Potpourri (anyone can submit something)
SATURDAYS Stories for Young Saints (especially for kids)

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

*The Clarion***Volume 24, Issue 5**

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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:

Jim Whipp

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 people of Christ Church,

Your Leadership Team and Vestry met via Zoom on Thursday evening, May 7th, to begin considering the many different factors that will affect our eventual return to in-person worship services. As you are all aware, this is complicated stuff. Your Church staff and elected lay leaders are committed to moving forward responsibly and faithfully, with the good of the entire community in mind. The most responsible path will not be the quickest or easiest path -- but it is the path we will walk, together.

These are the Guiding Principles we adopted (unanimously) during our meeting:

Guiding Principles for Christ Church's Return to In-Person Worship

{adopted by Vestry on 5/7/20}

SAFELY + RESPONSIBLY + FAITHFULLY

1. We, the congregation of Christ Episcopal Church, **will prioritize the health and safety of the full Body of Christ** over our personal preferences and desires to "get back to normal."
2. We **agree to be guided by** the instructions issued by the Bishop's Office in order to limit the risks in our return to in-person worship. (Rationale: see #1)
3. We **agree to follow** applicable guidelines from the Governor's office and/or Ohio Department of Health. *Note:* As a religious organization, we are legally exempt from most of these guidelines; but we will not take advantage of this exemption. (Rationale: see #1)
4. We **will maintain** 6 feet of space between all persons who do not live together. (Rationale: see #1)
5. We **will continue** to offer as much as we can online. (Rationale: see #1)
6. We **will encourage** folks at higher risk (65+ and/or underlying conditions) to stay home. (Rationale: see #1)
7. We **will not ask** any staff members or volunteers to engage in high risk behaviors (i.e. any duties that may violate the parish/diocesan/state guidelines). (Rationale: see #1)

+ These guidelines will govern the **first stage** of our return, which begins on the date we hold our first in-person worship services (not yet known). Guidelines will be continually reevaluated by Leadership Team and Vestry.

+ Instructions from the Bishop's office will cover many specifics: communion, coffee hour, face masks, singing, etc. Our task is to discern **how we will implement these specifics** in the context of our parish.



(continued on p. 3)

(Rector's Message, continued)

We are not prepared to identify a date for our return to in-person worship at this time. We know that this will be disappointing to many of you; but we must wait for reliable and sustained indicators that the presence of COVID-19 in our area is decreasing rather than increasing (as it is at this writing).

In the 2nd chapter of Mark's Gospel, there's a poignant story that keeps popping into my head these days... Word has gotten out that this strange wandering prophet from Nazareth has the power to restore health and wholeness, and Jesus is surrounded by crowds. No one can get to him. And then 4 very resourceful folks come up with a creative plan to get their paralyzed friend inside the house where Jesus is staying. They climb up, take apart the roof, and lower their friend through on a mat. They do all this so that their friend can feel and receive the benefits of intimacy with the Messiah, the wholeness and newness of life that Jesus gives.

Friends, you have that intimacy. You have that newness of life, right where you are. When the time comes, we will take apart the roof bit by bit, so that we can re-enter our place of worship and sanctuary; but remember that it's not the only place where we meet Jesus. We meet him in the crisp morning breeze, we meet him in the songs of birds, we meet him in our whispered prayers and off-key singing and kitchen-table worship, and we meet him in our love and care for one another.

Take heart, and hold onto his final words in the Gospel of Matthew, his eternal promise to us all: ***"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."***

Blessings & love,
Rev. Maggie L-S

A NOTE ABOUT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHURCH

We are in the midst of an anxious and uncertain time in our community and in our world. As I write these words, the many ministries of Christ Episcopal Church continue on in a variety of ways (online worship, daily meditations, pastoral care via phone, and Christian formation via text message, among others). 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 COVID-19 pandemic. And although we are currently unable to gather on site, the normal operating expenses and costs of upkeep for our historic building remain the same.

Christ Church may look and feel different right now, but we continue to be and share the good news of Jesus Christ by loving and serving our neighbors from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). 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: Use the Diocese of Southern Ohio's online giving form (diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/wzviwgl17ia0ah/)

OR
from the Diocesan homepage at diosohio.org, click on "Doing church" during COVID-19, then *Technology Resources*, then *Diocesan online giving form*).

Be sure you select **Christ Church, Springfield** from the drop-down bar.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Church Staff

Please note that all staff are currently working from home as much as possible!

Rector: The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

Deacon: The Rev. Rick Incorvati

Parish Administrator/Program Coordinator:
Kelly Zeller

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

Youth Teacher: Abby Glass

Nursery Attendant: Jerushia Knox

Facility Manager: Paul McAfee

Bookkeeper: Tina Knox

Monday, May 25th (Memorial Day) is a holiday for all staff.

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

Most every Sunday, during the announcements time, I welcome newcomers by referring to our motto: "There is a place for YOU at God's table!" Right now, when we are not able to gather at God's table and partake of our Lord's Supper together, we must hold that place for one another in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers, resting securely in the knowledge that we are beloved of God, made for goodness and love and eternal life.

~ Rev. Maggie, on behalf of the

Leadership Team



A prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion – their very lives – for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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

Revised Common **LECTIONARY**

May 2020

Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
May 3	Acts 2:42-47	23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
May 10	Acts 7:55-60	31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 17	Acts 17:22-31	66:7-18	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 24	Acts 1:1-11	68:1-10, 33-36	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
May 31	Numbers 11:24-30	104:25-35, 37	Acts 2:1-21	John 20:19-23



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

Dear friends,

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. They will not change from week to week, until we begin offering in-person worship services again (and when that happens, we'll figure out another way to share audio via phone).

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 **88472403977#**
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 **132550#**
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.

~ Rev. Maggie L-S



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.*

We will complete the 2019-2020 Christian Education year at Christ Church at the end of May, not at all the way we envisioned it! Amidst all the uncertainty and turmoil, our **Sunday School teachers, Children's Chapel leaders, Adult Forum and Forward Week-by-Week leaders**, and all who've assisted with these programs this past year deserve our thanks and appreciation for their time, energy, efforts, and spiritual wisdom.

Youth Sunday School Teacher: Abby Glass
Assisted by: Rev. Rick Incorvati
Lego Class Teacher: Jon Leidheiser-Stoddard
Assisted by: Kelly Zeller

Children's Chapel Leaders: Lori Swafford, Mark Brooks Hedstrom, Karen & Jeff Carter, and Cathy Waggoner
Assisted by: Kelly Zeller

Adult Forum Team Convener: Judy Johnson
Team Members: Fred Bartenstein, Brian Shelburne, and Liz Wheeler

Forward Week-by-Week Leaders: A rotating cast of "8-o'clockers" including Dawn & Jack Ivy, Ann Chitkara, and Marj Vasileff



Thank you all for sharing yourselves with the people of this parish, and for helping us grow in faith!



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Are you, or someone in your family, graduating this spring? High school, college, trade school, grad school, doggie obedience school... okay, maybe not obedience school. But whatever it is, we want to recognize and celebrate your accomplishment!

Please email the pertinent info: graduate's name, school name, degree (if applicable), graduation date, and future plans to Parish Administrator Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com, so that we can honor you during an upcoming worship service.



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

PANTRY UPDATE

**Food Pantry and COVID-19:
A Notice from Rev. Maggie**



Dear Christ Church friends,

At the very end of April I made the unpleasant, but necessary, decision to cancel our Food Pantry day for the month of May.

During the preceding week, I spoke at length with both Pantry Coordinator Ann Chitkara and Senior Warden Dawn Ivy; I studied the "Responsible Restart Ohio" guidelines from the Governor's office and state Health Department; and I sought guidance from the Bishop's office in Cincinnati.

Although I'm proud of the flexibility and creativity that we displayed with March's drive-thru model, it's clear to me that we cannot operate our Food Pantry while adhering to the mandatory 6-feet-apart distancing guideline at all times {please note that I'm not only referring to the distance between volunteers and clients, but also the distance between one volunteer and another}.

It pains me to have to do this, but the guidelines are clear, and we must abide by them. I remain hopeful that positive changes over the coming month will allow us to reopen the Food Pantry in June.

I am well aware of the great level of need that persists in our local community. We will continue to direct folks to Second Harvest Food Bank (as we did in April). I have also assisted some families in desperate need through my Discretionary Account (purchasing and distributing gift cards to Save-a-Lot). Obviously I do not have the funds to do this for hundreds of people; but if you know of folks who are in need of this assistance, please send me their contact information, or ask them to call me directly on the Pastoral Care Line (937-504-1319).

Blessings and love to you, your families, and the people of greater Springfield,

Rev. Maggie L-S

MAY Birthdays

- Ruth Bayley May 01
- Bobbi Wells May 03
- Peg Curtin May 05
- Ben Hasecke May 08
- Sarah Schubert May 10
- Susie Peterson May 11
- Dodi Holmes May 13
- Katie Yeazell Mellett May 14
- Logan Mellett May 17
- Ross McGregor May 18
- Hollis Wolfe May 18
- Eman Trillana May 19
- Ron deLanglade May 20
- Daphne Trillana May 20
- Marj Vasileff May 20
- Zoë Spangler May 21
- Jesse Leidheiser-Stoddard May 23
- Taylor Mellett May 25
- Charlotte McGregor May 26
- Scott Yeazell May 29

MAY Anniversaries

- Bill & Gretchen Hicks May 13
- Christopher Durrenberger & Peng Chen May 20
- Rick & Jeanie Everingham May 25
- Scott & Cathy Yeazell May 27
- Jack & Dawn Ivy May 31



A Spirit who comforts

In a time when life expectancy was around 40 years, Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) lived more than twice that long. The Benedictine abbess and mystic wrote books and music, founded two convents, conducted four “preaching tours” and much more, despite chronic illness, lack of schooling, grave self-doubt and a male-dominated church and society. Perhaps these poetry excerpts reveal her source of strength and inspiration:

O comforting fire of Spirit,
Life, within the very Life of all Creation.
Holy you are in giving life to All. ...

O sacred breath, O fire of love ...
O most pure fountain
through whom it is known
that God has united strangers
and inquired after the lost. ...

You always draw out knowledge,
bringing joy through Wisdom's inspiration.

Therefore, praise be to you
who are the sound of praise
and the greatest prize of Life,
who are hope and richest honor
bequeathing the reward of Light.