



The
Clarion

Volume 24, Issue 6, June-July 2020

A Monthly Publication



"Some keep the Sabbath going to church"
by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Some keep the Sabbath going to church —
I keep it, staying at Home —
With a Bobolink for a Chorister —
And an Orchard, for a Dome —

Some keep the Sabbath in Surplice —
I just wear my Wings —
And instead of tolling the Bell, for Church,
Our little Sexton — sings.

God preaches, a noted Clergyman —
And the sermon is never long,
So instead of getting to Heaven, at last —
I'm going, all along.

***Congratulations to our
Christ Church Graduates!***

Ava Keebaugh
Katrina Dooley
Adam Szekacs
Ron Dowling
Sophie Mortensen

We are proud of you!



Christ Church Emergency Pastoral Care Line: 937-504-1319

The Clarion

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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. Dr. Rick Incorvati

Senior Warden:

Dawn Ivy

Junior Warden:

Jim Whipp

Organist:

Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

**Parish Administrator/
Program Coordinator:**

Kelly Zeller

Facility Manager:

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Bookkeeper:

Tina Knox

Clarion Editor:

Joyce Spangler



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear people of Christ Church,

"When can we come back to church?"

This is the question on everyone's mind these days... and the short answer is: I wish I knew!

The longer answer is more complicated. Your Clergy and Wardens and Vestry and Worship Team have been working on this for weeks. We've discussed different scenarios, asked lots of hard questions, planned for different contingencies, and studied the guidelines from the Bishop's office and the data from local public health experts. You can read the Diocesan guidelines yourself at episcopaliansinconnection.org/doing-church-during-covid-19/ (beware, there's A LOT there!). You can also refresh your memory on the broad "Guiding Principles" your Vestry adopted unanimously back in May (included at the end of this note).

Your Vestry and Leadership Team are dedicated to a cautious, well-informed transition that keeps our most vulnerable members as safe as possible. Given the continued spread of the novel coronavirus in Clark County, along with the reality that transmission risk is highest in enclosed spaces, I feel certain that we will not be back in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings at any point during June. My hope is that we will be able to hold Sunday services in our sanctuary again later this summer -- but of course I cannot make any promises. And whenever we are able to regather in the pews, our worship experience will be different. Masks will be required. There will be no singing. There will be no passing the offering plate, and no handshakes or hugs. There will be no sacrament of Holy Eucharist. Even when we do return to the sanctuary, much of what our hearts long for will remain absent for an unknown period of time.

We can't control any of this, and it is painful. It is painful to fast from Christ's Body and Blood; it is painful to hear the beloved hymns and not sing along; it is painful to be denied access to the comforting rhythms and routines we've always followed. But we must remember that *our God has not abandoned us*. God is present with us in this spiritual desert, just as God was present with Moses and the Israelites on their Exodus journey so long ago. Jesus promised: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20); and *Jesus keeps his promises*. And we have received the gift of the Paraclete, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit who surrounds and inspires all of us without exception. *The Spirit is never constrained by time or distance* or any other earthly circumstance.

(continued on p. 3)



(Rector's Message, continued)

As of this writing (June 10th), Clark County has seen a slight but steady increase in the number of new COVID-19 cases (both confirmed and probable) over the last three weeks. You can see our local data firsthand on the Combined Health District's website at www.ccchd.com. Although many businesses and organizations are reopening, we're all feeling restless, and it may seem like this COVID thing is blowing over... the reality is that the virus continues to spread in our community.

In accordance with the guidelines from the Bishop's office and the responsible commitments of your Vestry, the Worship Team has begun planning for the first stage of in-person worship opportunities. We will not begin this first stage, however, until the spread of the virus slows down in Clark County.

Once we see a downward trajectory in new COVID cases for at least two consecutive weeks, we will begin offering small outdoor in-person worship services (while continuing to livestream our Sunday morning service). This might mean a Wednesday Chapel service at a local park, or an evening service of Compline in someone's backyard. Smaller outdoor worship services will be our first step back -- putting our toes in the water -- before we will consider moving to larger outdoor services and/or indoor services.

More details about these first in-person worship opportunities are coming soon. In the meantime, please continue to reach out to one another in faith and love, take advantage of our virtual offerings, and *lift up those prayers* -- for our parish, our community, our nation, and the world!

Blessings and love to you all,
Rev. Maggie L-S
 (RevMaggieLS@gmail.com)

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.





**EARLY
SUMMER**
Birthdays

June Birthdays

- Denny WellsJune 2
- Beth DegerJune 3
- Lynn Rigsbee June 4
- Audra Trillana June 5
- Amil Anderson June 5
- Mark Irvine June 7
- Ron Dowling..... June 8
- Joyce Spangler June 9
- Sally Schwartz June 10
- Wes Sharp..... June 11
- Sally Boblitt June 12
- Judy Johnson June 16
- Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard ... June 21
- Bruce Horney June 21
- Henry McGregor June 22
- Barb Kelly June 25
- Sharon Wells June 26
- Will Hasecke June 28

July Birthdays

- David Bingman.....July 4
- Sue Allender.....July 6
- Anne RandolphJuly 7
- Anne Guyton- Dunbar.....July 8
- Catherine Waggoner.....July 9
- Leon DurrenbergerJuly 10
- Christina McGregor.....July 11
- William MattoxJuly 13
- Katherine SharpJuly 15
- Jim Kreckman.....July 16
- Muriel SpoonJuly 18
- Devon TuggleJuly 18
- Denise WellsJuly 23
- James Jr. (Jamie) McGregorJuly 24

- Steven McGregorJuly 24
- Rick Dunbar.....July 25
- Jake MellettJuly 25
- Cash SullivanJuly 26
- Michael Schmitt.....July 27
- Owen DooleyJuly 29
- Charles IrvineJuly 30
- Benjamin Cox.....July 31



**EARLY
SUMMER**
Anniversaries

June Anniversaries

- Joan and Al Hurley June 7
- Will & Margaret Mattox..... June 11
- Kent Brooks & Rick Inconvati..... June 15
- Steve & Denise Sharp..... June 16
- Dave & Bonnie Bingman June 19
- Ross McGregor &
Cathy Crompton June 19
- Chris & Denise Wells..... June 29
- Rev. Maggie &
Jon Leidheiser- Stoddard June 30

July Anniversaries

- Audra and Eman Trillana.....July 5
- Lori Swafford and Rand SmithJuly 7
- Ron Dowling and John Richardson.....July 9
- Cathy and Ed Hasecke.....July 12
- Jake Studebaker and Alan LaddJuly 21



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

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

"God of chaos"

a prayer from **enfleshed**

*God of holy chaos,
you don't protect us from getting swept up
into relationships and systems and experiences
that are messy,
but you do promise us that you will be found in
the midst of them.
Help us to remember that when the world was
aching,
you drew nearer, putting on flesh.
It was through that enfleshed reality of love,
that you transformed our world.
Relationship with you is not an escape -
it is the hope and courage we need
to dive right into the mess of things.
You, O God, are enfleshed
in our beautiful but aching earth,
in our work for a just society,
and in our efforts to love and be loved.
May our prayer life be invitations
into that life with you.
Thanks be.*

**Reminder from Outreach Team Member Deb Southward**

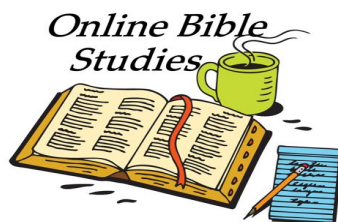
- Just a **REMINDER!** Continue to **\$AVE PENNIES** for the Warder Literacy CENTER & **\$AVE PULL-Tabs** for Dayton Ronald McDonald House. The Warder Literacy CENTER is opening on a limited basis & there will be a growing need for their services given that kids have been out of school (some without access to computers) & will need to play catch up. The Dayton Ronald McDonald House is continuing to be a safe haven for healthcare professionals to rest & relax without exposing their families if they so choose. Not sure when they plan to transist back to families. Rolls/baggies of pennies/pull-tabs can be dropped in the Hollenbeck House mail slot, or returned in the church building when we resume in-person worship. THANKS in advance for everyone's continual support!



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

Revised Common LECTIONARY

June 2020				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
June 7	Genesis 1: 1-2:4a	8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
June 14	Genesis 18:1-15	116:1, 10-17	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8
June 21	Genesis 21:8-21	86:1-10, 16-17	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
June 28	Genesis 22:1-14	13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
July 2020				
July 5	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	45:11-18	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 12	Genesis 25:19-34	119:105-112	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19	Genesis 28:10-19a	139:1-11, 22-23	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 26	Genesis 29:15-28	105:1-11, 45b	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



On **Tuesday evenings at 7:00**, Vestry member Keith Doubt facilitates "African Bible Study" via Google Meet. This unique Bible Study method, popularized through the Lambeth Conference, requires no special preparation. It is a meditative way to hear, explore, and discern the meaning of a passage of Scripture, without crosstalk, exegesis, or even conversation. Our first session, held on June 2nd, was peaceful and meditative. If you'd like to take part in an upcoming session, please email Keith (kdoubt@gmail.com), and he'll send you an

online meeting invitation just before 7:00 pm Tuesday, along with the particular text for the week.

On **Wednesdays at noon**, I offer a time of intercessory prayer and text study via Facebook Live (I've been doing this for about a month). We'll begin our upcoming sessions with Judy Johnson's beautiful "Prayer for Pentecost During a Season of Pandemic," and then I will lift up any and all prayer concerns that folks choose to share in the comments. Then I'll read and begin discussing our text for the day (usually one of the readings assigned for the coming Sunday). This is always more interesting and fun when folks add their comments and questions during the live video; but the video also stays up on our Facebook page, and can always be viewed later.

~ Rev. Maggie L-S



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.



The following non-profit organizations that Christ Episcopal supports through their Outreach Budget or in-kind donations will be having FUNdraisers with RUDY's BBQ on South Limestone in Springfield over the summer through Rudy's Giving TUESDAY program. Here is the link to Rudy's menu

www.rudyssmokehouse.com. They will receive 50% of the cost of the meal or food purchased for carry-out when you show either a printed or on-line coupon, which will be available in our weekly e-newsletter the week before:

- Tues. 7/7 Safe Harbor House (Outreach/Linda Mortensen)
- Tues. 8/11 Interfaith Hospitality Network - IHN (Outreach/Lori Stafford)
- Tues. 9/15 The Jefferson Street Oasis Garden
- Tues. 10/20 Habitat for Humanity (Outreach/Blue Banks "Holiday Homes")

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. (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 #.
Meeting ID: **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 #. Password: **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



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: Go to the Diocesan homepage at EpiscopaliansInConnection.org, and click on *Give online to your church*. Be sure you select **Christ Church, Springfield** from the drop-down bar.

*****And don't forget the Rector's Discretionary Fund**: Because we've been unable to gather for in-person worship since mid-March, the Rector's Discretionary Fund has not received the "loose offering" from the 1st Sunday of April, May, or June (as it normally would). Rev. Maggie uses these funds to assist folks (from both inside and outside the parish) with basic needs like rent payments, groceries, and help with medical bills. If you'd like to make a contribution to this fund, just mail a check to Christ Episcopal Church and write "Rector's Discretionary Fund" on the memo line.

Thank you in advance for your support!!