



February 25th, 2024

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held at 9:00 between services on Sunday, February 25th in the Parish Hall. All members aged 16 and older are asked to be present for this once-a-year meeting. Who can vote? According to the Canons of the Episcopal Church, voting members are those who are: members of Christ Church and at least 16 years old, regular in worship, faithful in giving, and active in Parish ministry.

At the meeting, we'll be electing two at-large Vestry members to 3-year terms, as well as four delegates to represent Christ Church as the fall Diocesan Convention. The 150th Annual Convention will return to a two-day format. It will be held Nov. 22–23 at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, OH.

The Nominating Committee members are Kay Koeninger, Linda Mortensen, Brian Shelburne, Liz Wheeler, Denise Sharp, and ex officio, The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard.

Annual Report Articles Reminder

If you were contacted to provide an article for the Annual Report, please submit them to Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com by February 2nd. Thank you!

February Calendar at a Glance

- Thurs. 2/1 Virtual Prayer Service at Noon
- Sun. 2/4 Worship at 8 & 10 AM
- Wed. 2/7 Pantry: 1st food pick-up at 8:00 AM; Bible Study 4:00 PM
- Thurs. 2/8 Virtual Prayer Service at Noon
- Sun. 2/11 Worship at 8 & 10 AM
- Tues. 2/13 **Shrove Tuesday**
Pancake Supper 6-7:30 PM
- Wed. 2/14 Pantry: 2nd food pick-up at 8:00 AM; **Ash Wednesday:** Imposition of ashes from 8-10 AM; Worship at 5:30 PM
- Thurs. 2/15 Pantry bagging day 9:00 AM; Virtual Prayer Service at Noon
- Sat. 2/17 **Bishop ordination and consecration**, Greater Columbus Convention Center at 11:00 AM
- Sun. 2/18 Worship at 8 & 10 AM
- Tues. 2/20 Last day for feminine hygiene product collection
- Wed. 2/21 Pantry Day 8:15 AM; Bible Study 4:00 PM
- Thurs. 2/22 Virtual Prayer Service at Noon; **Game Night**, Mango's Sports Bar & Lounge 6-8
- Sun. 2/25 Worship at 8 & 10 AM; **Annual Meeting** between services; **How to Succeed in Springfield** 1:00 PM; **Taize service** at First Baptist 5PM
- Wed. 2/28 Bible Study 4:00 PM
- Thurs. 2/29 Virtual Prayer Service at Noon

The Clarion**Volume 28, Issue 2**

is the independently edited, local monthly newsletter of Christ Episcopal Church, 409 East High Street, Springfield, OH, 45505 and published by Christ Episcopal Church upon authority of its Rector.

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

Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



Christ Episcopal Church
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



If the Clark County Sheriff calls a Level 2 snow emergency, Christ Church is closed. If Christ Church has to close on a Sunday, we will send out an email via Newsnote, post it on Channel 7, and put it on the Church's Facebook page and Website. Be safe! Whatever the snow emergency level, use your best judgement to be safe.

UPDATE: Stepping Out into the Vision

As of January 22nd, we have received 45 pledges of financial support for next year, totaling \$147,391.30 THANK YOU to all who have pledged to support Christ Church in 2024.

Giving Statements have been mailed for tax purposes. If you didn't receive yours, please contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com or 937-323-8651. Thank you!

**2024 Altar Flower Dedication Chart**

If you would like to sponsor the Altar flowers for 2024 in memory of or thanksgiving for someone or something, email 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. Available dates include:

February 11th
April 7th, 14th, and 28th
May 5th and 12th
June 2nd, 9th, 23rd, and 30th
July 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th
August 4th, 11th, and 18th
September 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th
October 27th
November 3rd and 24th

Alternative Christmas Market

Thank you to Kelly Zeller and Ann Chitkara, who attended and answered questions about the pantry at the Covenant Presbyterian Church's Alternative Christmas Market. We received over \$1,100 in donations for Christ Church Food Pantry!



The office is closed on Monday, February 19th for President's Day. Please plan accordingly





On Ash Valentine's Wednesday

For the last few weeks, I have been lamenting the fact that Ash Wednesday falls on February 14 this year – Valentine's Day. I have also been joking a bit, about what an Ash Wednesday date might look like. I've been inspired – if that's the right word – by a series of "Puritan Valentine's Cards" that have been doing the rounds on Facebook for about a decade now. Sepia-toned pictures, many with antique-looking art, like a bouquet of flowers. Around the picture, the words, "Roses are red, violets are blue, and neither is useful or necessary at all."

The joke being that the austere Puritans would not have appreciated the sentimentality of our modern Valentine's Day at all. And, of course, in my mind, Ash Wednesday meant austerity.

There are good reasons for this, of course. For a long time, Lent was associated with penance, the idea that we should do something unpleasant to show we were sorry for our sins. Giving up chocolate or chewing gum. And since Ash Wednesday kicks off Lent, it is naturally the day when those penitential acts are at their most noticeable, and raw. It seems like I never crave meat normally, except on those years when I partially abstain from it on days like Ash Wednesday.

Nowadays, the Church often promotes a different view of Lent. Instead of "giving things up" for Lent (pleasant things, like television, or sweets), we often talk about "taking things on." The idea is that we choose something to do that will help us draw near to God. A new habit that we will keep for the season, like giving to

charity, or giving thanks for one new thing every day.

The problem, of course, is that "taking things on" still sounds like a chore. It still makes things sound as unpleasant as those Puritan Valentine's cards. It turns what is supposed to be a delight into a drudge. Like the card that says, "I need you ... to help raise livestock and crops or surely we will starve to death this winter."

But maybe, Valentine's Day is the perfect metaphor for Ash Wednesday, after all.

Because, when you think about it, Valentine's is about spending time to focus on a relationship with the one you love. It's about giving up some things – money and time (some of the most highly valued commodities we have) to show you care. Ideally, time spent during Valentine's should be spent exclusively with the other person – not playing on a cell phone or staring at the television.

On some level, the same is true for Lent – a season of the year we spend working on our relationship with God. Because, let's face it, that is a relationship that can easily be taken for granted.

Ideally, if we give something up, like watching television or playing mindless games on our phones, it's so we can be more present in the moment – present to God, and to the blessings and people God has put in our lives. And, if we take something on, such as giving alms or saying a prayer or doing devotional reading, it's so that we can spend more time with God or with those God has called us to love.

Any relationship – whether it is with children, or a spouse or sweetheart, or with God – any relationship requires attention and care. What better time to remember that than this year, on Ash Valentine's Wednesday?

March Adult Forum Lenten Poetry Program

On Lenten Sundays in March, Adult Forum will offer a Poetry Program after the 10:00 service.



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



Episcopal Calendars

2024 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.



February 14th

Ash Wednesday is the Holy Day that begins the penitential season of Lent in preparation for Easter. Christ Church will offer a **5:30 PM** Ash Wednesday

Service, which will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist. Michelle will also be offering Ashes to Go in the church parking lot from 8 until 10 that morning. Stop by to pray and start the season off right.



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!

Thursday Chapel Virtual Noonday Prayer Services

Judy Johnson will offer a Noonday Prayer service on Christ Church's Facebook page at noon. ([facebook.com/christspringfield.org/](https://www.facebook.com/christspringfield.org/)) The Noonday Prayer service's text is located on page 103 in the Book of Common Prayer or online at <https://www.bcponline.org>



Revised Common **LECTIONARY**

February				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
2/04	Isaiah 40: 21-31	147: 1-12, 21	1 Corinthians 9: 16-23	Mark 1: 29-39
2/11	2 Kings 2: 1-12	50: 1-6	2 Corinthians 4: 3-6	Mark 9: 2-9
2/18	Genesis 9: 8-17	25: 1-9	1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1: 9-15
2/25	Genesis 17:1-7,15-16	Psalm 22:22- 30	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8 :31-38



Each month Christ Church will highlight a different ministry in hopes that we can assist parishioners in becoming more familiar with the ministries that Christ Church supports.

Her Story

Her Story (with whom Safe Harbor recently merged) is a nonprofit that focuses on assisting women who have experienced significant trauma and have developed addictions to cover over the pain of the trauma. Licensed Her Story staff provides safe housing with three different levels of programming, case management services, licensed trauma therapy, intensive outpatient treatment for addiction, nursing services, connection to healthy role models, and connection to the love of Christ. Women often experience the first unconditional love and acceptance that they have ever felt and are encouraged to stick with the process because of this very thing.

Her Story is having its annual fundraiser on March 2nd at 11 AM at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Christ Church is sponsoring the event. We have set a goal of sending 8–12 people from our congregation to learn more about the valuable work of the ministry and to enjoy connecting in ways that might support the ministry practically and financially. Visit <https://www.herstoryhouse.com/better-together-2024.html> to register (please specify Christ Church on your registration), and contact Linda Mortensen linda.c.mort@gmail.com so we can have an accurate count of who is attending.

February Birthdays

- Jack Goble..... Feb 2
- Kathi Bladh Feb 3
- Vijay Chitkara Feb 3
- Cameron McGregor..... Feb 8
- Fred Reed..... Feb 11
- Charlene Schreiber Feb 20
- Nancy McGregor Feb 23
- Judy Irvine Feb 26



Taize Is BACK!

February 25, 5:00 PM

First Baptist Church
638 South Fountain Avenue
Springfield, Ohio 45506

Experience worship in a candle-lit sanctuary with peaceful music, contemplative prayer, scripture readings, and silent reflection. People of all expressions of faith are welcome. Musicians, vocal and instrumental, are invited to come at 4:00 to practice the music for the worship. Everyone is welcome to a community potluck after the service.

About Taize Taize, France, is home to an interdenominational monastic order founded amid the divisions of World War II. Since those beginnings, the spirit of reconciliation and the practices of the Taize community have been emulated in contemplative services throughout the world.

Formation in February

Feb. 4: Understanding our New Neighbors Current estimates tell us that there 7,000 to 10,000 Haitians living in the City of Springfield. Most arrived in the last three years. Wondering where they came from, what brought them here, and what challenges they face finding their way around town? Join guest presenter Chris Cook as he offers insights into the lives of our new neighbors.

Feb. 18: Annual Meeting Preview An opportunity to discuss issues, learn about the budget, and meet the candidates for vestry and Diocesan Convention.



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.

Christ Church has an option for online giving through the church's website.

- Go to christspringfield.org or use the QR code at right.
- Go to the tab in the upper right-hand corner marked "Online Giving."
- Click on the online giving link in blue.
- Fill in the amount you would like to give.
- Next, use the drop box **2023-P for a Pledge or 2023-OG for other giving.**
- If you choose 2023-OG, there is another memo drop box for the type of giving. Choose one.
- Complete the rest of the form.
- Press "**Continue.**"
- On the next page, press "**Continue.**"
- Enter your billing information.
- Thank you! If you have questions or concerns, contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com.



February Anniversaries
 Fred and Babs Reed Feb. 15



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, February 22nd from 6-8 PM at Mango's Sports Bar & Lounge, 1805 W 1st St, Springfield.** Feel free to bring a friend or a game to share. If you have questions, contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christspringfield.org.

Get Ready for Shrove Tuesday Pancakes!

Join us **Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 6-7:30 PM** for one last burst of Epiphanytide celebration, with a traditional pancake supper. Wittenberg's Wittmen Crew, a male acapella singing group, will add to the fun.

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



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

Exciting Ways to Help our New(er) Neighbors! “How to Succeed in Springfield”

Anyone who’s moved recently knows that there are lots of little things you need to do before you are truly “settled.” Things like getting an ID, opening a bank account, or registering for school. I know from personal experience that things can be very different in other countries: for example, when I moved to Canada, I also had to get a medical ID card; while in the Netherlands, new residents need to formally register in their new town, regardless of nationality.

Imagine moving to a new community, and trying to understand what is expected and required, and navigate it all, in a language you don’t speak very well, if at all!

At the end of 2023, Christ Church was blessed by a significant donation, which the donor stipulated should be used “for ministry to and with the Haitian community in Springfield.” After consultation with the vestry, the outreach committee, and many of the agencies and organizations working with Haitians in Springfield, it seemed that one of the best ways we might use this money would be to help connect Haitians (and others) with the information that they need. And so, **beginning February 25, Christ Episcopal Church will host a series of presentations called “How to Succeed in Springfield.”**

These presentations will be offered about once per month, throughout the spring. They will be offered on Sundays, at 1:00 PM – a time that is convenient for working people but should not interfere with most of our

presentations will be offered in English, but our donation allows us to hire professionals to offer simultaneous translation into Creole. The presentations will be open to anyone, but obviously, we expect that they will be most useful to our newer neighbors from Haiti.

The generous donation means that we can launch this new ministry without touching our annual operating budget. It will also not affect our endowment in any way.

I hope, however, that it will be an expansion of our mission. In many ways, it fits perfectly with our existing mission statement. We will be offering our new neighbors some hospitality, including refreshments; education about Springfield’s ways; and outreach, connecting with new people in our community.

Please consider joining us in this important ministry. It would be wonderful if we had additional people present on the afternoon of February 11, and subsequent “Succeed in Springfield” days, to welcome people into our hall and help them find their way. We hope to offer coffee and other beverages and have someone available to watch children while their parents attend. And, of course, we hope you will join us in praying for our new neighbors, and our new efforts to help them feel at home.





Food Pantry News

A big **THANK YOU!** to all the pantry volunteers! At the very cold January Food Pantry, we served over 130 households! Clients

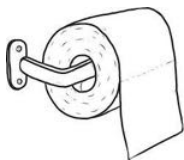
were offered a **TURKEY**, ground beef, chicken, pork, cereal, eggs, chips, canned goods, and the extras of toilet paper, pet food, soap, spices, toiletries, baggies, and Reynolds Wrap. The clients are always grateful, and volunteers have a good time! *To volunteer, please contact Brian Shelburne at bshelburne@wittenberg.edu, Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com, or Anne Randolph at annejrand@aol.com.*

The February Drive-thru Pantry will be on the 21st. Volunteers are needed to:

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

	Time	February
1 st Food Pick-Up	8:00 AM	7
2 nd Food Pick-Up	8:00 AM	14
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	15
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	21

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 **February 15**, let Brian Shelburne know. Most groceries should be bagged by **February 21**.



TP Donations

Thanks to all who continue to donate TP. Ours is one of the few pantries to give out toilet paper. A donation of a package of toilet paper is a great contribution to this amazing ministry! 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

Please continue to \$AVE PENNIES for the Warder Literacy Center & PULL-TABS for Dayton Ronald McDonald House. Rolls or baggies of pennies and pull-tabs can be dropped in the Hollenbeck House mail slot or placed in the church building. THANKS in advance for everyone's continual support!

Feminine Hygiene Product Drive!


Each year, the Leadership Clark County donation drive collects thousands of essential items for local organizations helping to support those in need in our community. This year, the team is collecting products for Period Kits Ohio. Most needed items include the following feminine products:

- Cora Organic Applicator Tampon Multipack
- Always Ultra Thin Feminine Pads with Wings
- U by Kotex Click Multipack Tampons
- Tampax Pearl Tampons

Christ Church is the drop-off location for these products. Collection deadline is February 20.



Our new Bishop will be ordained and consecrated on Saturday, Feb. 17. **Going to this festive event and want to join in the fun?** Volunteer to carry the Christ Church banner in procession at the start of the service! Call or email Rev. Michelle with questions!



God willing and the people consenting,

The Reverend Canon Kristin Uffelman White

will be ordained and consecrated a Bishop in the
one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and
Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Ohio

**Saturday, February 17, 2024
eleven o'clock in the morning**

The Right Reverend George Wayne Smith and the Standing Committee
request the honor of your presence at

**The Greater Columbus Convention Center
400 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio**

CHIEF CONSECRATOR
**The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church**

<i>Reception to follow</i>	DEACONS AND PRIESTS Cassock, surplice, red stole	ATTENDING BISHOPS Rochet, chimere, tippet
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Client's Choice Table

Our food pantry provides a miscellaneous table, AKA the clients choice table. We accept donations for this table and also order items from Second Harvest. If you are interested in contributing something other than toilet paper and or money to the food pantry, below is a list of some items not covered by SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) that are greatly appreciated.

pet food
foil wrap, waxed paper, plastic wrap
plastic storage bags
trash bags
paper plates/bowls, plastic utensils
soap: laundry, body, or hand soap
cleaning products: window cleaner,
bathroom cleaner, toilet bowl
cleaner, etc.

diapers
paper towels
hygiene items: feminine products, deodorant
Salt and pepper, herbs, and spices must be unopened



Donate Hygiene Items

