



MARCH

Happenings

Ash Wednesday Services on March 5th

Ash Wednesday is the Holy Day that begins the penitential season of Lent in preparation for Easter. **ASHES TO GO** will take place from **8 to 10 am in front of Hollenbeck at Christ Church**. Also, Christ Church will offer an Ash Wednesday Service at **7 pm**, including the imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist.



Day of Change: March 9th

As our clocks “spring forward,” we will once again collect loose change (bills are gladly accepted, too!) to support our Christ Church Food Pantry. Use your change to make a difference in the lives of the hungry. Special baskets will be passed during the 8 and 10 a.m. in-person services. If you would like to mail in

an offering, send it to the office: Christ Church, 409 East High St., Springfield, Ohio 45505.



Easter Flowers: Deadline: April 6th, 2025 (see back cover for the form) Easter can be a wonderful time to remember loved ones with a gift to Christ Church for flowers.



Mark Your Calendars!

Sun. 3/2 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Taize Service @ 5 PM at Covenant Presbyterian Church

Wed. 3/5 PANTRY: food delivery @ 8:30 AM; Ashes to Go 8-10AM; Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 PM

Thurs. 3/6 Virtual Noonday Prayer Service

Sun. 3/9 Worship @ 8 & 10:00 AM Services with Day of Change collection; Children's Chapel @ 10; Adult Forum

Thurs. 3/13 Virtual Noonday Prayer Service; PANTRY: bagging @ 9 AM

Sun. 3/16 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Children's Chapel @ 10 AM; Adult Forum; Oakwood Service @ 1 PM

Wed. 3/19 PANTRY DAY 8:15 AM

Thurs. 3/20 Virtual Noonday Prayer Service; Game Night @ Cohatch, 6-8 PM

Sun. 3/23 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum

Thurs. 3/27 Virtual Noonday Prayer Service

Sun. 3/30 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum

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www.ChristSpringfield.org

Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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in the Diocese of Southern Ohio

**Bishop:**

The Rt Rev. Kristin Uffelman White

Rector:

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard

Senior Warden:

Joyce Spangler

Junior Warden:

Dan McGregor

Treasurer:

Ken Bladh

**Program Director and
Parish Administrator:**

Kelly Zeller

Music Director:

Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

Facility Manager:

Paul McAfee

Bookkeeper:

Tina Knox

Nursery Attendant:

Madison Smith



On an Invitation to a Holy Lent

I suspect that Lent will just feel different to many of us this year.

This year, throughout Lent, we will follow Christ Church tradition of reciting the penitential order at the 8 AM service. The 10 AM service will look a bit more like services throughout the year – except that we will use the prayer of confession from *Enriching Our Worship*, instead of one from the *Book of Common Prayer*.

I remember that the first time we used this confession, it surprised some people, particularly the lines about repenting of “the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.” Isn’t that a bit harsh? someone asked me. I imagine that this image conjured up scenes from the *Godfather*, or similar gangster movies, in which someone just said, “solve this problem for me,” and others unleashed violence at their bidding.

But, to me, this year, I have become a bit more aware of the violence done on my behalf.

I remember, early in my career in ministry, hearing about a high school basketball game that had crossed a line. The supporters of one team – we’ll call them Swampville – came to the game and shouted racial slurs at their opponents. Some even came in costumes. What was most appalling to me was that – at that time – I had just finished working at St. Swithen’s Episcopal Church, in Swampville. I tried to imagine the youth of that church, the acolytes I had worked with, being involved in such hate. But, even if they didn’t do it, it was done in their name – the name of their high school. Everyone who watched the news that night, learned that Swampville was a racist town.

Sometimes, I wonder if one of the most holy things Lent offers us is simply an opportunity to lament. To take a look at the world around us, and say, “I know that this is not what God wants for us,” instead of just avoiding the world’s pain. To acknowledge that there are lots of things that we might want to change, but which seem beyond us. And, to try to make some action to change that.

(continued on p. 3)



(Michelle’s Musings, Continued)

Each Ash Wednesday, I invite the congregation to the observance of a holy Lent:

- by self-examination and repentance – by looking at our own actions, to discover the ways in which we might intentionally or unintentionally be harming others.
- by prayer – no longer avoiding the ills we see but offering them to God.
- by fasting and self-denial – giving up some of our own comforts, in solidarity with those who have less than we do, and perhaps using some of our material goods to aid in comforting others.
- and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word – reminding ourselves that God has great plans for us, and reflecting on those, instead of the plans of the people who are around us.

All that is hard. It takes time. It can be painful. And, in a time when we are used to getting

everything, overnight, at the touch of a button on our phones, this may feel dreary, boring, and ineffective. But, like any other project that is meant to last, building (or re-building) the Kingdom of God can only be done the old-fashioned way: through time, effort, and work.

I don’t know what happened in Swampville after that incident. But I did see a recent post from St. Swithen’s on Facebook. The Bishop had been to visit, and their congregation included a number of families who were Black, some of whom seemed to have come from other countries. I can only assume, and hope, that the incident I described (and the new clergy person at St. Swithen’s) led to a period of self-examination, repentance, prayer, and meditation, which led them to create a new and better version of their community. A community that now looks a bit more like the Kingdom of God, where all people are loved unconditionally.

I hope you will join me this year, as we mark a Holy Lent together.

Michelle+

Church Staff

- **Rector:** The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard
- **Senior Warden:** Joyce Spangler
- **Jr. Warden:** Dan McGregor
- **Treasurer:** Ken Bladh
- **Clerk of Vestry:** Kelly Zeller
- **Program Director & Parish Administrator:** Kelly Zeller
- **Music Director:** Dr. Christopher Durrenberger
- **Facility Manager:** Paul McAfee
- **Bookkeeper:** Tina Knox
- **Nursery Attendant:** Madison Smith

Your Vestry at Large

David Bingman, Beth Deger, Rick Everingham, Kay Koeninger, Anne Strothman, and Marjory Wentworth



Birthdays

Rick Everingham	Mar 1
Joann Albright.....	Mar 2
Judy McGregor.....	Mar 8
Wayne Southward	Mar 14
Deb Southward.....	Mar 16
Babs Reed	Mar 16
Ian Shelburne	Mar 18
Traudie Milleck	Mar 25
Lori Swafford	Mar 27
Wade Smith	Mar 28

Anniversary

Wayne and Deb Southward	Mar 15
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Worship... Offering meaningful, relevant, and welcoming worship in the Episcopal tradition for people of all ages.

▶ Watch Us on YouTube

- 1) Open the YouTube app on your smart TV.
- 2) Go to "Search." Enter *Christ Church Springfield*. A list will appear at the left of the screen. If you type *Christ Episcopal*, our church will not appear on the list.
- 3) Select Christ Church Springfield, about the third one down. That's all there is to it!

March Children's Chapel Services will be offered on **March 9th and 16th**. We meet at the start of the 10 AM service in the chapel on the lower level, down the hall from the nursery. We are using the lectionary-based Spark Program that reinforces the day's lectionary lesson and includes a fun activity. The service takes 15–20 minutes. The children then go upstairs to the service or return to the nursery.

African Bible Study

Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina) or African Bible Study is a group meditative approach through which members gain confidence in their Christian faith from Holy Scripture. To learn more or to receive the link, please contact Pat Cary at sisterpcocd2@hotmail.com, Keith Doubt at kdoubt@gmail.com, or Kay Koeninger at kaydavid7485@att.net

Virtual Thursday Noontday Prayer Services

Judy Johnson offers a Noontday Prayer service on Christ Church's Facebook page each Thursday. (facebook.com/christspringfield.org/) The text is located on p. 103 in the Book of Common Prayer or online at <https://www.bcponline.org>

Revised Common **LECTIONARY**

March				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
Mar. 2	Malachi 3:1-4	84	Hebrew 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Mar. 9	Isaiah 6:1-8	138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Mar. 16	Jeremiah 17:5-10	1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
Mar. 23	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	37:1-12,41-42	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38
Mar. 30	Joshua 5:9-12	32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

ONLINE GIVING

- 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 blue online giving link.
- Fill in the amount you want to give.
- Use the drop box **Pledged Giving** for a pledge or **Miscellaneous Giving** for other giving.
- If you choose **Miscellaneous Giving**, choose giving type in the next drop box.
- 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.



2025 Altar Flower Dedication Chart

To sponsor the altar flowers in memory of, thanksgiving for, or in celebration for someone or something, contact Kelly Zeller at

zellerk0611@gmail.com. Be specific as to what or to whom you are dedicating the altar flowers, and if you have a particular choice of flower. Suggested donation is \$45.

June 29th

July 6th, 20th, and 27th

August 10th, 17th, and 31st

October 5th and 26th

November 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd



Covenant Presbyterian

TAIZÉ SERVICE

You are invited to a contemplative Taizé service of music, prayer, scripture readings, and silence. Following the conclusion of the service, there will be a soup supper in Fellowship Hall.

MARCH 2 5:00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME

Taize Service

March 2nd, 5:00 PM

Covenant Presbyterian
201 North Limestone Street,
Springfield, Ohio 45503

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. Everyone is welcome to a soup supper in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

March Adult Forum

A recent movie has led to a resurgence of interest in the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor, theologian, and anti-Nazi “spy.” But who was he, really?

Together, we’ll look at his life and his writings and consider some of the major questions he raised and wrestled with during his time.

Vestry Highlights

Highlights from the January 2025 meeting. Vestry Highlights are published after minutes are approved at the following month's meeting. Vestry minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the entryway of the Guild Room.

- The meeting began with a reading appointed for the Feast of Julia Chester Emery with a brief discussion, followed by reading of the Collect for The Feast of Julia Chester Emery by Rev. Michelle.
- **Treasurer's Report** Ken Bladh would like the Vestry to consider the lack of a Teller position. It may need to be offered to parish volunteers as part of a worship ministry.
- **Jr. Warden's Report** Steve reported that Delong Heating and Air repaired the furnace in Hollenbeck House that heats the upstairs. Spradlin Bros Welding has the fence at the painters. Installation is dependent on the weather.
- **Update on the Warming Center:** After a brief discussion at Vestry, the warming center is on hold until a lead person is found, and more conversions are held about what this would look like at Christ Church.
- **Discussion on Multicultural VBS:** Rev. Michelle reported that she and Kelly Zeller met with two Lutheran ministers and Hope Woods Nature Center, which hosts VBS, to discuss the possibilities of offering a multicultural Vacation Bible School for English Language Learners during the summer. It would be all day with lunch included for ages six or 1st grade ready through middle school. Scott Yeazell moved to continue to explore this opportunity. Steve Sharp seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Proposed Constitution Change:** Rev. Michelle proposed that we amend Christ Church's Constitution article II: Annual Meeting of the parish, section E. Quorum from at parish meetings, annual or special, forty (40) eligible voting members of the parish shall be necessary to constitute a quorum; *to:* E. QUORUM: At parish meetings, annual or special, a quantity of eligible voting members equal to 50% of the average Sunday attendance of the parish shall be necessary to constitute a quorum. *Reasoning:* Tying the quorum to the average Sunday attendance will allow the quorum to adjust naturally and would not require the attendance to rely on voting members of the church. Rick Everingham moved that the Vestry approve the proposed constitution change and add it to the ballot to be voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 23rd, 2025. Motion seconded and carried.



An old hymn declares:
I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are "weary, worn, and sad" need to hear Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest." Jesus wants to be our resting place, but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God's love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God's goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



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



All are welcome to join the We Should Do Something Group! We meet at different locations once a month to play a variety of

board and card games. The next meeting will be **Thursday, March 20th**, from 6-8 pm. at COhatch 101 S Fountain Ave, Springfield, OH 45502. Feel free to bring a friend or a game to share. If you have questions, contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christsspringfield.org.

Empty Bowls



The Annual Wittenberg University Empty Bowls is **Thursday, March 27th** from 4:30–6:30 PM (Central Dining Room, Student Center of the Wittenberg Campus). Bowls are \$20, which includes a humble meal of soup and bread. The goal is to raise \$50,000 this year. All proceeds go to the Second Harvest Food Bank. For more information, contact Scott Dooley (937-327-6327 or sdooley@wittenberg.edu).

Check THIS Out!

Christ Church's Judy Johnson has a website with three blogs! Find them at <https://judyjohnsonwrites.weebly.com/>



If you like to make soup *and* nurture others, this is the ministry for you!

We need homemade soup brought to the church in a disposable container with the type of soup and date written on the lid, then placed in the church refrigerator. Then, let Kelly Zeller know that you have dropped off the soup. The soup will be used for people in the parish needing a little TLC. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com. Thank you so much for considering helping with this ministry!



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. Whatever the snow emergency level, use your best judgement to be safe.

Results of the 191th Annual Meeting

During Annual Meeting February 23rd, the following business of the church was conducted:

- ❖ The following people were elected by acclamation to positions on the Vestry: Sr. Warden, Joyce Spangler; Jr. Warden, Dan McGregor; Vestry at Large: David Bingman, Beth Deger, and Kay Koeninger.
- ❖ The following delegates were elected to our diocesan convention: Kay Koeninger, Diane Rode, Brian Shelburne and Steve Sharp.
- ❖ The Church Constitution was amended to read: E. QUORUM: At parish meetings, annual or special, a quantity of eligible voting members equal to 50% of the average Sunday attendance of the parish shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.
- ❖ We said good-bye to the retiring members of Vestry: Senior Warden, Scott Yeazell; Jr. Warden, Steve Sharp; and At Large members Lori Swafford, Bill Hicks, and Joy Meyers.
- ❖ The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard gave a brief presentation on the state of the congregation and looking forward to new opportunities ahead.
- ❖ Short reports were given by Sr. Warden Scott Yeazell, Jr. Warden Steve Sharp, and Treasurer Ken Bladh,
- ❖ The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard read the Necrology and prayed the Collect for All Saint's Day.
- ❖ **New Directory** If you were unable to attend the annual meeting or have not picked up your updated directory yet, please check the greeter table in the East Entrance.



Rev. Michelle and Rev. Lou at the Clergy Retreat at Proctor



The Lenten Desert

During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, “O Lord, throughout these

forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.”

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. “This is what Lent is meant to be,” writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. “Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other.”



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



A big **THANK YOU!** to all the pantry volunteers! At the February Food Pantry, we served over a 333 clients despite the frigid weather! We adapted the distribution process to ensure that most volunteers could work indoors. Clients were offered a variety of items, including chicken, pork roast, sausage, salmon, tuna fish, milk, cereal, and canned goods, as well as extras like toilet paper, pet food, and toiletries. The clients are always grateful, and volunteers have a good time! To volunteer, contact **Brian Shelburne** bshelburne@wittenberg.edu **Kelly Zeller** zellerk0611@gmail.com or **Anne Randolph** annejrand@aol.com.

The March Pantry dates are listed below. Volunteers are needed to:

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

	Time	March
Food Delivery	8:30 AM	5
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	13
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	19

Food Pantry Bagging



Groceries are pre-bagged so that filled bags can be placed directly into client's cars on distribution day. If you can commit a block of 3–4 hours on **March 13**, let **Brian Shelburne** know.

Most groceries should be bagged prior to Pantry day on **March 19**.

Pictures from the Bishop's Visit!



Outreach Notes

This is the story of a bedframe. Not a particularly spectacular bedframe, not something that would be featured in a show on HGTV. Just an ordinary, faithful, useful bedframe that served its family for many years. It even followed its family as they downsized and moved into a new home.

But then, one day, the family realized that they needed a new bed to accommodate some medical issues. And, the old bedframe had to move out, away from the bedroom that had been its home for the last few years.

“It’s still a good bedframe,” said the family. “It would be a pity to just throw it away. Surely someone can use it.”

They moved the bedframe into a corner of a sunroom, where it sat, lonely.

One morning, on the other side of town, a social worker sat in front of her computer. She had just reunited a teen with his family, after they had found a safe home together – a rare bit of good news. But, the boy’s bed had been broken, and he needed a new bed frame, and some other things, to make his house a home. She typed the need into her computer.

An email went out. And Christ Church responded.

After some amount of coordination, a small group of people gathered one evening to collect the bedframe. It was carefully taken out of the corner and thrust into the cold chill of the winter air. It bounced around on the bed of a pickup truck, over railroad tracks. It had never been outside like this before. It was cold. It wondered where it was going. Finally, it stopped.

Once again, people grabbed it and carried it up some steps onto a front porch. They rang the doorbell and brought the bedframe inside. It felt warm again. But, it had little time to rest or take in its surroundings.

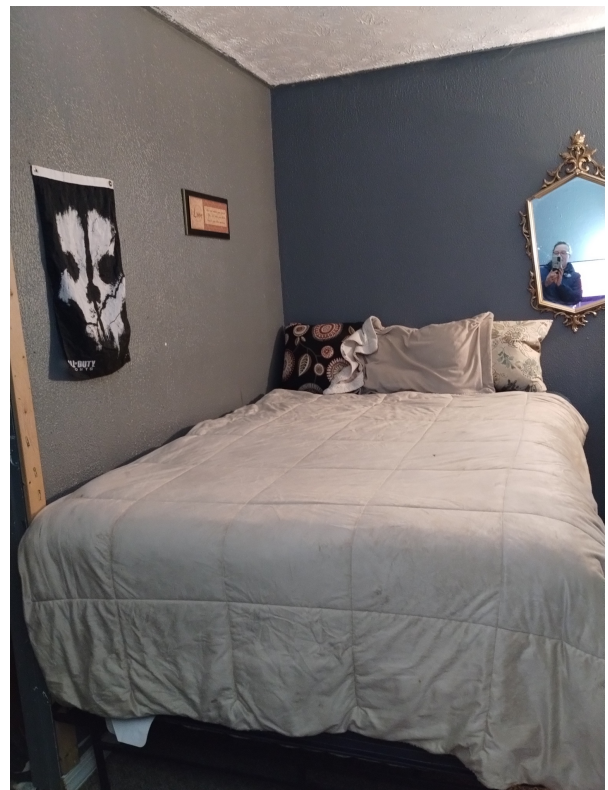
A teenage boy bounded downstairs. “The bed frame! Great!” He grabbed the frame, and whisked it upstairs. The frame heard people talking in the distance – offering sheets,

towels, and other things the family might need. But, the frame didn’t have time for that.

The boy was carefully moving it into place in the room. It felt a box spring land on its sturdy back, and then a mattress. The boy moved around, tucking sheets in, adding blankets and pillows. Soon, the frame heard the boy’s voice again – “Do you all want to come up to my room to see?”

The bedframe heard the pride in the boy’s voice, as he led all the Christ Church volunteers into his room. “Look,” he said, “it all fits now. I can sit on my bed, and see the mirror. It all looks right.” The bed frame tried to stand up a little taller, and sturdier. After all, he had a job to do. He was needed again.

This is a somewhat true story of how Christ Episcopal Church responded to a community need through our participation in the Care Portal network. We hope to expand our use of Care Portal in the coming months. Stay tuned to learn how you can be part of giving new purpose and hope to our community.





Easter Flowers

Easter is a wonderful time to remember loved ones with a gift to Christ Church of flowers. Email Kelly Zeller Zellerk0611@gmail.com with your dedication, drop it in the offering plate along with your donation, or mail it in with your donation to the office: 409 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio 45505. **The deadline is Sunday, April 6th.**

Donor(s) _____

In thanksgiving for _____

In memory of _____