

Easter Flowers Deadline: April 6th



(see back cover for the form) Easter can be a wonderful time to remember loved ones with a gift to Christ Church for flowers.

Palm Sunday: April 13th



Join us at 8 am for a Quiet Rite I service and/or 10 am Festive Rite II service for The Liturgy of the Palms.

Maundy Thursday: April 17th, 7PM



We remember Jesus's mandate to break the bread and drink the cup together as we remember his life, death, and resurrection.

Good Friday: April 18th, 7PM



On this most somber occasion, we recall the day of our Lord's execution. The Good Friday liturgy includes the full Passion Gospel, the Solemn Collects, and the Veneration of the Cross.

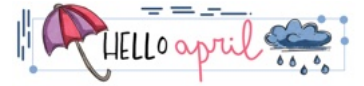
The Feast of the Resurrection: April 20th



Join us for 10 AM Festive Rite II service with choir and brass. On this holiest day of the Christian year, we rejoice at Christ's victory over the powers of death. *There is no 8:00 service on this Sunday.*



Holy Week



Wed. 4/2 PANTRY: food delivery @ 8:30 AM

Thurs. 4/3 Virtual Noonday Prayer Service

Sat. 4/5 NATURE WALK: meet at church @ 10 AM

Sun. 4/6 Worship @ 8 & 10:00 AM; Children's Chapel @ 10; Adult Forum

Thurs. 4/10 PANTRY: bagging @ 9 AM; Virtual Noonday Prayer Service; Vestry @ 6 PM

Sat. 4/12 Quiet Lenten Day @ Procter Center

Sun. 4/13 Worship @ 8 & 10:00 AM; Children's Chapel @ 10

Wed. 4/16 PANTRY DAY @ 8:15 AM

Thurs. 4/17 Virtual Noonday Prayer Service; Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 PM

Fri. 4/18 Office Closed; Good Friday Service @ 7 PM

Sun. 4/20 Easter Sunday Service @ 10 AM ONLY; Oakwood Service @ 1 PM

Mon. 4/21 Office Closed

Thurs. 4/24 Virtual Noonday Prayer Service

Sun. 4/27 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Gardening Club after Coffee Hour

The Clarion

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Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



Bishop:

The Rt Rev. Kristin Uffelmann 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



Easter to Stay

This year, I began Lent with Ashes to Go. This is something I do most years. I have deeply personal reasons for offering Ashes to Go. Over the years, I've had some really touching experiences, distributing ashes (and prayers, and conversation) to passers-by on Ash Wednesday. It's also a great way to be the Church, outside the walls of the church; and to remind people that we're here.

And yet, I have always found Ashes to Go theologically troubling. If it is evangelism – and it is – it seems to be a very strange thing to be offering strangers. What kind of message do I proclaim when I stand on the sidewalk announcing that we are all going to die, and that we should repent? (To be honest, I saw someone with a big sign and a megaphone shouting something a similar message, on my way to the Billy Joel concert last year. Lou and I gave him a wide berth). Where is the invitation to deeper relationship – with God, and/or with a community that worships God? And what does it say about the God that we worship?

I wanted to make sure that I (and the Church I represent) proclaimed God's grace, not condemnation. But Ashes to Go doesn't offer that.

One year, I got so frustrated by this, that I offered bookends: Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday (to start off the season of Lent); and Easter to Go on Easter Monday. I offered ashes, prayers, and little cards with invitations to join us for services and activities on Ash Wednesday; I offered little bags of Easter candy, prayers, and cards inviting people to join us for the Easter season at the exact same spot on Easter Monday.

I was surprised that Ashes to Go seemed more popular. Very few people stopped to talk on Easter Monday. I didn't understand it. To me, unexpected chocolate seemed to be a nice representation of God's grace.

I guess I shouldn't have been so shocked. I realize that we were all taught not to accept candy from strangers. And, Episcopal priests can be pretty strange.

(continued on p. 3)



April 18

April 21

(Michelle’s Musings, Continued)

There’s probably something deeper, too. I fear that – too often – we are afraid to accept unexplained goodness, or joy. We worry that it’s a trick. Which may be an excellent metaphor for our reluctance to accept God’s grace. Or maybe, it’s that we are accustomed to hear words of God’s condemnation from religious leaders, but not words of God’s love.

But, I’d like to hope that maybe, it’s a question of where we want to spend our time. Ash Wednesday, after all, is about our mortality, our guilt, and the ways in which we fall short of God’s dreams for us. It’s dreary. We know we need to do it – like eating our vegetables – but we’d rather get it over quickly, like a pill. But, Easter is about God’s love conquering the worst that humanity can throw at it. It’s a celebration

of resurrection, new beginnings, and hope. It’s joyful – the kind of party that requires fanfare and trumpets and fifty days of festivities. The party that is the highlight of the Christian year, that brings all our family and friends in to revel, and look back throughout the year at the good time we had.

Easter isn’t the type of celebration to take to Go. Easter should be an invitation to join, and Stay.

I wish you all a happy Easter, and hope you, too, will invite a friend or family member to stay with us, in God’s love and grace, this Easter.

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



Chris Bickel	Apr-3
Ann Summers	Apr-11
David Warren	Apr-11
Gretchen Hicks.....	Apr-13
Alice Kelly.....	Apr-14
Gwennan Bickel	Apr-15
Kay Koeninger.....	Apr-16
Wendy DeLong	Apr-20
Keith Doubt	Apr-23
Bonnie Shelburne.....	Apr-24
Tatum Drew.....	Apr-25
Rand Smith	Apr-26



“Day of Change” Results

As the clocks were springing forward one hour, we brought our change to church. Thanks to your generosity, \$72.63 has been given to the Christ Church Food Pantry to support their work in feeding hungry people of Springfield.



The “We Should Do Something Group” is taking the month of April off.



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!

April Children's Chapel Services will be offered on **April 6th and 13th**. 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 Noonday Prayer Services

Judy Johnson offers a Noonday 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**

April				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
Apr. 6th	Isaiah 43:16-21	126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Apr. 13	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56
Apr. 20	Isaiah 65:17-25	118:1-2,14-24	Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18
Apr. 27	Acts 5:27-32	118:14-29	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19:31



ONLINE GIVING

- Go to christsspringfield.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



Why Do we Do That?

(An occasional column on the symbolism of our liturgy)

Have you ever noticed that some people bow or kneel in the aisle before taking their seats in church on Sundays? Or the way that the choir and clergy bow before the altar as they enter the chancel during the procession (or when they leave at the end of the service)?

This is usually referred to as “reverencing.” It acknowledges the presence of God, or the symbols of God like the cross, in our worship space. It is a way of remembering that Christ is King – and one bows before a king – and recalls the line from Paul’s letter to the Philippians, “Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” – Philippians 2: 9-11.

As we approach the end of Lent, it becomes harder and harder to do that. We put veils on the crosses, reminding us that we are not yet celebrating Christ’s victory. While we know that God is always present, the symbols of God become less visible. Finally, at the conclusion of the service on Maundy Thursday, we strip the altar. As we remove the reserve sacrament (the bread and the wine that have been consecrated) from the aumbry (the special niche that holds these special things), we extinguish the sanctuary candle. Symbolically, we acknowledge Jesus’s march towards death. He is no longer present in the church. Accordingly, we leave the church, without bowing or otherwise acknowledging the altar.

In the Episcopal tradition, we embrace a wide variety of forms of worship. For some people, reverencing the altar/the cross/the sacrament draws them into a more prayerful attitude by acknowledging God with the body, in addition to the mind or spirit.

Now you know why!

Vestry Highlights

Highlights from the February 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 Vestry meeting began with a reading appointed for the Feast of Absalom Jones with a discussion, followed by reading of the Collect for The Feast of Absalom Jones by Rev. Michelle.
- **Treasurer's Report-** Ken Bladh emailed three reports: the year-end summary, the 2024 balance sheet, and the monthly summary for January 2025. After a brief overview of each document, he asked if anyone had questions or concerns.
- **Jr. Warden's Report-** Steve reported that Jeff Spradlin still needs to install the steel fence at High and Linden. Jeff Spradlin has the steel back from the painters but is waiting for warmer weather to install it.
- Steve said there is still no resolution for the doors. He needs to take photographs of the doors and send them to his door hardware consultant in Columbus for recommendations. Also, he will call to inquire about the steel thicknesses of the door and frame, as this information was not included in Paul's quote.
- **The Parochial Report** was sent out via email to the Vestry for their review before the Vestry meeting. The Parochial Report requires Vestry's approval before filing. After a brief discussion. Bill Hicks moved Vestry accept the Parochial Report. Steve Sharp seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Bruce Runyon, who also handles our landscaping, submitted a quote to clean up the grounds along the parking lot. Steve Sharp moved that Bruce Runyon be hired to remove the invasive honeysuckle and trim along the property line, not to exceed the amount of \$1500. Bill Hicks seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The next Vestry meeting will be at the Vestry Retreat, March 22nd - 23rd at Procter Center.



Lenten Quiet Day~

April 12th from 10 AM – 3 PM

You are invited to a Lenten Quiet Day at **Procter Center on April 12** from 10 AM- 3 PM (lunch included.) The retreat will be centered on the theme of “A Commonplace Lent,” as offered by Episcopal Relief & Development and Procter’s Co-Executive Director Jerusalem Greer.

During this retreat, Jerusalem will lead participants in exploring two uses of the word “common” through the lens of Lent. The first is the sense that we come together to celebrate “all that we are and all that we have in common” — prayer, worship, grace, love, community, service, and so much more. The second understanding of common is a reflection on the ordinary, everyday nature of these communal gifts – the kind of gifts we find in the soil, the sun, in water, and around the table. Inspired by the wisdom of desert mothers and fathers, monastics, and other spiritual leaders, this Quiet Day will be infused with prayer, time for group and personal reflection, and time spent listening to the wisdom of creation. All ages are welcome, lunch is included, and the cost is \$40 per person. To register, click on the link: <https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/lenten-quiet-day/>



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

Have You Met Yet? The Drew Family

In some ways, it might seem strange to profile the Drew family (Brian, a marketing consultant; Jillian, an accreditation coordinator with the County Health Department; and their children, Tatum [kindergarten] and Gates[pre-K]) in our “Have You Met Yet?” column. After all, Brian and his sister spent their formative years here, as confirmands, acolytes, and active participants in Happening in the 1980’s. But, after leaving for college at the University of Kentucky, Brian moved away. And, while he still visited Christ Church with his parents for Christmas and Easter it wasn’t the same.

In 2011, the company he worked for brought him back to the Springfield area. Soon after, a mutual friend introduced him to Jillian Bothwell, who likewise, had grown up just outside Springfield. They married in 2016 and bought ½ of his parents’ Cedarville area family farm to raise their family.

Over the years they’ve made some really important decisions. After Gates was born, they moved into the other side of the farmhouse so they would have more room to grow. A job offer on the west coast led to some deep soul searching about what they wanted for their family. In the end, they opted to stay where they were. After all, they reasoned, Jillian had a good job with the health department. But more importantly, they liked the idea of being able to raise their kids on the farm where Brian had grown up, and they appreciated the pace of life they had here, and all that Clark County had to offer.

However, it wasn’t until Brian’s father passed away in 2023 that he had an opportunity to return to Christ Church with his family.

After reconnecting with some old family friends, he remembered what church had meant to him growing up. And he realized he wanted that for his family, too. “As our kids were getting older, we wanted to be able to introduce the idea of God in their lives.”

Jillian added, “we wanted to be able to have conversations about God and to be supported as we had those conversations. So many of our neighbors come from very different places of faith. We really wanted to have a more progressive faith community for our kids. There are so many things that they can learn by being a part of Christ Church: giving back to the community, having open doors, facilitating conversations with people, that’s all important.”

Tatum, in particular, has responded enthusiastically. Her parents say she really enjoys talking to Kelly and Madison during Children’s Chapel time. When bringing friends or cousins to church, she excitedly shows them around.



Brian says he’s most appreciated how open everyone has been to his family. “It’s felt really welcoming,” concluded Jillian. “Natural.”

How to Help (From Rev. Michelle Boomgaard)

A few months ago, the people of Christ Church were targeted by a scammer, who sent text messages to almost everyone in our directory. This scammer pretended to be me, and asked people to contribute to a cause. I'm grateful that almost everyone quickly recognized that this was not me.

Still, I realized that many people had initially responded to this scammer. And that told me that many people in the parish are looking for ways to help their neighbors. Of course, our parish already helps our neighbors in two ways. First, our parish helps fund the Rector's Discretionary Fund, which I use to give emergency assistance to parishioners and others who need it. And, we have a dedicated line in our budget, which the Outreach Committee uses to make grants to various organizations in Clark County (you can read more about that in the Clarion, and in our annual report). But it seemed to me that people were interested in finding ways that they could directly help meet needs in Clark County.

As many of you know, Christ Church has signed up for something called CarePortal, an online platform that connects children in need to churches who can help. Last month in the Clarion, we profiled one example of CarePortal

in action, in a story about a bed frame that found a new home with a teen who needed one.

However, sometimes CarePortal also has larger requests – such as a recent call to help provide some basic necessities to several high school students who were living on their own. This is one of the rare instances when we could have actually used gift cards to help these young people get food, and gasoline to get them to school and work. There have also been times when Care Portal has sought help for a particularly big need – like a car repair – which would go beyond what I usually fund through my discretionary account.

There is opportunity in those places.

If you would like to help – please contact Rev. Michelle about joining our parish CarePortal Team. You would then get an occasional email from me – through CarePortal – telling you about a specific opportunity to help our community. You would have the option to participate, or not. But you would know it was not a scam. ONLY emails from CarePortal, and signed by me, would be real opportunities. I will not send requests any other way.

I hope you will consider joining this opportunity to make a difference in Clark County. If interested or would like more information, please email Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christsspringfield.org.

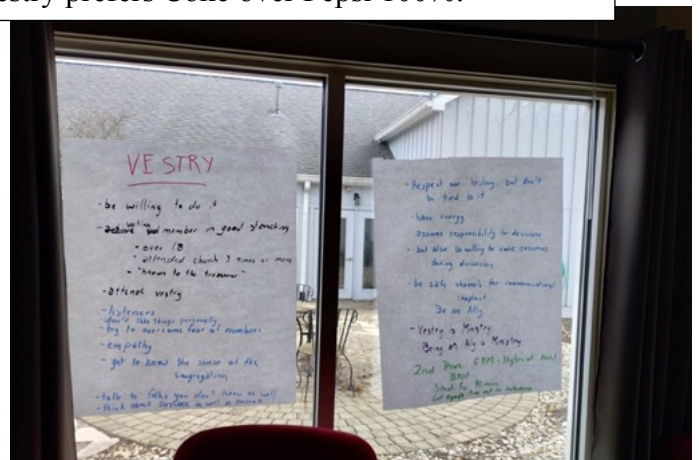
Your Vestry on Retreat



< Engaging in some active ice breakers. Your vestry prefers Coke over Pepsi 100%!



< A beautiful setting for the retreat



↑ Vestry's thoughts on the year's focus and goals



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



A big **THANK YOU!** to all the pantry volunteers! The March Food Pantry was blessed with beautiful weather! We served 421 clients including 60 new ones! Clients were offered a variety of items, chicken, hamburger, hot dogs, sausage, salmon, tuna fish, milk, cereal, and canned goods, as well as extras like toilet paper, pet food, cleaning supplies, 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 April Pantry dates are listed below. Volunteers are needed to:

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

	Time	April
Food Delivery	8:30 AM	2nd
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	10th
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	16th

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 **April 10**, let **Brian Shelburne** know. Most groceries should be bagged prior to Pantry day on **April 16**.

Outreach Committee Report

The Outreach Committee is pleased to share our work and partnerships with Clark County nonprofit ministries in 2025. From our \$16,000 budget to date, we have funded four ministries: Greater Springfield Association of Fundraising Professionals; Jefferson Street Oasis Garden; Springfield Farmer’s Market; and Springfield Promise Neighborhood.

Springfield Promise Neighborhood (SPN) (www.SpringfieldPromise.com) was founded in 2010 and highlighted as the recipient of \$1,000 to engage the south side of the Springfield community and activate the talents of the neighborhood to help lift up children. SPN serves over 500 children and families annually impacted by generational poverty in Springfield’s most economically distressed neighborhoods.

SPN’s thank you letter noted: “Your efforts to live out the Christian doctrine in concrete, impactful ways are meaningful to the Promise team. We believe that Springfield’s success is collectively in our hands, and your generosity is heartening.”

Not only is Outreach supporting new nonprofits, but also, we are digitizing Grant Applications available on our website as well as requiring a Final Report prior to future funding. Join us in celebrating our partners, awardees and grant process updates!

Blessings, Linda Gatten Butler, Outreach Secretary





Spring Walk

Spring is springing. Join the people of Christ Church for an opportunity to wonder at God's creation on **Saturday, April 5**. We will meet at the **Christ Church parking lot on Saturday at 10**, and carpool to the Cedar Bog. Afterwards, we will enjoy brunch at a local restaurant and should return by 2:00. The Cedar Bog has an extensive boardwalk, making this an ideal nature experience for everyone, including infants in strollers. Hope to see you there!



Calling All Gardeners!

Join us at CEC for monthly gardening starting April 27th after the 10 am coffee hour! All members and friends are welcome! Please bring your own tools for weeding, planting, watering and cleaning the parking area. Feel free to contact Linda Gatten Butler (937-408-6295; linda1950@ameritech.net) to confirm your interest or ask any questions.

Thanks and blessings, Linda Gatten Butler

Celebrating a Centennial!

Members of the Pastoral Care team, Dawn and Jack Ivy, visited Traudie Milleck to celebrate her 100th birthday. They brought with them the best wishes of the entire parish, along with balloons and cake. Rev. Michelle (not pictured) also offered prayers for the special occasion.



Adult Forum

Join us on April 6th for the final discussion in our Lenten Series on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor, theologian, and anti-Nazi "spy."

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.





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 _____