



FEAST of PENTECOST

Sunday, June 8th

Pentecost is a time of gratitude for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for the Spirit's movement in ourselves and all of Creation. Pentecost is a day (and a season) to recognize the Spirit's action in our lives and in the world. The Feast of Pentecost is also a day traditionally designated for Baptisms in the Episcopal Church. If you or anyone in your family would like to be baptized, please let Rev. Michelle know as soon as possible so that we can do the necessary preparations before June 8th at mboomgaard@christsspringfield.org or call the Church Office (937-323-8651).



Thurs. 5/1 Virtual Noonday Prayer Service

Sun. 5/4 Worship @ 8 & 10:00 AM; Children's Chapel @ 10; Adult Forum

Wed. 5/7 PANTRY: food delivery @ 8:30 AM

Thurs. 5/8 VESTRY @ 6 PM

Sun. 5/11 MOTHERS DAY. Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Children's Chapel @ 10; Adult Forum

Thurs. 5/15 PANTRY: bagging @ 9 AM; Virtual Noonday Prayer Service; Game Night @ 6 PM

Sun. 5/18 Worship @ 8 & 10:00 AM; Adult Forum; Garden Club after coffee hour; Oakwood Service @ 1 PM; TAIZE SERVICE @ 5 PM, FIRST BAPTIST

Wed. 5/21 PANTRY DAY @ 8:15 AM

Thurs. 5/22 Virtual Noonday Prayer Service

Sat. 5/24 Annual Perennial Plant Swap @ 270 S. Broadmoor 10 AM-1 PM

Sun. 5/25 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM

Mon. 5/25 Memorial Day Office Closed

Thurs. 5/29 Virtual Noonday Prayer Service

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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 Welcoming**

Kelly and I have noted with joy some new tenants here at Hollenbeck house: a pair of robins have moved into a nest in the transom facing High Street. We saw them building the nest a few weeks ago. Now, I usually walk by

Hollenbeck under the watchful eye of one or the other of the pair, who hunker down and survey the neighborhood from their space.

We've been noticing some other new faces around Christ Church these last few months: new folks checking out our parish, visiting, and in some cases, asking to become members. I hope you've seen this, too – both on Sundays, and also in the Clarion, as we introduce folks in our "Have You Met Yet?" column.

Robins are quite different from most people who join churches in 2025. For one thing, robins want very little to do with us. They are not eager to shake my hand after services on Sunday, and they would be perfectly happy if we never checked up on them or invited them for coffee. For another, they found their own way quite easily, while other visitors – especially those who have not grown up in a liturgical church – might have trouble finding their way to the bathroom, or through our service. A smiling, friendly face or greeting often makes a world of difference in making a visitor feel welcome, not so much, robins.

Finally, not much has changed for robins in the last 50 years. They have always known that they need a nest to call home, and that it should be a safe place, sheltered, where they can rest. In contrast, many people today aren't sure if they want a church. Churches can seem very unsafe sometimes – though I hope Christ Church doesn't feel that way! Many people are seeking a connection to God, and to a community, but younger people, especially, wouldn't think that a church would be a place to find those things.

At our vestry retreat in March, we discussed several possible options to serve as a focus for the coming year. In the end, we opted to focus on Invite-Welcome-Connect, a framework to help parishes "move from maintenance to mission." I'm very familiar with Invite-Welcome-Connect, and I was even a presenter at the Invite-Welcome-Connect national summit in 2016.

(continued on p. 3)



May 26
Memorial Day

(Michelle's Musings, Continued)

You will be hearing more about Invite-Welcome-Connect throughout the year. We will be holding a special adult forum series about it in the fall, and I will probably mention it in sermons on a regular basis. But one of the crucial things to understand about Invite-Welcome-Connect is that it is not a one-time focus. The hope is that it will transform our entire congregation and become part of our identity. I've already begun implementing some of the things I learned through Invite-Welcome-Connect. But this isn't something just for clergy, vestry or staff. We all have a part to play in helping our parish grow through Invite-Welcome-Connect. We've already taken a great first step, by remembering to wear name tags

every Sunday. This welcoming gesture helps visitors know our names, and helps us learn the names of returning visitors, too.

Just as we all have a part to play in keeping our new robin family feeling safe, we all can help Christ Church become a parish that invites people to join our community, welcomes visitors, and connects new members to the life of the parish and the Church. I look forward to sharing these resources with you, as we work together to build up the church and fulfill our mission: to serve Christ in all people through our four pillars of hospitality, outreach, formation, and worship.

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, and Marjory Wentworth



Birthdays

Katie Mellett	May 14
Logan Mellett.....	May 17
Ross McGregor	May 18
Holly Wolfe	May 18
Susan Hinton.....	May 19
Zoë Spangler.....	May 21
Rev. Lou Hays.....	May 26
Scott Yeazell	May 29

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





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!

May Children's Chapel Services will be offered on **May 4th and 11th**. 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**

May				
Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
May 4	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)	30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
May 11	Acts 9:36-43	23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
May 18	Acts 11:1-18	148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
May 25	Acts 16:9-15	67	Revelation 21:10; 21:22-22:5	John 14:23-29



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.



Empty Bowls Results

Wittenberg University’s Empty Bowls fundraiser for Second Harvest Food Bank raised \$39,242.00, which will provide meals to hungry families in the Springfield area. Thanks to all who participated!



Why Do We Do That?

(An occasional column on the symbolism of our liturgy)

Last month’s Why Do We Do That? discussed reverencing the cross, altar, or Sacrament when entering or walking through the church. There is one other way in which we worship with our whole bodies during the liturgy: our position for prayer and praise. Episcopalians sometimes jokingly refer to our worship as “pew aerobics:” the way we stand, kneel, and sit at various times throughout the service.

If it seems confusing, one general guide is that we sit to listen, stand to praise, and kneel to pray. Thus, at the beginning of the service, we stand for our opening hymn, which is usually a hymn of praise to God. And, many people kneel during the general confession, which is when we are trying to be humble and asking God for forgiveness.

Of course, we sometimes also confuse matters. For example, during the Eucharistic prayers, the prayer book suggests that we stand during the first half of the prayer (through the part where we sing “Hosanna in the highest”) because those prayers praise God. After that song, however, the prayer book suggests that we kneel, in remembrance of Jesus’s sacrifice. However, I once knew a priest who encouraged his whole congregation to kneel for all prayers during Lent and stand for them all during Easter – since that whole season is a season of praise.

In general, many people do whatever makes them feel most connected with God. Moving around reflects our belief that what you do with your body may influence your spiritual and mental attitude. There aren’t any “liturgy police” to tell you what to do, so feel free to find positions of prayer and praise that mean the most to you.

Now you know why!



Vestry

Highlights

Highlights from the March 2025 meeting held at the Vestry retreat at Proctor Center. *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.*

- Rev. Michelle called the meeting to order at 1:38 PM
- Rev. Michelle proposed the following slate of individuals to serve on the finance committee for the coming year: Ted DeLong (continuing), Scott Yeazell (continuing), Dave Bingman, Rev. Michelle (ex-officio), Ken Bladh (ex-officio), and Dan McGregor (ex-officio). All had accepted the nomination. Dan McGregor moved that this slate be accepted. Ken Bladh seconded. The motion carried.
- Ken Bladh presented the treasurer's report to the vestry. This included a copy of a list of suggested improvements to our buildings and procedures which our insurance company had recommended, as well as the financial report for January and February.
- Much of the time during the vestry retreat had been devoted to considering various options for a "focus" for the coming year. Possibilities included continuing a "deep dive" into the visioning the parish had done in the fall of 2023, parish involvement in the College for Congregational Development; and parish-wide work with Invite-Welcome-Connect. After sampling and exploring these various options, the vestry, guided by the vision that emerged from our 2023 visioning exercise, voted to use the principles and materials from Invite-Welcome-Connect for the year. The vestry authorized Rev. Michelle to register the church for Invite-Welcome-Connect online. The vestry also indicated that it hoped Christ Church would be able to participate in the College for Congregational Development in the future, but authorized Rev. Michelle to withdraw our application and the places we had reserved for this summer's session.
- The vestry then moved to the chapel at Proctor Center for a concluding Eucharist, and adjourned at 2:40 PM

In July, a pickup truck collided with the fence that separates the Christ Church property from the sidewalk. The truck struck the fence diagonally and with significant force, damaging fencing sections along High Street and Linden. With patience and diligence from the Wardens, Sexton, and Treasurer, who worked with contractors and insurance companies, the fence is now repaired! Thank you!





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



7th Annual Perennial Plant Swap

May 24th, 10 AM – 1 PM

You are invited to the 7th Annual Perennial Plant Swap at 270 S. Broadmoor, Springfield. Bring 5 perennials in labeled, disposable containers and pay \$5. No perennials? No problem! Pay \$10. No matter which you do, you'll leave with 4 perennials. Single plants are also for sale along with garden items. Proceeds benefit Clark County Master Gardeners! Contact Linda Gatten Butler at linda1950@ameritech.net with questions.



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, May 15th**, 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.

Summer camp

Procter Summer Camp is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, that creates a place for children, youth, and families to grow in faith, sing, learn, play and pray in the peaceful farmland of London, Ohio. Check out proctercenter.org/camp for more details.



Volunteer Opportunity in August! Sign Up Now!

Christ Church (in cooperation with Zion Lutheran Church, Rockway Lutheran Church, and Hopewood Outdoors) will be hosting a Vacation Bible School program August 4–8. Now is your chance to sign up to help volunteer. We need folks who can help out 2-4 hours, one or more days that week, to tell stories, supervise crafts, make lunch or snacks, and have fun! If you're interested, please contact Rev. Michelle.



Calling All Gardeners!

Join us at CEC for monthly gardening on May 18th 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.

Palm Sunday at Christ Church



Easter at Christ Church





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



What a gorgeous day! We thank the volunteers for all their hard work! The first car arrived at 5:30 AM, and the first walker arrived just before 6 AM! We served 409 individuals, including 29 new clients. Clients were offered a variety of items, including chicken, hamburger, sausage, canned chicken, peanut butter, eggs, cereal, Goldfish and Cheez-It crackers, canned goods, and produce, as well as extras like toilet paper, pet food, cleaning supplies, and toiletries. A few were happy to get baby formula!

We also welcomed some visitors from Second Harvest, who were impressed with how smoothly our process works. So, again, thank you, and thank you to Angus who facilitated this visit. Also, thanks to everyone who helped unload the extra truck this month!

Mark your calendars: the next delivery will be **on May 7th at 8:30 AM**. Everyone is welcome to stay, remove the plastic from the canned goods, and unpack boxes.

The next Food Pantry will be **on May 21st**.

To volunteer, contact **Brian Shelburne** bshelburne@wittenberg.edu

Kelly Zeller zellerk0611@gmail.com or

Anne Randolph annejrand@aol.com.

While on vacation, Kelly Zeller shared information about the Christ Church Food Pantry at United Senior Services. >

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

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

	Time	May
Food Delivery	8:30 AM	7
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	15
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	21

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 **May 15**, let **Brian**

Shelburne know. Most groceries should be bagged prior to Pantry day on **May 21**.



Outreach Committee Report

Outreach Committee is delighted to share our progress and partnerships with Clark County nonprofit ministries. From our \$16,000 budget for 2025, to date we have funded seven ministries totaling \$6,425: Covenant Freedom School, Greater Springfield Association of Fundraising Professionals, H.O.P.E., Jefferson Street Oasis Garden, Partners in Ministries in Liberia, Springfield Farmer's Market, and Springfield Promise Neighborhood.

Jefferson Street Oasis (JSO)'s mission is to "address food insecurity that affects residents of Springfield by providing garden plots and programs that promote health and wellness." Started in 2012, four plots have grown to 100 with over 100 participants. JSO is a unique allotment-style community vegetable garden, free to use for participants and offering food classes, a children's garden, a poultry program, and community events.

JSO's note from Terry Fredrich, General Manager, states: "We are sincerely grateful and thankful for your support. Community pride and fellowship is cultured at JSO gardens with 75% of participants from South Springfield. Open to anyone, tours are available."

Outreach is supporting new and previously funded nonprofits. We have an online application available on CEC's website. If you have interest in joining the Outreach Committee, contact Fred Bartenstein, Linda Butler, or other members. Our next ZOOM meeting is July 23rd, 7-8:30 p.m.

Blessings, Linda Gatten Butler, Outreach Secretary

[The altar on Easter >](#)

Adult Forum

• May 4 - Windows into Formation

A new, interactive way to help plan some of our adult forum topics for the coming program year. Be sure to join and have your say!

- **May 11 - Barbeque Season? No! Dinner Church Season** This summer, in response to one of the suggestions from our visioning exercise, we will be launching an experimental dinner church one week a month. Come learn what's on offer, and how you can support it.

- **May 18 - Affirming that we are an Affirming Congregation** Christ Church, Springfield, has been included on the Diocese's list of affirming congregations. As we get ready for Pride in June, let's talk about what it means to be affirming, what in our Episcopal heritage supports this stand, and how we might respond to people who don't understand where we're coming from.





If you or your child will graduate from high school, college, or graduate or professional school this year, please contact the church office (via email zellerk0611@gmail.com) and let us know so we can recognize them in the June *Clarion*. Please send in the name of the graduate, the school from which he or she is graduating, and plans for the future.