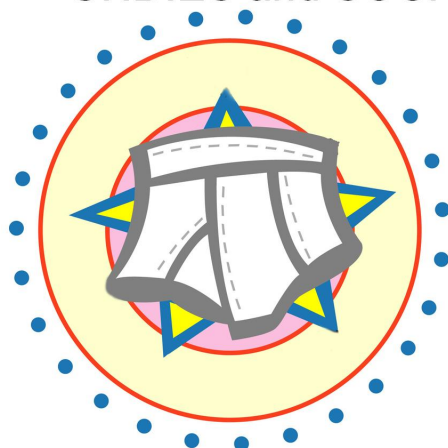


UNDIES and SOCKS



Collection

Christ Church will collect new socks and underwear of **all** sizes, including men's and women's, from Sunday, July 26th, through August 30th.

Donations can be placed in the basket by the elevator or dropped off at the Parish office. The collected items will be blessed during the 10 AM service on August 30th.

In September, the items will be donated to local schools to be handed out to students in need. If you have questions, contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com or 937-323-8651.



July and August Happenings

Sun. 7/5 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM

Mon. 7/6 Office Closed

Wed. 7/8 PANTRY: delivery @ 8:15

Thurs. 7/9 PANTRY: Bagging Day @ 9:00 AM; Virtual Prayer Service @ Noon; Vestry @ 6 PM

Sun. 7/12 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Church 101 @ 11:30; Gardening

Wed. 7/15 PANTRY DAY 8:15 AM

Thurs. 7/17 Prayer Service @ Noon

Sun. 7/19 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Church 101 @ 11:30 AM; Oakwood Service @ 1 PM

Thurs. 7/23 Prayer Service @ Noon

Sat. 7/25 Dinner Church @ 6 PM

Sun. 7/26 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Church 101 @ 11:30 AM; Springfield Towers Service @ 1 PM

Thurs. 7/30 Prayer Service @ Noon

Sat. 8/1 Laughs & Crafts 10 AM–12

Sun. 8/2 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM

Wed. 8/5 PANTRY: delivery @ 8:15

Thurs. 8/7 Prayer Service @ Noon

Sun. 8/9 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM

Thurs. 8/13 PANTRY: Bagging @ 9:00 AM; Prayer Service @ Noon; Vestry @ 6 PM

Sun. 8/16 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Oakwood Service @ 1 PM

Wed. 8/19 PANTRY DAY 8:15 AM

Thurs. 8/20 Prayer Service @ Noon

Sat. 8/22 Dinner Church @ 6 PM

Sun. 8/23 Worship at 8 & 10 AM; Springfield Towers Service @ 1 PM

Thurs. 8/27 Prayer Service @ Noon

Sun. 8/30 Worship at 8 & 10 AM

*The Clarion***Volume 30, Issue 7/8**

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

**Bishop:**

The Rt Rev. Kristin Uffelman White

Rector:

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard

Senior Warden:

Joyce Spangler

Junior Warden:

Steve Sharp

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



The Church Office will be closed on July 6th for Independence Day. Please plan accordingly!

**On Visible Signs**

As many of you know, I recently returned from a lovely vacation in Europe. Among other things, I toured the Rhine River, visiting several historic towns in four countries. Lou and I stopped to tromp through the woods and valleys, eat local foods, admire architecture, and walk through history, including that of the Reformation.

I'd always learned that after the Reformation (and the wars that it sparked), the rulers of various territories in Europe basically decided what religion all the churches in their territory would profess. For example, all the territory held by the French king remained Roman Catholic; all the territory of Sweden followed Martin Luther's understanding of Reform Christianity. But as we walked through various medieval towns, tour guides pointed out the places where Protestant and Catholic churches stood, sometimes just a few blocks from each other. The significant difference: the steeples of the Roman Catholic churches were topped with crosses; the Protestant churches (regardless of denomination or theological leaning) all had roosters instead. For those who sought comfort in the sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church, and believed it to have the one true faith, they need only look for a steeple with a cross to know where to go on Sunday. Those who believed that the Word of God (preferably, in a language that the people could understand) was most important, the rooster on the steeple proclaimed (silently) where to go. Since most people couldn't read, these simple, visible signs helped the faithful find their way.

Things are a bit more difficult today. In the United States we have many theological strands within the Reformed and Protestant tradition, and it's not always clear from the outside what you'll find when you walk through the doors. Similarly, people often come to church seeking different things, or with different ideas about what would glorify God and feed their soul. Even the same description may sometimes connote different meanings.

For example, at a recent meeting of the Invite-Welcome-Connect implementation committee, I mentioned how much I loved a phrase that someone said at our vestry retreat in 2025. When asked, "Why should people come to Christ Episcopal Church?" one person responded, "You don't have to be like us to be loved by us." To me, that communicated both welcome and a commitment to diversity. But, others heard the opposite. "To me, it implies that there's an 'us' and that 'we' are all the same," said one member of the committee. "I don't think that's true, and I don't like it."

As Episcopalians, embracing a diversity of beliefs is part of our history and legacy. We have a focus on sacramental worship, even as we acknowledge a variety of beliefs about what those sacraments actually mean. There are Episcopal churches where the altar stands high in the center of the sanctuary, to symbolize the importance of the Eucharist and Episcopal churches where the pulpit – though off to the side – rises just a little higher than the table. And, of course, there are Episcopal churches today where the pulpit is barely used at all, because the preacher talks directly to the congregation.

But, this does make it somewhat more difficult

to communicate what we're about. As we think about deepening our commitment to Invite-Welcome-Connect, these questions keep popping up: What has been important to you about Christ Episcopal Church? How do we invite people into this great community we have? How do we communicate that, like a cross or a rooster on a spire, so that anyone standing outside our doors knows what we have to offer inside?

This summer, I invite you to consider these questions: how do we make God's love visible, so that others want to join us? What are our visible signs?

Michelle+



Leadership Clark County (LCC)

FACT: Each year about 42 Clark County individuals are selected to participate in Leadership Clark County's "Community Leadership Academy". INVEST. IMPACT. IGNITE.

Since 1981, Leadership Clark County (LCC) has served as a catalyst for community engagement and civic leadership by investing time, resources, and expertise into developing servant leaders throughout Clark County. Through programming that emphasizes leadership development, awareness of community needs, and an appreciation for diversity, participants gain the knowledge and perspective necessary to make meaningful contributions to the community. Graduates of Leadership Clark County often become change agents themselves, stepping into leadership roles and dedicating their talents and energy to

strengthening the organizations and initiatives that serve Clark County.

From the \$10,600 allocated to date by Outreach Committee, LCC received \$2,000 for scholarships to self-pay individuals (vs. paid by their company or nonprofit). Many of CEC parish members have completed this powerful program (including our Rector).

With our \$16,000 Outreach budget for 2026 (based on Vestry priorities), the Outreach Committee meets quarterly. If you are aware of a Clark County ministry that aligns with CEC's mission, please direct them to CEC's website for our online application. If interested in joining the Outreach Committee, please contact Fred Bartenstein, Outreach Chair. Thanks for supporting our ministries and celebrating their impact on our community!

Blessings, Linda Gatten Butler, Outreach Secretary





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



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>



Watch Us on YouTube

Here's how to watch our services on YouTube: First, open the YouTube app on your smart TV.

- Go to "Search." Enter *Christ Church Springfield*. As you enter *Christ Church Spr*, a list will appear 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!



Revised Common LECTIONARY

July and August				
Date	First Lesson	Psalms	Second Lesson	Gospel
July 5	Zechariah 9:9-12	Psalms 145	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 12	Isaiah 55:10-13	Psalms 65	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19	Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19	Psalms 86	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 26	1 Kings 3:5-12	Psalms 119	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Aug. 2	Isaiah 55:1-5	Psalms 145	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
Aug. 9	1 Kings 19:9-18	Psalms 85	Romans 10: 5-15	Matthew 14: 22-23
Aug. 16	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Psalms 67	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28
Aug. 23	Isaiah 51:1-6	Psalms 138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
Aug. 30	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Psalms 26	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28





July 25th and August 22nd at 6 PM

Join us in the Guild Room at 6 PM on the last Saturday of each month. We'll start the evening with prayers and song. We'll have a conversation about Scripture and finish with Evening Prayer or Compline. Afterward, everyone will share in the work of cleaning up. If you'd like to know more, please contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christsspringfield.org

Church Staff

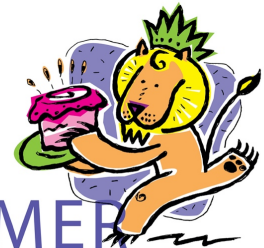
- **Rector:** The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard
- **Senior Warden:** Joyce Spangler
- **Jr. Warden:** Steve Sharp
- **Treasurer:** Ken Bladh
- **Clerk of Vestry:** Kelly Zeller
- **Program Director & Parish Administrator:** Kelly Zeller
- **Music Director:** Dr. Christopher Durrenberger
- **Facility Manager:**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

Your Vestry at Large

Fred Bartenstein, David Bingman, Beth Deger, Kay Koeninger, John Richardson, and Diane Rode

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.
- Choose either **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."**
- Enter your **billing information**.
- Thank you! If you have questions or concerns, contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com.



SUMMER Birthdays

David Bingman.....	July 04
Sue Allender.....	July 06
Anne Randolph	July 07
Anne Guyton-Dunbar	July 08
Catherine Waggoner.....	July 09
Jillian Drew.....	July 12
William Mattox.....	July 13
Linda Mortensen	July 14
James Jr. (Jamie) McGregor	July 24
Rick Dunbar	July 25
Cathy Yeazell.....	Aug. 02
Clare Perks	Aug. 04
Susan Doubt	Aug. 05
Dana Waggoner.....	Aug. 11
Marilyn Howat	Aug. 12
Jack Ivy	Aug. 21
Ted DeLong	Aug. 28
Jenny Randolph	Aug. 29



Michelle meets William of Orange.

Have You Met Me Yet?

(An occasional column introducing our newer members, as well as celebrating the significant milestones in the lives of all parishioners)

Seamus Dunphy

Many of us have seen or heard Seamus Dunphy, perhaps without knowing who he is. A native of the Cleveland area, Seamus first moved to Springfield to attend Wittenberg a few years ago. There, he studied music and worked with Chris Durrenberger. After graduation, Seamus stayed in the area, pursuing a variety of interests, including music. Working with the choir at Wittenberg, Seamus received an email from Chris, asking him about possible choral scholars to sing with the Christ Church choir. Seamus read it, and thought, "I should do this." He applied, and as he says, "I never looked back."

He started here as a choral scholar in the fall of 2023. He's stayed, because of the sense of community he finds at Christ Church, and their commitment to the marginalized. "I resonated with the people who don't allow other people to be overlooked."

Music is a big part of Seamus's life. This spring, he was one of the four soloists in Springfield Symphony Orchestra's performance of Mozart's Requiem, and this coming summer, he looks forward to performing with a music camp in Michigan where he attended as a youth. He believes strongly that as a musician, his responsibility is to make the music accessible. He loves singing with the Christ Church choir, because he sees the effect that the music has. "We make people feel things they didn't know they could feel. That's apparent in their reactions... Music builds community and brings people together."

Seamus stays active in Springfield in lots of other ways. His job as one of the managers of the Springfield Country Club keeps him very busy this time of year; and he also teaches voice students. This spring, he passed the exam

to earn his real estate license, and he has recently joined a local agency. He also gives back: this past December, he helped organize a food drive at the Country Club, which benefitted the pantry at Christ Church.

We are blessed to have choral scholars who support our choir and community. We are blessed to have Seamus singing and worshipping with us. If you haven't met him yet – please reach out and say hi!



Vestry

Highlights

Highlights for May 2026. *Vestry Highlights are published after the 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 Rev. Michelle reading a bio of Frances Perkins, whose Feast Day is celebrated on May 13th.
- **Report on Diocesan Vestry and Wardens day.** Steve Sharp and Joyce Spangler attended Vestry and Wardens' Day at St. Mark's in Upper Arlington on April 25. A standout session addressed Congregational Development: how churches grow, decline, and change. Congregational development helps churches grow in faith, health, and effectiveness by addressing challenges and opportunities. Churches follow a life cycle of birth, formation, stability, decline, and disintegration, with potential for renewal through strong leadership and support. Meaningful change occurs when dissatisfaction, vision, and actionable steps outweigh resistance. Healthy congregations continuously renew themselves, stay mission-focused, and confront change honestly, requiring leaders to communicate a clear vision and practical steps for sustaining progress.
- Diane Rode discussed moving announcements during the 10 am service to just before the closing hymn, to which Rev. Michelle agreed for implementation on May 24th.
- The Vestry Person of the Day will greet attendees and help newcomers, with sign-up plans via a Doodle Survey.
- Rev. Michelle proposed upgrading to a Spectrum VoIP phone system for better functionality while keeping the existing system for the elevator. The Vestry requested additional quotes and research on purchasing phones without a long-term contract.
- The June Vestry meeting was rescheduled to June 16th, due to Rev. Michelle's vacation.
- The search continues for members for the Financial Vision Task Force, who will develop a vision plan for the endowment's use to foster growth over the next 3 to 5 years.
- Rev. Michelle presented nametag samples and will find older nametags for members to wear.
- Rev. Michelle proposed a meeting with David Gerhard from TENS to discuss a potential capital campaign and feasibility study. If Vestry chooses to move forward, it would be via Zoom and cost \$ 7,500. Vestry was encouraged to prepare questions, while Joyce will check for a library room for the meeting.

Other Business:

- Beth Deger presented pictures of the alleyway by Linden Street. Ohio Edison informed us that placing a safety mirror on the utility pole was not permitted. Beth suggested installing a stop sign or exploring other safety measures.
- The meeting closed with a reading of the Collect of the Day. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.



Please check your ministry schedules regularly throughout the busy summer months. If you cannot serve, kindly find a substitute and email Kelly at

zellerk0611@gmail.com. It takes all ministers working together to coordinate our worship each Sunday. Thank you for your teamwork!



Laugh and Craft Group is off for July due to Independence Day. Join us on August 1!



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



Calling All Gardeners

Join us at CEC for monthly gardening on **June 14th** 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.



Please remember to make a name tag prior to each Sunday service in the East Entrance. As the number of guests increases in the summer months, we would like members of Christ

Church to wear nametags to make our guests feel welcome and show our approachability!



Christ Episcopal Church is working with Instant Church Directory to create a new church photo directory. We have begun asking members for their permission to upload directory information to this new database, and adding individuals and families to the directory. If you **HAVE** given us

permission to take this first step, you may be getting a request soon to add your picture. If you haven't given us permission, the permission slips are on the nametag table in the East Entrance.



Game Night is on hiatus for the summer. Watch this space for updates



Safe Travels!

As the number of people traveling increases during the summer months, we wish those of you traveling a safe trip and hope the time away serves you well!



SUMMER Anniversaries

Lori Swafford and Rand Smith.....	July 7
Ron Dowling and John Richardson	July 9
Keith and Susan Doubt.....	July 18
Brian & Bonnie Shelburne	Aug. 06



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



A big THANK YOU! to all the pantry volunteers! We had a small but mighty crew! The weather was great. The first walker arrived at 4 AM, followed by the first car at 5 AM. We provided clients with essential items including meat, peanut butter, jelly, mac and cheese, pancakes and syrup, canned goods, produce, paper towels, laundry detergent, soap, shampoo, Lysol wipes, feminine hygiene products, and toothpaste. We served a total of 438 individuals.

June was a busy month! We had an inspection and audit on June 11th, and we spent a lot of time before the inspection to ensure everything was in order. I'm happy to report that we passed with flying colors! The auditor was impressed by the bagging system, our instructions on the back of the numbers we pass out, and the organization of the spaces. Additionally, we received several donations this month. A big thank you to everyone who contributed toilet paper, pet food, ready-to-eat meals, and feminine hygiene products; these items were distributed and greatly appreciated!

We also received the following donations:

- Dan McGregor generously donated 16 plastic pallets to replace the wooden pallets in all Food Pantry rooms. Thank you, Dan!
- In honor of Joyce Spangler, who retired at the end of May, her workplace made a \$1,250 donation to the Food Pantry. Happy retirement, Joyce!

- We also received a substantial donation from a parish family of \$3,500, which will be used to purchase essential items such as paper towels, tissues, laundry detergent, soap, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, Lysol, feminine hygiene products, and toothpaste for the remainder of 2026.

The July and August Pantry dates are listed below. Volunteers are needed to:

- help move delivered food to the Bethel room and remove plastic wraps
- help bag shelf-stable food, and
- help with customer service and fill orders.

To volunteer, contact Brian Shelburne bshelburne@wittenberg.edu, Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com, or Anne Randolph at annejrand@aol.com.

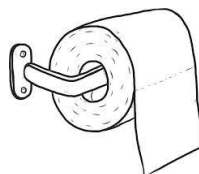
Event	Time	July	Aug
Food Delivery	8:15 AM	8*	5
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	9	13
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	16	19

**Day change to accommodate July 4*

Bagging Day—Shelf-stable items 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 2-3 hours on July 9 or Aug 13, let Brian Shelburne know.

TP Donations

Thanks to all who continue to donate TP. Ours is one of the few pantries to give out this necessary item. 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.



Toilet Paper, Pet Food, And Laundry Detergent!



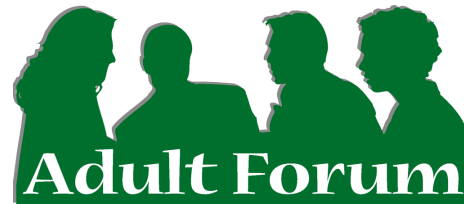
What do these items have in common? These are the three items most requested by Food Pantry clients, and none of them can be purchased with the SNAP

card. We are the only Food Pantry that offers toilet paper, and the clients often ask when they first arrive if we have it that day. Pet food, laundry detergent, and cleaning supplies are expensive items; clients are very grateful when we have these items on distribution day. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and really make a difference!! Thank you!



Are you starting a new chapter in your life? Mark your calendar for the “Blessing New Beginnings” service on September 7.

Join us for this liturgy that will kick off the church program year and provide an opportunity for our children to be blessed as they start school again. In addition, the service is a time to recognize the many transitions that happen in our lives: new jobs or promotions, a new start at retirement, even new cars or new living situations! Watch for more information as to how you can celebrate your new beginnings!



Christ Church 101 Returns!

Ever wonder, “Why do we do that?” or “What’s this all about?” Or maybe, you’re new to Christ Episcopal Church, or the Episcopal Church in general, and would like a bit of an introduction. Christ Church 101 is for you!

Christ Church 101 is a series of five sessions, each centered around answering a single complex question. Each session stands alone. Participants may attend all sessions, or just come for those questions that you have.

- **Note:** We will take July 5 off.
- **Sunday, July 12: What is the Episcopal Church?** An in-depth look at Episcopal worship, Episcopal beliefs, and all those other pages in the Book of Common Prayer.
- **Sunday, July 19: Who decides?** A look at governance in the Episcopal Church and at Christ Church, including a short history of how we were founded, and how we make decisions here and in the region, and what that says about our beliefs.
- **Sunday, July 26: How do I get involved?** A look at everything that comes with being a member of Christ Church.

All our sessions will start in the Parish Hall at 11:30. Please feel free to join us!



Photos from June 27 Happenings

Westcott Church Tour



The tour group enters Christ Church through the rarely used front door!



The group examines the architecture while Michelle points out salient features.

Springfield Pridefest



A small but mighty crew made up of Michelle Boomgaard, Joyce Spangler, and John Richardson. John looked FABULOUS!

Some visitors to our booth



Rainbow Table

In the month of August, Christ Episcopal takes its turn in assisting St. John's Lutheran Church with The Rainbow Table, a weekly free hot meal provided to the community every Friday throughout the year.

There are two shifts each Friday of the month:

9 to 11:30 AM. The first shift prepares the meal, sorts Sheehan Vending & makes To Go Bags, and sets up

11:30-Noon. Between shifts volunteers eat and/or socialize, getting to know volunteers from a variety of churches and other organizations.

Noon to 1:30-2 PM. The second shift serves food, helps people with trays, scrapes plates, washes dishes, wipes down tables and chairs, and stacks chairs.

You may help at just one shift or both, one or more Fridays in August 2025 (8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24 & 8/31). We'll be back in January 2025 to kick off the new year. **If you would like to volunteer in August, please contact Deb Southward at 937-925-1977.**

The Rainbow Table is an AmeriCorps Retired Senior Volunteer Program for Volunteers 55+ that allows Senior Volunteers to count their hours twice, helping the Rainbow Table apply for grants *and* helping Federal & State dollars come back to the community for the benefit of Seniors.

