



The

Clarion

Volume 30, Issue 9, September 2026

A Monthly Publication



Children's Chapel Services for ages 2 through 6 will start September 13th. We meet in the Chapel on the church's lower level at the start

of the 10 AM service, down the aisle from the nursery. This year, we're all about hands-on learning from the former Atrium. Your children will have loads of opportunities to explore and learn through play. After the sermon wraps up, an usher will come to gather the kids (and me!) to bring their gifts up to the Altar. Then, they can either head back to the nursery or stay upstairs—totally your choice! Madison will be there as the second adult, ensuring everything stays safe and fun under the Safe Church guidelines. Each month will have its own exciting theme, and September's theme is all about Creation.



Adult Forum in September:
9/13 - An overview of Pope Francis's perspective (or, "why was this controversial?")

9/20 - The threat, in Pope Francis's view

9/27 - An alternative approach and action for the future



Calling all Christ Episcopal Church singers!

Come one come all for good fellowship and music making with the Christ Church adult choir commencing **Sunday, September 13th at 9 AM**. No tryouts are required. All are welcome to join! Contact Chris

Durrenberger at cdurrenberger@wittenberg.edu for more information.



Wed. 9/2 Pantry Food Delivery @ 8:15AM

Thurs. 9/3 Noonday Prayer

Sat. 9/5 Laugh & Craft 10 AM

Sun. 9/6 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM

Mon. 9/7 Office Closed for Labor Day

Tues. 9/8 Lectio Divina @ 1 PM
NOTE CHANGE OF DAY!

Thurs. 9/10 Pantry bagging @ 9;
Noonday Prayer; Vestry @ 6 PM

Sun. 9/13 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM;
Children's Chapel at 10 AM

Tues. 9/15 Lectio Divina @ 1 PM

Wed. 9/16 Pantry Day @ 8:15 AM

Thurs. 9/17 Noonday Prayer

Sun. 9/20 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM;
Children's Chapel at 10 AM;
Oakwood Service @ 1 PM

Tues. 9/22 Lectio Divina @ 1 PM

Thurs. 9/24 Noonday Prayer

Sat. 9/26 Dinner Church @ 6 PM

Sun. 6/28 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM

Looking ahead to October

Stewardship is about expressing gratitude to God by imitating God's generosity through our own. Whether we are talking about time, talent, or financial resources, when we think about what we give, we are thinking about how we give thanks to God in a tangible way.

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Volume 30, Issue 9 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.

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Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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On Sacred Time and Sacred Space

This summer, I got to visit Switzerland and the Black Forest of Germany (home of Black Forest cake, of course!). We hiked along a beautiful creek, and saw spectacular mountains and clear lakes. We passed through picturesque little villages, each with a little plaza in the center, and a little timbered historic church. Even when we left the villages and went into the countryside, we noticed that the larger farms usually had a little chapel, large enough for maybe a dozen people, on a little hill separate from the house. Our guide explained that these were family chapels, for when the snow got too deep in the mountains for the family to attend church on Sunday. In this region, people believed that not only was there a day set aside to worship God – the Sabbath – but there should be a special, sacred space set aside as well. A chapel, with no purpose but prayer.

This strict separation of “sacred things” and “secular or ordinary things” reached a rather silly extreme in one small city we visited, where a shopkeeper in the 17th century had intentionally built his house over his shop, but then extended a rather large bay window over the street, and turned that into a “prayer room.”

Since then, it seems that more and more things have been made ready-to-wear, off-the-rack. Clothes and shoes, of course, but other things, too. Customization is for either the wealthy, or the folks who don't fit the standard size: someone with a club foot, for example.

Today, I suspect many of us would find such a distinction curious. Most of us believe that you can encounter God anywhere, pray anywhere. In fact, I think many of us feel closer to God when we are out in creation: contemplating mighty mountains, rushing streams, or forests filled with the sounds of nature. Recognizing this, some modern church and chapel buildings have begun the practice of installing large picture windows to allow us to contemplate God at work outside while we enjoy the climate-controlled environment and music indoors. The Chapel of the Incarnation at Procter Center is a fine example of this trend, which was also articulated in an episode of the old Vicar of Dibley series on BBC (and PBS).

Similarly, most of us have come to believe that we can pray to God anytime, and don't need a special day or time to do so. Indeed, thanks to modern technology, people around the world now access our Sunday morning Eucharist and Thursday noonday prayer, at any hour they please. *(continued on p. 3)*



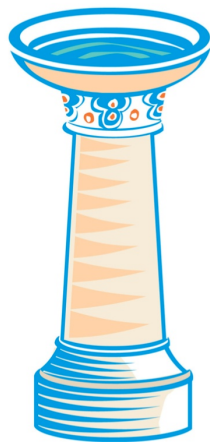
The Church Office will be closed on September 7th for Labor Day. Please plan accordingly!

(Michelle's Musings, continued)

On the one hand, this certainly makes God more accessible, and seems in keeping with the God who came down from heaven to take on mortal, ordinary flesh and live among us. On the other hand, I sometimes wonder – when we realize that we can find God in any place, at any time, do we still seek God, or find God, anywhere? Or has God become part of the background noise, like the hum of an air conditioner? Have we tuned God out?

Abraham Joshua Heschel reminds us that the observance of the Sabbath actually set the Jewish people apart from their neighbors in the ancient near East. It established the idea of sacred time, a “palace of time,” set apart from the regular, workaday world.

This September, we will again use the Liturgy of the Season of Creation – reminding us once more of God's presence in the world around us, and of our call to steward the earth and preserve what we have been given. I hope you will join us for this sacred time.



Baptisms Scheduled for November 1st

The next opportunity for children and/or adults to be baptized at Christ Church will be Sunday, November 1st, which is the Sunday after All Saints' Day. This is one of four specific days set aside for baptisms according to the *Book of Common*

Prayer. Holy Baptism is one of the two great sacraments of the Gospel, given by Christ to his Church (along with the Holy Eucharist).

A pre-baptismal counseling session with the priest is required; so if you, or a member of your family, are considering baptism, contact Rev. Michelle in a timely fashion at mboomgaard@christsspringfield.org. And if you are unsure about baptism but would like to know more, just let her know!

Do your part to keep our community safe AND connected

At the Annual Meeting in February, we unveiled our new online parish photo directory. We noted that it had a number of features that make it better than a traditional, printed photo directory, including the following:

- It lets us use our own pictures, so we can choose one that we really like
- We can update it ourselves, making it less likely that we have outdated phone numbers or other contact information
- IT IS SAFER THAN A PRINT DIRECTORY, and helps prevent scams.

But, like many things, our directory works best when everyone is involved. What can you do?

1) PLEASE DO NOT GIVE OUT OLD COPIES OF OUR DIRECTORY!

Many scams start when a member of the parish accidentally gives a copy of our directory to someone pretending to be another parishioner. We do not know who is giving out the directory – it is not staff. If you get an email from someone – even if it looks like another member of the parish – please do not give them a copy of the directory. Encourage them to use the online directory, or to ask them to contact the office to get a printed copy of the online photo directory.

2) If you haven't done so already, sign up to become a part of the directory. We're asking permission to upload your information (name, address, phone number and email address) to the web. You are free to change, update, or delete any of the information after we upload it.

You won't be listed in the directory, or be able to access it, until we upload your information. Please do your part to make our directory as complete as possible.

3) Have you checked and updated your information? Add a favorite picture from this summer, or make sure your phone number and email address are up to date. Our directory is only as good as everyone's contributions. Help your page shine!



SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation returns this September.

In September, we will once again join with churches around the world—Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant—to celebrate the Season of Creation. In its statement encouraging the observance, the Anglican Communion website reminds us that this “is a special season to celebrate God as Creator, and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth.”

We will be using a special Liturgy of Creation at the 10 AM service from Sept. 1 through Oct. 4. These dates—September 1 is the World Day of Prayer for Creation and Oct. 4 is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi—are days when it is particularly appropriate to pray for the Earth and our role as its stewards and guardians. Between those two special observances, the whole liturgy also provides that reminder each Sunday. Last year, many at Christ Church appreciated the environmental focus of the Prayers of the People and the updated and more inclusive language of the Eucharistic prayers.

After our trial run last year, someone made the suggestion that our liturgy should tie to some other aspect of our parish life. This year, that will take the form of a deep dive into the theology of creation care. As our adult forum series in September, we will discuss *Laudato Si*, the encyclical by Pope Francis that, according to the back cover, “draws all Christians into dialogue with every person on the planet about our common home.”

You don’t have to read the book in order to participate. However, it is fairly accessible; not a lot of long Latin words or anything like that. It can be found online (for you to read online or print out) at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html. If you’d like a copy that you can hold in your hands, you may be able to order it on www.bookshop.org or your favorite online retailer, or find it in second hand bookshops. Clark County Public library does not have a copy, but other libraries may.

In our discussions, we’ll examine how a theological perspective on creation care might look different from what we often read in books or the media; as well as our current situation; and end with positive actions to take.

In whatever way you participate, may the Season of Creation inspire you to do the work of caring for all that God has entrusted to you, so that we and all the world may thrive.

All of Christ Church was tuck pointed in August.





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



Judy Johnson offers a virtual 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>



Please remember to make a name tag in the East Entrance prior to each Sunday service. As the number of guests increases in the summer months, we would like church members to wear nametags to make our guests feel welcome and show our approachability!



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 it!



Revised Common LECTIONARY



September

Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
Sept 6th	Ezekiel 33:7-11	119	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Sept 13th	Genesis 50:15-21	103	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Sept 20th	Jonah 3:10-4:11	145	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
Sept 27	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	25	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32

ONLINE GIVING

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

- Go to christspringfield.org or use the QR code
- 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 wish to give
- Next, choose either **Pledged Giving** for a Pledge or **Miscellaneous Giving** for other giving
- Complete the rest of the form
- Press **Continue**
- Enter your billing information



Thank you! If you have questions or concerns, contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0612@gmail.com.



Birthdays

Bonnie Bingman.....	September 4
Brian Shelburne	September 7
Dee Washington	September 12
Madison Smith	September 14
Dawn Ivy	September 15
Julie McGregor.....	September 21
Gates Drew	September 23
Peter Wentworth	September 23
Myra Dean Banion	September 27
Jeannie Everingham	September 29

Anniversaries

Dana & Cathy Waggoner.....	September 16
Brian & Jillian Drew	September 17
Gloria & Steve Heine	September 28



STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS COMING IN OCTOBER

This year's theme is *Plenty Good Room*. During this time we all will reflect on where we see God's abundance, both in our own lives and in the life of Christ Church. Stewardship of time, talent, and treasure is our faithful reply to God's generosity. It is gratitude put into action. Watch weekly Newsnotes and bulletin announcements in September for more information.

African Bible Study ~ a new day!

African Bible study will meet **Tuesdays at 1 PM**, beginning **September 8th**. Please consider joining us for this empowering study of Scripture. Each week, we select the Lectionary reading for the forthcoming Sunday in preparation for Sunday's worship. We adapt a meditative, structured approach, taking turns to listen and to speak. The discipline encourages listening and self-reflection and discourages cross talk. We meet online and provide a link before the gathering. Questions? Talk to Keith at church or email keithdoubt@123mail.org.



Join us in the Guild Room at 6 PM on Saturday **September 26th**. We'll start the evening with prayers and song, have a conversation about Scripture, and finish with Evening Prayer or Compline. Afterward, everyone shares in the work of cleaning up. Want to know more? Contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christspringfield.org

Vestry Highlights

Vestry Highlights from the July 9th, 2026 meeting. Vestry Highlights are published after the minutes have been approved at the following month's meeting. A copy of the minutes is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway of the Guild Room.

- The Vestry meeting began with Fred Bartenstein reading from Matthew, 13:1–9, 18–23, followed by reading the Collect of the Day in unison.
- **Repaving the parking lot:** Rev. Michelle began by stating that the parking lot is scheduled to be repaved in 2027, and blacktopped curbs will be replaced with concrete curbs. It is important to discuss this matter tonight because the Gardening Club needs to be informed that the curbs will be removed, which will affect the plants in the islands, so they can develop plans to protect the perennials.
- **Proposed resolution:** Dodi Holmes' family requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be earmarked for the restoration of the Skinner Organ. A resolution was crafted stating that any moneys contributed to Christ Episcopal Church in 2026 and designated as being in memory of Doris (or Dodi) Holmes be used for the restoration of the Skinner Organ in 2027, that moneys contributed for the restoration of the Skinner Organ be used as a primary resource for this restoration, and that the endowment be used to pay for the remainder of the restoration. Vestry approved the resolution.
- **Audit 2025:** Once Clark, Shaffer, and Hackett complete the financial audit, Ken Bladh will email it to the Vestry in August. The Vestry agreed to hold an email discussion and vote. Once approved, Ken will send the audit to the Diocese to ensure we meet the September 1, 2026, deadline.
- **Thoughts on a fun, parish-building activity for the next few months:** Joyce Spangler will talk to Liz Wheeler about confirming a date to attend a Half Trax (the former Champion City Kings) game. Diane Rode would like to go on a hike, and she will work on arranging it.

- **Financial Vision Task Force:** Rev. Michelle reported that the Task Force will meet Sunday, 8/2 after the 10 AM service. The Task Force is responsible for developing a vision plan and evaluation metrics for the endowment's use over the next 3 to 5 years to promote congregational growth and engagement.
- **Conversation:** What did we hear from the Episcopal Network for Stewardship presentation, and where do we go from here? Rev. Michelle read a reflection on the opening Gospel, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. Diane Rode sought Fred Bartenstein's insight on raising funds. Fred suggested identifying specific needs and consulting an expert with experience in church fundraising. John Richardson emphasized the importance of community focus and building connections with neighbors. Diane thought installing a new electric sign would make the church more welcoming. Rev. Michelle will reach out to Davey Gerhard for advice on initiating the process.
- Rev. Michelle closed the meeting with a quick prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Half Trax Game

A group of parishioners attended the Champion City Half Trax baseball game on July 29th at Carleton Davidson Stadium in Springfield. The home team was behind most of the game, but their bats lit up in the 8th inning. Half Trax won with a final score of 7-3. A fun time was had by all! Look for another opportunity to join us next summer.





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

Laugh and Craft Group



We'd love for you to join us on **Saturday, September 5th from 10 AM until noon**, for our fun Laugh and Craft Group!

Whether you have a half-finished crochet project, some sewing materials, or scrapbook supplies you've been wanting to tackle, bring them along, and let's get crafting! Just want to have some fun chatting with others? No worries! We have a jigsaw puzzle that we can enjoy together. We'll also have coffee, tea, and some tasty light refreshments waiting for you in the Guild Room. We can't wait to see you there and share a great morning together!

Pledges: If you would like an update of what you have given thus far in fulfillment of your pledge for 2026, please email Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com for a statement.

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
- **Nursey Attendant:** Madison Smith

Your Vestry at Large

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

The Organ Committee toured the Peebles-Herzog workshop as the renovations and refurbishment for CEC Skinner pipe organ began!





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

Pantry News

A big THANK YOU! to all the pantry volunteers! We were fortunate to have a solid group of volunteers, and the weather was perfect with no rain! The first walker arrived at 3:30 AM, followed by the first car that arrived at 5 AM. The pantry was quiet, with fewer people and less activity among our clients. In August, we provided clients with essential items including hamburgers, whole chickens, fish sticks, hot dogs and Coney sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned meat, shelf milk, mac and cheese, pancakes and syrup, canned goods, produce, paper towels, Kleenex, laundry detergent, soap, Lysol wipes, feminine hygiene products, and toothpaste. We served 308 individuals, including 19 new families, and 38% of our clients have five or more members in their household.

A big thank-you to everyone who contributed toilet paper, pet food, ready-to-eat meals, and hygiene products; these items were distributed and greatly appreciated! We also received the following donations:

- We received 54 cases of Laundry Sheets, a green company that donates laundry sheets that wash your clothes and offers eco-friendly, plastic-free household cleaning and personal care products. These went over well! Click here for more info on this company: <https://share.google/42QWTGmlrpd0HcP2C>
- A huge shout out to Covenant Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use their freezers to store extra whole chickens!
- The Church Women's Group from Unity Church of Dayton collected donations of food, toothpaste, and personal hygiene products.

The September Drive-thru Food Pantry will be September 16th. Dates on which volunteers are needed are listed below. Volunteers are needed to:

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

Event	Time	Sept.
Food Delivery	8:15 AM	2
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	10
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	16

Please consider joining us if you have an hour or two to spare! To volunteer, contact Brian Shelburne at bshelburne@wittenberg.edu, Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com, or Anne Randolph at annejrand@aol.com.

Toilet Paper, Pet Food, and Laundry Detergent!

What do these items have in common?



These are the three items most requested by clients, and none can be purchased with the SNAP card. We are the only

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; client are very grateful when we have these items on

distribution day. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and really make a difference!! Thank you!



Update on the Pull Tabs for the Dayton Ronald McDonald House

On July 9th, 2026, we delivered 14 pounds of pull tabs to the Springfield Recycling Center. They were redeemed for 67¢ per pound, totaling \$9.38, which will be sent along with other receipts to the Dayton Ronald McDonald House. Thank you to everyone who is taking the time to collect pull tabs! Please remember that only aluminum tabs will stick to a magnet. We found just one steel tab among all the collected tabs. Summer is the perfect time to gather tabs from beverages at reunions, family get-togethers, and even at work, as many people enjoy refreshing drinks to stay cool!