Christ Episcopal Church
There is a place for you at God's Table!

The Clarion

Volume 30, Issue 3, March 2026 A Monthly Publication



The Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church will be held on **Sunday, March 1 at 9 AM in the Parish Hall.** All members of Christ Church age 16 and older are asked to be present for this once-a-year meeting.

Who can vote? According to the Canons of the Episcopal Church, voting members are those who are: members of Christ Church and at least 16 years old, regular in worship, faithful in giving, and active in the ministry of the Parish.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Day of Change: March 8th As our clocks "spring forward," we will collect loose change (and bills) to support our Food Pantry. Use your change to make a difference in the lives of the hungry. Baskets will be passed during the 8 and 10 AM services. Or mail in an offering to the office: Christ Church, 409 E. High Street, Springfield, Ohio 45505.

Easter Flowers: Deadline: March 15th ***(see form on back cover)*** Easter is a wonderful time to remember loved ones with a gift to Christ Church for flowers.

Palm Sunday: March 29th 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 2, 7 PM 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 3rd, 7 PM 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 5th Join us at 10 AM for a 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.

MARCH Happenings

Sun. 3/1 **Annual Meeting** @ 9 AM **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Children's Chapel** at 10 AM; **CEC Concert Series with David Crean on Organ** @ 3 PM

Tues. 3/3 **Lenten Series: The Book of Forgiving** @ 7 PM on Zoom

Wed. 3/4 **Food Pantry Delivery** @ 8:15 AM; **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 3/5 **Noonday Prayer**

Sat. 3/7 **Laugh & Craft** 10 AM-Noon

Sun. 3/8 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Children's Chapel** at 10 AM; **Day of Change** @ both services

Tues. 3/10 **Lenten Series: The Book of Forgiving** @ 7 PM on Zoom

Wed. 3/11 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 3/12 **Food Pantry bagging** @; **Noonday Prayer**

Sun. 3/15 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Oakwood Service** @ 1 PM

Tues. 3/17 **Lenten Series: The Book of Forgiving** @ 7 PM on Zoom

Wed. 3/18 **Pantry Day** @ 8:30 AM; **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 3/19 **ABLE Clinic** @ 8 AM; **Noonday Prayer; Game Night** 6-8 PM

Sun. 3/22 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Springfield Towers Service** @ 1 PM

Tues. 3/24 **Lenten Series: The Book of Forgiving** @ 7 PM on Zoom

Wed. 3/25 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 3/26 **Noonday Prayer**

Sun. 3/29 **Palm Sunday Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM

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www.ChristSpringfield.org

Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio

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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

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Paul McAfee

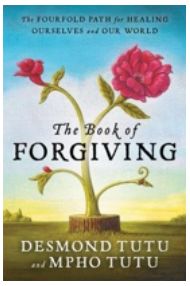
Bookkeeper:
Tina Knox

Nursery Attendant:
Madison Smith





Lenten Series



"The quality of human life on the planet is nothing more than the sum total of our daily interactions with one another. Forgiveness is the way we set those interactions right. It is the way we mend tears in the social fabric. It is the way we stop our human community from unravelling." – *The Book of Forgiving*

These words, written by the Rev. Desmond Tutu, and his daughter, the Rev. Mpho Tutu, make the case for the need for forgiveness. They are more than just dreamy wishes, though. They come from the deep knowledge of two people who have witnessed the brutality of hatred in South Africa, and the importance of reconciliation as a step in moving forward.

This Lent, we will be exploring *The Book of Forgiving,* by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. More specifically, we will explore their fourfold path of forgiving, walking the steps ourselves, as we are able.

Jesus reminds us of the importance of forgiveness. Indeed, embedded in the Lord's Prayer are the words, "forgive us, as we forgive others." This discussion series will give us tools to do this, but it is not explicitly Christian. For this reason, it is a great opportunity to share with people who don't come to Christ Church.

This will be an evening series starting on Feb. 24 and continuing Mar. 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 7 PM. We will do this series via Zoom, so everyone can participate from the comfort of their own home. (If there is sufficient interest, we can also have a bit of a soup supper at church beforehand and do this in hybrid format).

Buying the book in advance is helpful, but not necessary.

In order to get the link for the Zoom meeting, it would be helpful to register:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4Oi5OHK0JoC5cLY9xIvMGa8tVWvYuHRgFHcWAyTHuSnhUZQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor

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
- **Nursey Attendant:** Madison Smith

Your Vestry at Large

David Bingman, Beth Deger, Rick Everingham, Kay Koeninger, Diane Rode, and John Richardson



If the Clark County Sheriff calls a Level 2 snow emergency, Christ Church is closed. If Christ Church has to close on a Sunday, we will send out an email via Newsnote, post it on Channel 7, and put it on the Church's Facebook page and Website. Whatever the snow emergency level, use your best judgement to be safe.



Birthdays

Rick Everingham ..... Mar 1
Joann Albright ..... Mar 2
Judy McGregor ..... Mar 8
Wayne Southward ..... Mar 14
Linda Bulter ..... Mar 16
Deb Southward ..... Mar 16
Ian Shelburne ..... Mar 18
Lori Swafford ..... Mar 27
Wade Smith ..... Mar 28

Anniversary

Wayne and Deb Southward ..... Mar 15

Lectio Divina Resumes

We invite parishioners to join Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading). The Bible study (sometimes called African Bible Study) is a meditative, structured fellowship in which to reflect in a safe space on the importance of our Christian faith in our everyday lives. We listen to others with respectful silence, without crosstalk or commentary. We share without interruption or interrupting. Each participant has a voice.

We read the Lectionary gospel for the upcoming Sunday. We meet online Wednesdays at 1 PM. There is flexibility in when we meet. If interested, talk with Keith Doubt at church or contact him at keithdoubt@123mail.org



Concerts at Christ Episcopal Church presents. . .

David Crean, award winning Julliard trained organist performs masterworks spanning four centuries including selections from Bach, Mendelssohn, Vaughan Williams, Widor and Billy Strayhorn. Come experience a Fantasia, Fugue, Sonata, and Widor's famous Toccata on our fantastic Skinner instrument! **Sunday March 1 at 3 PM**. A freewill offering will help to support future events.

More on Dr. Crean: https://bachsocietyofdayton.org/our-group

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

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children's Chapel Services for ages 2 through 7 will take place on March 1st and 8th!

We meet in the Chapel on the church's lower level at the start of the 10 AM service, down the hallway from the nursery. Each Sunday that we meet in the Chapel, when the sermon upstairs has concluded an usher will get the children and Kelly, and they will have the wonderful opportunity to take the gifts up to the Altar. Each month will have a theme. Our March theme is Lent. Finally, on the last Sunday of each month, the children will attend the service upstairs, where Rev. Michelle will deliver a children's homily.



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

March				
Date	**First Lesson**	**Psalm**	**Second Lesson**	**Gospel**
03/1	Genesis 12: 1-4a	121	Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17	John 3: 1-17
03/8	Exodus 17: 1-7	95	Romans 5: 1-11	John 4: 5-42
03/15	1 Samuel 16: 1-13	23	Ephesians 5: 8-14	John 9: 1-41
03/22	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
03/29	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mathew 26:14-27:66



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





2026Altar Flower Dedication Chart

If you would like to sponsor the Altar flowers for 2026 in memory of, thanksgiving. or in celebration for someone or something, please Kelly Zeller at zellerk0612@gmail.com. Please be very specific in what or who you are dedicating the altar flowers, and if you have a particular choice of flower. The suggested donation is $45.

May 3rd, 17th, and 25th
June 21st
July 12th and19th
August 2nd and 23rd
November 1st, 8th, and 22nd

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 **Online Giving** link in blue
- Fill in the amount you would like 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.



GOOD NEWS!

Although we can see snow on the ground, gardeners are eager to start seeing GREEN peeking through the soil. Spring is our "happy time", and we'll start our CEC Gardening in April. Our tentative schedule (after "coffee/tea happy hour") is April 12th; May 17th; June 14th; July 12th; August 9th; and September 13th. Dust off your tools, find your gloves and get ready for SPRING! As Robin Williams said, "Spring is nature's way of saying- "LET'S PARTY!" Thanks for your continued support, compliments, and donations to our gardening ministry. For information, please contact: Linda Gatten Butler, Gardening Committee Chair at 937-408-6295 or Linda1950@ameritech.net.

Vestry Highlights

Vestry Highlights from the January 15th, 2026 meeting. The Vestry Highlights will be published after the minutes have been approved at the following month's Vestry meeting. A copy of the Vestry minutes is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway of the Guild Room.

The Vestry discussed several key items during their meeting:

1. **Final 2026 Budget**: Ken Bladh sent the final budget for approval, incorporating updates. After a brief discussion, the budget was approved, moved by David Bingman and seconded by Kay Koeninger.
2. **Outreach Funds**: Ken presented a summary of 2025 CEC Pantry donations and expenses. The Outreach Committee was authorized to disburse $4,000 for the first quarter, with a request from Joyce Spangler for the Vestry to review financials before the second quarter. The motion was approved.
3. **Nominating Committee Report**: Dan McGregor announced the nomination of Steve Sharp as Junior Warden and Fred Bartenstein as Vestry at Large. Both nominations were accepted.
4. **Next Vestry Meeting**: John Richardson proposed moving the next meeting to February 19th at 6 pm due to Rev. Michelle's vacation. The motion passed.
5. **CEC Concert Committee Proposal**: Rev. Michelle proposed $2,000 from the Endowment Fund to support the "Concerts at CEC" series. The motion to approve this funding was carried.
6. **Online Church Directory**: Rev. Michelle introduced a trial for an online church directory at $100 per year, with plans for assistance to parishioners in using it. Feedback from Vestry members was requested, with a suggestion to present the directory in an Adult Forum.
7. **Springfield Neighbors United**: Rev. Michelle shared information about Springfield Neighbors United, which uses the Parish Hall for monthly potlucks, inviting any questions about the initiative.
8. The next Vestry meeting will be held **on February 19th at 6 PM** in Hollenbeck.



Empty Bowls

The Annual Wittenberg University Empty Bowls is **Monday, March 23rd from 4:30–6:30 PM** (Central Dining Room, Student Center of the Wittenberg Campus). Bowls are $20, which includes a humble meal of soup and bread. The goal is to raise $50,000 this year. All proceeds go to the Second Harvest Food Bank. For more information, contact Scott Dooley (937-327-6327 or sdooley@wittenberg.edu).



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, March 7 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 together! Just want to have some fun chatting with others? No worries! We'll have a jigsaw puzzle that everyone 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!



Join us for Game Night on **Thursday, March 19**. We'll gather at 6 PM at Myers Market, 101 S. Fountain Ave. to play a variety of board and card games. Friends and new games are always welcome. Contact Rev. Michelle with questions at mboomgaard@christspringfield.org.

Speaking of Hospitality…

The Shelby County Democratic Party hosted a non-perishable food/toiletries drive for the CEC Food Pantry!





A new photo directory is in the works!

Have you heard? 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.

We expect this to take some time as we prepare to roll it out.

If you HAVE given us permission to take this first step, you may be getting a request soon to add your picture. If you HAVE NOT yet heard about this, stay tuned! You may be getting information from us soon about this opportunity.

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 first car arrived at 5:30 AM, and the first walker arrived at 5:15 AM. The parking lot filled up slowly, but by 8:30 AM, cars were wrapped around the block and down Linden. Clients were provided with chicken, bologna, hot dogs, sausage, Bob Evans mashed potatoes, canned goods, tuna fish, salmon, apples, cereal, eggs, snacks, and pasta. Besides the meat boxes, clients were very excited to see diapers and laundry detergent! We received a generous donation of canned goods, pet food, soaps, toothpaste, hygiene items, detergent, and diapers from Unity Church of Dayton and the Sidney Democratic office. We served a total of 478 individuals.

The March Drive-thru Food Pantry will be March 18th. Dates on which volunteers are needed are listed below. Volunteers are needed to:

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

	Time	March
Food Delivery	**8:15 AM**	4
Bagging Day	**9:00 AM**	12
Pantry Day!	**8:15 AM**	18

Food Delivery
Please mark your calendars for our next delivery on **Wed, Mar. 4th, at 8:15 AM**. We could really use more volunteers to help with unboxing and removing the plastic from canned goods.

Food Bagging
All are welcome to help bag shelf items to prepare for distribution! We meet at 9 AM in the Bethel room. This month, we'll meet on **Mar. 12th.** Email **Brian Shelburne** to ask any questions or to let him know if you can help.

With the need for supplemental food assistance growing, please consider joining us if you have an hour or two to spare! To volunteer, contact *Brian Shelburne, bshelburne@wittenberg.edu, Kelly Zeller zellerk0612@gmail.com, or Anne Randolph 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 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 offer them on distribution day. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and really make a difference!! Thank you!



****Mark Your Calendars****

In addition to the usual Holy Week services at Christ Episcopal Church (on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday), we are pleased to join with the Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship in Springfield to offer services with our brothers and sisters in Christ at other churches, including Second Baptist Church and St. John Missionary Baptist Church. These services will start at 6:30 each day of Holy Week. Be sure to keep an eye out in the bulletin, the Newsnote, and the April Clarion for more details.



EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is a wonderful time to remember loved ones with a gift to Christ Church of flowers. Please email Kelly Zeller at 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, March 15th.

Donor(s) _____

In thanksgiving for_____

_____

In memory of _____

_____