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

The Clarion

Volume 30, Issue 4, April 2026 A Monthly Publication



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. There is no 8 am service on this Sunday.

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.

APRIL Happenings

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

Thurs. 4/2 **Noonday Prayer; Maundy Thursday Service** @ 7 PM

Fri. 4/3 **Good Friday Service** @ 7 PM

Sat. 4/4 **Laugh & Craft** 10 AM

Sun. 4/5 **Easter Sunday Service** @ 10 AM; **NOTE: No 8 am Service**

Tues. 4/7 **Early Voting Starts** for May Primary

Wed. 4/8 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 4/9 **Pantry bagging** @ 9; **Noonday Prayer; Vestry** @ 6 PM

Sun. 4/12 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Children's Chapel** at 10 AM

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

Thurs. 4/16 **Noonday Prayer; Game Night** 6-8 PM

Sun. 4/19 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Newcomer Reception** @ 9 AM; **Oakwood Service** @ 1 PM

Tues. 4/21 **Volunteer for Spaghetti Dinner @ Central Christian,** 4 - 7 PM

Wed. 4/22 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 4/23 **Noonday Prayer**

Sun. 4/26 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Springfield Towers Service** @ 1 PM

Wed. 4/29 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 4/30 **Noonday Prayer**

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Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio

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Vestry Highlights

The Vestry did not have a formal meeting in March, but instead went on a retreat. The next Vestry meeting will be held **on April 9th at 6 PM** in Hollenbeck.



On Easter Joy

Many years ago, friends who are cooler than I am gave me a CD of Missa Luba, a Roman Catholic "folk mass" from the Congo. I listened and was amazed. On one hand, it contains much of the same meaning (I believe) as the service music that we use in our Episcopal Eucharist. Admittedly I understood barely a word of this folk mass from Congo—just words like kyrie and sanctus, which, being Latin, are somewhat universal. But what came through the music more than anything was the emotion. Listening to Missa Luba, I felt the whole arc of the service: from lament at the opening, as people come in carrying the weight of their lives and the world; through the confession; to the joy of absolution as they are freed to begin new lives; the celebration of the Eucharist. There are joyful ululations which seem entirely appropriate in the context of the mass.

I've never heard something that so encapsulated the whole point of worship.

It's Easter, the holiest season of the Church year, and the one which should most reflect joy. Indeed, many of our great Easter hymns sing of joy, "Welcome, happy morning," "He is risen! Tell it out with joyful voice," or "That Easter day with joy was bright," for example. At Easter vigil services held at dusk on Saturday night, there is a glorious moment when we declare "Christ is Risen!" We light candles, ring bells, and burst out in exuberant joy. We celebrate the triumph of God and love over evil and despair.

And yet, the rest of the world doesn't feel much different. Easter hymns aren't exactly playing in every strip mall or grocery store, the way Christmas carols do. I still remember shopping at Target one Easter Monday, and overhearing two employees chatting. "I just realized yesterday was Easter," said one. "I didn't do much, either," said the other. To them, it was just a Sunday that they happened to have off from work. THAT was what made the day special for them.

Throughout Lent, I've been preaching about what we at Christ Episcopal Church have to offer the rest of the world – people like those two Target employees. What do people get, when they visit? And, this Easter season, I would say, we offer joy. We offer community. We offer hope that evil does not win out over good. We offer glimpses of the unconditional love, and we do our best to reflect that in our own lives and relationships as well.

(continued on p. 3)

(Michelle's Musings, continued)

While the rest of the world hangs on to our worst mistakes, we celebrate that God forgives everything we truly ask. God sees us, not as the total of every bad thing we have ever done, but as the potential we could unleash with each new beginning. This is the arc of worship so beautifully sung in the Missa Luba, and indeed, present in every good Sunday Eucharist as well. A service that begins with our carrying the weight of the world, and hopefully concludes as we have given some of those concerns to God, and celebrated God's making all things new.

"Good Christians all, rejoice and sing" may not be streaming from loudspeakers as we shop. But I hope that each of us, in our own way, will spread some Easter joy this season. For some, that may be singing. For others, it may be sharing God's love through acts of kindness or charity. No matter how we do it, we can offer a glimpse of hope and love to a world that desperately needs it, and maybe invite them to think about joining a church, which sees Easter as more than just a day of brightly colored chocolate eggs. Easter is a season of joy and new beginnings. Celebrate!

Michelle+



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 name tag table in the East Entrance.



Lectio Divina

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



Ann Summers.....Apr 11
David Warren Apr-11
Gretchen Hicks.....Apr-13
Alice Kelly.....Apr 14
Kay Koeninger.....Apr-16
Mary Allardyce.....Apr-17
Keith Doubt.....Apr-23
Bonnie Shelburne.....Apr-24
Tatum Drew .....Apr 25
Rand Smith.....Apr-26

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



Children's Chapel Services for ages 2 through 6 will take place on April 12th and 19th!

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. 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

April				
Date	**First Lesson**	**Psalm**	**Second Lesson**	**Gospel**
04/5	Acts 10:34-43	118	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18
04/12	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	16	1 Peter1:3-9	John 20:19-31
04/19	Acts 2:14a3 6-41	116	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
04/26	Acts 2:42-47	23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

Worship Notes and News from Michelle

Some changes are happening at Christ Church! Those attending regularly, particularly those attending the 10 o'clock service, will notice the following:

New Lectionary Book. Our lay readers usually read from a book that organizes our scripture readings by the date in which they should be read. We've been using the same book for years, and it's looking quite worn.

In March, the vestry approved the purchase of a new, hardcover lectionary book from the Memorial Funds. Memorial Funds are those contributions made in memory of a loved one (usually a member of the parish) who has died. Memorial Funds are usually used to purchase durable worship materials like this. We also used memorial funds a year or two ago to purchase a new chasuble (the outermost vestment worn during the Eucharist) after the old one began to show its age. Using the funds in this way allow person's legacy to remain with us each week as we worship.

New Acolyte. We have a new acolyte leading our procession most Sundays! Aleksandar Lackovich-Van Gorp has served as an "altar server" in the Orthodox Church before. He and his family joined Christ Episcopal Church in February, and he's getting used to our way of doing things. He'll join Eric Schreiber, who serves whenever he is in town.

The word *acolyte* comes from the Greek word for "follower," a bit ironic since acolytes often help start and lead worship by lighting the candles before the service, carrying the cross in procession, and assisting the celebrant. Of course, the name originally referred to the fact that the acolyte followed Jesus, like we all do.

Trying a New Time for Announcements. Starting April 12, the announcements will move to the end of the service, rather than right after the peace. This was a suggestion that came up during our vestry retreat. Some vestry members felt that the current placement broke up the service too much. More importantly, they thought it would be more welcoming to invite everyone to coffee hour as the service was ending, so that they would remember it more.

Like many of our experiments, we will try this new time for one liturgical season, Eastertide, in this case. I will check in with vestry and others in May or June to see what people think, before deciding whether we will continue the practice.



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

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to provide flowers for our Sunday worship. The calendar is full!

Kroger Community Rewards Re-Enrollment

For participating Kroger Plus Card holders, April is Annual Re-Enrollment Month! Please go to your Kroger app. Then, go to your account information located the top of your app (an icon of a person). Scroll down to Community Rewards and select Christ Episcopal Church. It very easy and all funds go to support CEC's Food Pantry!

Adult Forum

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Day! – No adult forum scheduled, but all are welcome to join our intergenerational activity in the parish hall after the service.

Sunday, April 12 & Sunday, April 19 – Come learn about our new photo directory! Did you miss the presentation about our photo directory at the Annual Meeting? Or, maybe you saw it, but could use a refresher? Join us in the parish hall at 11:30 for a step-by-step guide to using our new directory. Feel free to bring your smartphone, tablet, or laptop as well, to get one-on-one help afterwards.

Sunday, April 26 – Help us plan the coming year. Last May, our Adult Forum planning day yielded a number of topics that we explored in Adult Forums throughout the last ten months. It's time for more suggestions! This year, we will use a series of guided conversations to gather our thoughts and concerns and move them into our common life together – whether that's in adult formation, or worship, small groups, or other activities. The more people who participate, the richer our conversation will be, so please join us.
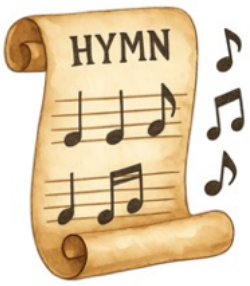
ONLINE GIVING

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 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.

A Hymn Mix-Up With a Message



C. Gray Norsworthy, a pastor in Atlanta, once shared a story about the woman who prepared his worship bulletin. She was faithful in her work but didn't have much background in church hymns. One week, Pastor Norsworthy handed her a draft of the service and hoped she could decipher his handwriting.

When he reviewed the finished bulletin, he noticed the final hymn was titled "Just As I Am, Without a Clue."

Whether it's "without a clue" or "without a plea," the truth remains the same: we all come to Jesus just as we are — and we all need him.



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, April 4th 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, April 16th**. 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.



"Day of Change" Results

As the clocks were springing forward one hour, we brought our change to church. Thanks to your generosity, $34.63 has been given to the Christ Church Food Pantry to support their work in feeding hungry people of Springfield.

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



Spring is our "happy time", and we're starting 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.

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! The first car arrived at 5:30 am, and the first walker arrived around 6:15 am. We have served a total of 434 individuals, including 24 new families. Of the 434 individuals, 183 reside in the 45505 area code, which is the same as CEC. Clients were provided with a variety of food items, including chicken, bologna, hot dogs, sausage, ground beef, roast beef, canned goods, tuna fish, canned chicken, eggs, snacks, and pasta. We received a grant from the Rotary Club to purchase personal hygiene items, laundry detergent, and cleaning supplies over the next three months. So, clients received deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, laundry detergent, and feminine hygiene products at the March Pantry.

The April Drive-thru Food Pantry will be April 15th. 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	April
Food Delivery	**8:15 AM**	1st
Bagging Day	**9:00 AM**	9th
Pantry Day!	**8:15 AM**	15th

Food Delivery

Please mark your calendars for our next delivery on **Wed, Apr. 1, 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 **Apr. 9.** 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!





Meet our Neighbors,
Feed our Neighbors,
Help our Neighbors Feed our Neighbors

Each month, Central Christian Church (on Villa Road) hosts a spaghetti dinner. They invite church groups in the neighborhood to help cook and serve. The meal is open to anyone who is looking for a dinner, or maybe just some company while they eat dinner. And, they take up a freewill offering to benefit the volunteers. It's a virtuous cycle.



On April 21, Christ Episcopal Church will have an opportunity to volunteer. Central Christian is donating the spaghetti and fixings. We just need to come to cook and serve. We can also bring homemade desserts, if we want. This is our chance to do three things:

FEED our neighbors. This dinner is open to everyone, regardless of ability to pay. For many who don't always have enough food on the table, this is a welcome opportunity to sit and eat.

MEET our neighbors. Break bread with those we are serving and have casual conversation. This is a great chance to offer some companionship to folks who may be living alone or meet new people.

HELP our neighbors FEED our neighbors. While we are there, we have the opportunity to advertise Christ Church and the food pantry. Any donations made at the dinner will be given to our food pantry, helping us feed even more people.

We will need at least five people to help cook and serve. Volunteers would need to be at Central Christian Church at 4 PM on Tuesday, April 21, and should plan to stay until 7 PM. Contact Rev. Michelle if you are interested in helping out that evening, or if you can contribute a homemade dessert to share.

Earth Day Work Day at Procter

Saturday, April 18th, 9:00 AM –1:00 PM



You are invited to join Procter and members of the Southern Ohio Order of Naucratis for an Earth Day Work Day to give thanks for the gift of Creation by giving back to the land through service and prayer. Led by the Procter Farm and Outdoor Ed teams and the DSO Order of Naucratis crew, this day will be one filled with service projects across Procter - from farm to forest - and will also include time for community connections and play.

- Meet at 9:00 to gather tools, instructions, and enjoy coffee, hot tea, and light breakfast items.
- Projects will begin at 9:15 and end at 12 with Noonday Prayer and a free thank-you lunch cooked and served by the DSO Order of Naucratis crew!
- Projects will be available for all skill levels and abilities across Procter Woods, Lake Leo, and Procter Farm.
- There will also be **Camp WILD activities for kids of all ages who would like to get involved**.
- Please bring gloves (extras will be available if needed), a water bottle, and wear shoes/boots/clothes that can get dirty. Procter Center is located: 11237 State Route 38 SE, London OH, 43140.

Register here: https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/earth-day-work-day-procter