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

The Clarion

Volume 30, Issue 5, May 2026 **A Monthly Publication**



Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, May 24th

Pentecost is a time to express gratitude for the gift of the Holy Spirit and to acknowledge the Spirit's presence in ourselves and all of Creation. This day—and season—is an opportunity to recognize the Spirit's work in our lives and in the world around us. In the Episcopal Church, the Feast of Pentecost is traditionally a day for baptisms. If you or a family member would like to be baptized, please contact Rev. Michelle as soon as possible so we can make the necessary preparations before May 24th.

Additionally, if you speak a language other than English and would like to read during the 10 AM service in that language, please reach out to Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christspringfield.org or call the Church Office at 937-323-8651 by May 10th.





Happenings

Sat. 5/2 **Laugh & Craft** 10 AM

Sun. 5/3 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Children's Chapel** at 10 AM

Wed. 5/6 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 5/7 **Noonday Prayer**

Sun. 5/10 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Children's Chapel** at 10 AM

Wed. 5/13 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 5/14 **Pantry bagging** @ 9; **Noonday Prayer; Vestry** @ 6 PM

Sat. 5/16 **Annual DSO Rogation Picnic starting** @10 AM at Procter

Sun. 5/17 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Gardening** after coffee hour; **Oakwood Service** @ 1 PM; **Concert Series** @ 3 PM

Wed. 5/20 **Pantry Day** @ 8:15 AM; **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 5/21 **Noonday Prayer; Game Night** 6-8 PM @ at Urbana Brewing Company

Sat. 5/23 **Dinner Church** @ 6 PM

Sun. 5/24 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Springfield Towers Service** @ 1 PM

Mon. 5/25 **Office Closed** for Memorial Day Holiday

Wed. 5/27 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 5/28 **Noonday Prayer**

Sun. 5/31 **Worship** @ 10 AM-NO 8 AM SERVICE

The Clarion
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Office: 937/323-8651
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:
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 May 25th for Memorial Day, Please plan accordingly!



On Waiting for the Spirit

I feel like this year, our readings for the Easter season really seem to anticipate the arrival of the Holy Spirit. Much more so than the other two years of our lectionary cycle. I see that in our readings from Acts, which follow the second half of the sermon that Peter gave on the first Pentecost. I also see it in the Gospel readings for this year, which seem to focus a lot more on preparing for Jesus's Ascension and the promise of the Holy Spirit. In other years, we seem to get more scenes of the risen Christ teaching the disciples (who finally seem to understand what is happening). But this year, we hear Jesus's promises to protect us for all time and send us a Comforter.

Which leads, perhaps, to a logical question: in what ways are we waiting for the Spirit?

Most people know that Pentecost is perhaps my favorite day of the Church Year. As someone who grew up bilingual, the idea of God speaking to each person in their mother tongue brings me comfort. Today, there are many people who, like the thousands gathered at Jerusalem for Pentecost, spoke a different language at home, and were ridiculed as foreigners or lesser peoples because of that. I can imagine that many of them, like me, find hope in the fact that God does not speak only one language, but rather, that God reaches out in love to the diversity of peoples around the world. They are waiting for the Spirit to tell them that.

But the Spirit does far more than that. Throughout Scripture and Christian history, there are stories of the Spirit giving people power to do things that they thought were impossible. Whether that's communicating with people across difference (as Peter did, that first Pentecost), or courage to face fears (like St. Francis or other saints visiting lepers), or strength to speak truth to power (we will hear of the martyrdom of St. Stephen in early May, but there are also saints like Desmond Tutu or Oscar Romero). Perhaps we are waiting for the Spirit to empower us to fight for what is right.

And, of course, there is the Spirit that rejoices when our work coincides with God's mission for us. When I taught, there were sometimes moments I felt like I connected with a particular student, who would take what I had done and find new ways of applying it in their own life. For others, I can imagine the Spirit soaring when they find an apt solution to a tricky problem, or when a seed they planted (literal or metaphorical) produces

(continued on p. 3)

(Michelle's Musings, continued)

unexpectedly abundant fruit. There is a sense of a job well done or having made the world a little better in that moment.

The Holy Spirit is what really enables and empowers our own lives and ministries. Whether that's a ministry in the Church, like Eucharistic Ministry or serving in the altar guild; or whether that's a ministry in the world, like helping someone get the food they need, or teaching a child skills they will need throughout life. The Spirit empowers us, inspires us, strengthens us, and on some days, just gives us the patience to show God's love in the world. Hearing, following, and recognizing the Holy Spirit in our midst is a crucial component in the "Connect" piece of our Invite-Welcome-Connect ministry. And so, I say, Come, Holy Spirit, Come, and make your presence known!

Michelle+

Special Event May 10th!

This year on Mother's Day at the 10 am service, we will have a special guest preachers and teachers at church. The Executive Directors of Procter Center – Jerusalem and Nathan Greer – will be preaching, spending time with our kids, and offering a special adult forum.

Jerusalem worked for former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as Manager of Evangelism and Discipleship, and she oversaw Way of Love and Evangelism initiatives for the wider church. She currently contributes to a number of podcasts, and she's also written two books: *At Home in this Life: Finding Peace at the Crossroads of Unraveled Dreams and Beautiful Surprises* and *A Homemade Year: The Blessings of Cooking, Crafting and Coming Together.* Nathan had a successful career in Internet Technology before returning to the ministry of farm, community, and hospitality.

Jerusalem and Nathan both have a gift of finding God in the everyday, and in the beauty of creation. Come learn about their expansive vision for Procter Center, and the ways it supports people in all stages of life and faith.

Vestry Highlights

Vestry Highlights from the March 21st, 2026 meeting during the Vestry Retreat. The Vestry Highlights are 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 March 21, 2026, Vestry meeting at Zion Lutheran Church was called to order by Rev. Michelle at 2:24 PM. Members present included Joyce Spangler, Steve Sharp, Diane Rode, Kay Koeninger, John Richardson, Beth Deger, and Ken Bladh.
- The minutes from the last meeting and the treasurer's report were approved as part of the consent agenda.
- Ken Bladh was elected as treasurer for the year, and vestry meetings will continue to be held on the second Thursday of each month at 6 PM.
- A newcomer reception was scheduled for 4/19. All Vestry members were encouraged to attend.
- The Vestry
  - voted to renew its subscription to the Invite-Welcome-Connect resources.
  - approved a motion to spend up to $150 from the Memorials Fund for a new lectionary book for worship services.
  - to charge a Financial Vision Task Force consisting of the Executive Committee, 1-2 other Vestry members, and 1-3 members of the congregation at large, to develop a vision plan and evaluation metrics for 3-5 years of endowment use to foster congregational growth and engagement by December 2026. The motion carried.
- The meeting concluded with a Eucharist at 3:10 PM.

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



Children's Chapel Services for ages 2 through 7 will take place on May 3rd and 10th!

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. 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

May				
Date	**First Lesson**	**Psalm**	**Second Lesson**	**Gospel**
05/3	Acts 7: 55-60	31: 1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2: 2-10	John 14: 1-14
05/10	Acts 17: 22-31	66: 7-18	1 Peter 3: 13-22	John 14: 15-21
05/17	Acts 1:6-14	68 1:10, 33-36	1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5:6-11	John 17: 1-11
05/24	Acts 2:1-21	104:25-35, 37	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
5/31	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20



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

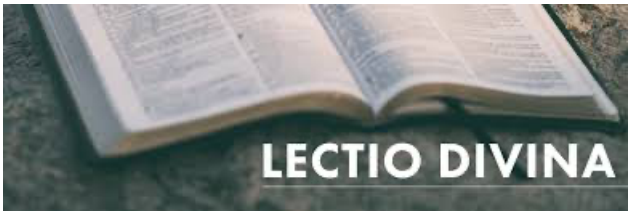
ONLINE GIVING

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 zellerk0611@gmail.com.





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



You are invited to the 9th Perennial PLANT SWAP

Sat. MAY 23rd, 10AM – 1 PM

270 S. Broadmoor, Springfield 45504

"4 for $5" (Bring 5 perennials in labeled, disposable containers, swap 4 & pay $5)

No perennials? No problem!

Pay $10 for 4 perennials

Proceeds benefit Clark MASTER GARDENERS!!!

For info, contact Linda Gatten Butler

(linda1950@ameritech.net; 937-408-6295)

Say Cheese! Our new photo directory is taking shape!

If you attended the Annual Meeting or one of our Adult Forums in April, you might have seen the start of our new parish photo directory—our first since 2017.

Over the last several years, the various companies that once made photo directories have all been bought up by a single, monopoly company. Rather than deal with them, Christ Church has bought a subscription to Instant Church Directory, an online directory company. Many other churches work with this company to provide their church directories. They do not sell or share data with anyone, nor do they have advertisements on their products.

Using this photo directory has many advantages over those used in the past:

- Each family can choose their favorite photo to contribute to the directory AND you don't have to schedule a time to meet with a photographer or use their pictures that may seem awkward.
- You can update the directory instantly—got a new phone number or email address? Add it right away!
- Pages listing groups can stay current, unlike a printed directory, which needs to be reprinted when people elect new committee leaders.
- Only people listed in the directory can access it, making it much safer than a paper directory, which can be copied by anyone that sees it.

Want to be included? Fill out the permission form on the next page *or* send an email to our office saying you give us permission to upload your information on the database.

When we have uploaded this information, you will get an email from Rev. Michelle asking you for your picture. This is your sign that you are now listed! Feel free to follow the link in the email to upload your favorite picture of yourself.

Once you are listed in this new directory, you can download the Instant Church Directory app for your phone (look for a logo that looks like this: Instant Church Directory™) or visit www.instantchurchdirectory.com. It will ask you for your email address—be sure to use the one that's listed in the church directory! It will then send a log-in link or a numerical code to that email that you can use to log in. Once logged in, you can check out everyone else's photos, see who has a birthday or anniversary around the corner, and use their address to send a card. You can also update your own information.

If you don't want to be included, you will not be listed in the directory, and other church members who want to contact you won't be able to find you as easily. We will still print out directories upon request. However, in order to keep them from falling into the wrong hands, we will not have them as freely available as they have been in the past.



The Lakovich-Van Gorp family at the Newcomer's Reception on April 19.



The 2026 Chrism Mass and Renewal of Ordination Vows March 31st at Procter Center

Online Directory Authorization Form

Please check one of the boxes below, then sign and date it and return it to the parish office.

☐ I have viewed the presentation about the Online Church Directory service offered by Instant Church Directory, and had the opportunity to ask questions. I hereby give permission for Christ Episcopal Church to upload the following information into the directory (check all that apply):

- ☐ my name/our names
- ☐ the name(s) of my/our child(ren)
- ☐ my/our address
- ☐ my/our telephone number(s)
- ☐ my/our email address(es)

I understand that while the Online Directory is password protected, and should only be accessible to people in the parish, any online database is vulnerable to being hacked. I also understand that once the information has been uploaded, I will be free to make any changes to this information at any time.

☐ I have viewed the presentation about the online church directory service offered by Instant Church Directory, and had the opportunity to ask questions. I decline to have my personal information uploaded from the Christ Church database into the online directory.

I understand that this means I may not be listed in future print directories of the parish.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____



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, May 2 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!



NEW VENUE!

Join us for Game Night on **Thursday, May 21**. We'll gather at 6 PM at **Urbana Brewing Company, 35 Monument Square, Urbana,** 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.

Empty Bowls Results

Wittenberg University Empty Bowls 2026 fundraiser for Second Harvest Food Bank raised over $38,000, which will provide 190,000 meals to hungry families in the Springfield area. Thanks to all who participated!
View the full photo gallery of the event here: https://www.flickr.com/photos/159651298@N08/albums/72177720332765254/



Calling All Gardeners

Join us at CEC for monthly gardening on **May 17th** 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.

☕ Become a Coffee Hour Hero! ☕

Do you love warm smiles, good conversation, and the smell of fresh-brewed coffee? We're searching for friendly folks to host our beloved church Coffee Hour! No barista skills needed—just a welcoming spirit and a willingness to help create a cozy, community atmosphere after service.
Sign up to host, and you'll:

- Spark connections over coffee, tea, and treats.
- Enjoy the gratitude (and maybe a few secret recipes) from your fellow churchgoers.

Gather your friends or go solo—either way, you'll make Sunday a little sweeter for everyone!

Ready to pour some joy? Contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com to sign up!



Birthdays

Katie Mellett .....May 14
Logan Mellett .....May 17
Ross McGregor.....May 18
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



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



Calling all Graduates!

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 they are graduating, and plans for the future.



DINNER
Church Returns

Saturday, May 23 at 6:00 PM

Last summer, Dinner Church entered our books as one of our more exciting "summer experiments." Lots of people tried it, including some visitors and folks that can't usually make it on Sunday morning. Many enjoyed the less formal atmosphere, the conversation, and, of course, the food.

After some conversation with the Bishop, Dinner Church will return this summer in a slightly different format. We'll still gather with a bit of song and prayer, we'll still have dinner (it's right there in the name), and we'll still have time to talk and wrestle with Scripture together.

In our new format, however, we'll conclude with Evening Prayer or Compline instead of Communion. This will allow us to better welcome people of all faith backgrounds to our table—even folks whose own liturgical tradition or background would not allow them to have Eucharist with us.

As our tagline goes: There's place for you at Christ's table. Now, we're doing that literally!



Palm Sunday-2026

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 5:00 AM, followed by the first walker at around 5:30 AM. Clients were especially excited to receive diapers and paper towels! We received a grant from the Rotary Club to purchase personal hygiene items, laundry detergent, and cleaning supplies over the next three months. In April, clients received essential items such as paper towels, tissues, napkins, laundry detergent, diapers, soap, body wash, shampoo, and toothpaste. Overall, we have served 397 individuals, including 19 new families. Of these individuals, 31% are 60 years or older, and among them, 24% are raising or housing their grandchildren.

The May Drive-thru Food Pantry will be May 14th. 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	May
No Food Delivery in May		
Bagging Day	**9:00 AM**	14
Pantry Day!	**8:15 AM**	10

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 **May 14.** Email **Kelly Zeller** to ask any questions or to let her 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 *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!





Photos of Spaghetti prep prior to serving dinner at Central Christian Church, April 21, 2026



The Annual DSO Rogation Picnic will be held on **Saturday, May 16, starting at 10 AM** at Procter. Led by Bishop White, the celebration will include a procession visiting various stations and activities such as a picnic, lawn games, kite flying, and fishing. A hayride to Procter Woods will be offered if the weather permits. Participants are encouraged to bring soil, water, and seeds for blessing. The event is free, but donations of $15 per adult and $10 per child (5 and older) for meals are appreciated. For groups larger than 12, contact jgreer@proctercenter.org. For questions, email info@proctercenter.org. **The deadline to register is May 11th.** To register go to https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/annual-dso-rogation-picnic-rsvp-2026.

History of Rogation:
Traditionally, Rogation is celebrated near Ascension Day, on which the litany is sung (or recited) in procession as an act of intercession. They originated in Vienna, France, in the fifth century when Bishop Mamertus introduced days of fasting and prayer to ward off a threatened disaster.
In England, these days came to be associated with the blessing of the fields at planting. The vicar "beat the bounds" of the parish, processing around the fields, reciting psalms and the litany. In the United States, they are associated with rural life, agriculture, and fishing. The prayers in the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 207-208, 258-259, 930) have widened their scope to include commerce, industry, and the stewardship of creation.
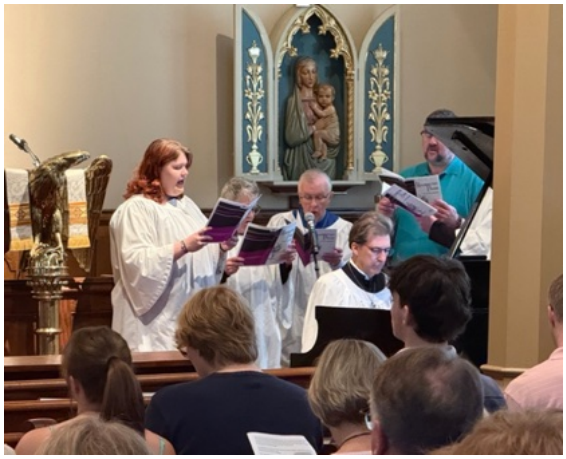
Church Staff

- **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

Easter Sunday 2026





Concerts at Christ Episcopal Church presents. . .

Chamber Music: Trios by Mozart and Brahms

Sunday, May 17th, at 3 PM

Join us for the third concert in our series: We are excited to welcome Mary Davis (Cellist), Deborah Barrett Price (Violist), Bob Pfeifer (Clarinetist), and Christopher Durrenberger (Pianist). A freewill collection will be taken to support future concerts. We hope to see you there!

