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

The Clarion

Volume 30, Issue 6, June 2026 **A Monthly Publication**



HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES

☕ 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!

Join Our Greeter Team!

Are you friendly and love meeting new people? We need **YOU** to be a greeter on Sunday mornings! As a greeter, you'll play an essential role in welcoming visitors to our church, helping them find their way to the sanctuary, children's chapel, and more. Interested? Reach out to Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christspringfield.org. Your friendly smile can make a world of difference! Be the warm welcome everyone remembers!



Happenings

Wed. 6/3 **Pantry Food Delivery** @ 8:15 AM; **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 6/4 **Noonday Prayer**

Sat. 6/6 **Laugh & Craft** 10 AM

Sun. 6/7 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM

Wed. 6/10 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 6/11 **Pantry bagging** @ 9; **Noonday Prayer**

Sun. 6/14 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Gardening** after coffee hour

Tues. 6/16 **Vestry** @ 6 PM

Wed. 6/17 **Pantry Day** @ 8:30 AM; **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 6/18 **Noonday Prayer**

Mon. 6/19 **Office Closed** for Juneteenth Holiday

Sun. 6/21 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Oakwood Service** @ 1 PM

Wed. 6/10 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 6/25 **Noonday Prayer**

Sat. 6/27 **Pride Festival** Noon–4 PM **Dinner Church** @ 6 PM

Sun. 6/28 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Springfield Towers Service** @ 1 PM

The Clarion
Volume 30, Issue 6 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

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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 June 19th for Juneteenth. Please plan accordingly!



On Making Things to Measure

Not long ago, I pulled out my cassock and surplice for a Diocesan event. Cassocks and surplices are formal clergy wear. The black cassock is a long-sleeve garment that buttons up the front – from my neck all the way down to my ankles; the white surplice is the same white outer garment the choir wears on Sundays. Clergy wear them to services when they are not celebrating Communion, for example, on Good Friday, or at compline.

While the white alb that I wear most Sundays was ordered, ready-made, from a catalog; my cassock is special – made to measure. My surplice is even more special – more on that later.

There was a time when almost everything was made to measure: cobblers made shoes and boots to the shape of each person's feet; tailors and women made clothing that fit each person's unique body. I believe it was World War I that first introduced the idea of standard sizing – the idea that someone could make 100 of the exact same shirt or pair of pants and then find 100 similarly sized-and shaped-men that would fit them. And, likewise, 100 boots. And hats. The uniforms for the soldiers became uniform in size, as well as appearance.

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.

Too often, I'm afraid that people view ministry in similar light. We think of "doing something for the church" in terms of the requirements that we need to fit. For example, we need volunteers to read the lessons on Sunday: people who can read comfortably in public and reach to the lectern. Or we need volunteers in our nursery or children's chapel, and those volunteers need to complete a background check and Safe Church training.

And, yes, things like background checks are non-negotiable and essential to keeping people safe. But I wonder if we haven't gotten so used to wearing the same pattern of ministry, that we've stopped considering other ways to accomplish the same goal. And I wonder if we don't get a little too obsessed with the requirements and forget that ministry is about providing people the opportunity to share their gifts and joys with the people of God.

(continued on p. 3)

(Michelle's Musings, continued)

One of the things that brings me a lot of satisfaction is craft projects. And so, several years ago, I challenged myself to crochet lace, and particularly, liturgical lace. (That's lace that has Christian patterns in it – people used to make it for altar linens and other things). After several months (and many trips to the craft store – lace uses a lot more crochet cotton than I thought!), I had several feet of lace, and a very sore wrist.

But, what to do with several feet of liturgical lace? I had wanted to use it to make a pretty surplice. I emailed the company that had made my cassock, and the first surplice to measure. After all, they had patterns, they had my measurements, and the ability to do this kind of work. Initially, the customer service rep seemed quite positive, but when he referred my request to the sewing supervisor, the hesitancy crept in. "Madam should be aware that this amount of lace will not allow for the usual amount of drape in the garment," came the reply email. (Did I mention this company was in England?) "We can work with the lace supplied, but the client cannot expect the same cut and style as other surplices."

Well, of course not. This was going to be a special surplice, that showed off my special lace. It was never going to look like the others, nor should it. But, despite working for a company that made garments to measure, it seemed that the seamstress preferred to have things uniform. Or perhaps she thought I did. She thought I needed a certain kind of garment; I wanted one that shared my joy of crochet.

Some of the most memorable people I have encountered in the Church have been people who made the ministry fit them, adapting to their differences, a bit the way we might take a favorite pair of slacks to a tailor after we lost or gained some weight. A lector from the Caribbean who read the lections with a rich, melodious accented voice. A man with cerebral palsy in rural Nebraska who loved to lead the psalm, so the entire parish would wait patiently for him to take his wheelchair to the front of the church each Sunday, and respond after he read each half verse in his halting voice. A Lenten "house" group that met at the church instead of at peoples' homes so that frazzled working parents of small children could share childcare expenses and not worry about cleaning or providing hospitality. Or, again in Nebraska, an associate rector with a progressive lung disease that eventually made it difficult for him to climb the five steps to the chancel. At one point, the rector brought a table from the parish hall to serve as makeshift altar in the middle of the church (instead of the chancel), to allow him to continue to celebrate the Eucharist. I remember serving as a Eucharistic minister with him, dancing around the table-altar and the long tube that tethered him to his oxygen tank as I offered parishioners the chalice; but more importantly, I recall the joy with which he did this ministry.

Too often, we think of needing someone "to fill a role" at church. And, yes, the worship and ministries of Christ Church do depend on a variety of volunteers. But Invite-Welcome-Connect reminds us that we are truly fulfilled when we "Connect" with a ministry that speaks to our gifts and sparks joy. At Christ Episcopal Church, we strive to have the flexibility to allow people in a variety of circumstances to find fulfillment as they serve God and others. Like the 50-year-old youth minister in the wheelchair, or the priest with the oxygen tank, good ministry can be made to measure.



Procter Sunday at Christ Church

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

June				
Date	**First Lesson**	**Psalm**	**Second Lesson**	**Gospel**
June 7	Genesis 12:1-9	33	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 14	Genesis 18:1-15	116	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8
June 21	Genesis 21:8-21	86	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
June 28	Genesis 22:1-14	13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42

ONLINE GIVING

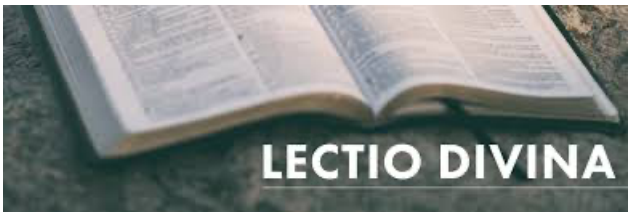
Christ Church has an option for online giving through the church's website.

- 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.



Welcome to the Pews! On Sunday, June 7th, we welcome the choir to the congregation pews for the summer—many thanks to the choir for their dedication and the musical gifts they provide during our worship.



We invite parishioners to join Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) for 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



Please check your ministry schedules regularly as we approach 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!



Vestry Highlights from the April 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 meeting began with Rev. Michelle reading a reflection on the Feast Day of Dietrich Bonhoeffer followed by a brief discussion of Matthew 13:47-52, focusing on the last line.
- **Outreach disbursement.** After presentation of the Vestry's plan for quarterly reviews of outreach disbursements, Fred Bartenstein, outreach chair, requested an allocation of $8,000 for immediate use, with $4,000 reserved for the Food Pantry if needed. Having the full $8,000 available would help meet requests efficiently. After discussion, the vestry approved the release of $8,000 in outreach funds for the second quarter.
- **Upgrading the spotlights in the nave.** Junior Warden Steve Sharp proposed upgrading to new LED fixtures for improved durability, thereby reducing the need for bulb replacement. Triec Electric quoted $6,600.00 for this work, including lift rental for ceiling access. Vestry deemed the expenditure reasonable. A motion was made and carried.
- **Repairing the exterior walls of the church.** Steve Sharp reported that water is entering the basement from Linden Avenue, specifically affecting the closet in the Bethel Room. Quality Masonry provided three proposals, for the Vestry to consider.
  - Proposal A: Addresses the leak in the Bethel Room closet, costing $13,110
  - Proposal B: A preventive measure providing tuckpointing for the Church, lasting10 years at an additional cost of $69,100. Rev. Michelle's reminded vestry that the DSO building inspector's report indicated that tuckpointing was necessary.
  - Proposal C: Includes wood restoration and painting around the bell tower, costing $22,100.

  After discussion, vestry voted to accept all three proposals along with a contingency fund (Part D) of $3,500 to be used if necessary.
- **Other Business.** Concerns were raised about parking for volunteers on pantry distribution day. Options might include asking Maaco, the new business next to the church, about using their parking lot and parking at St. Ray's old school building. Concerns were also raised about safety of people walking on the sidewalk on Linden when people are exiting the parking lot. It was decided to explore ways of placing a mirror to enhance visibility. Beth said she would follow up with the city to find out what might be possible.
- Rev. Michelle closed the Vestry meeting reading the Collect of the Day. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.



Birthdays

Marjory Wentworth .....June 3
Rev. Michelle Boomgaard .....June 4
Ron Dowling .....June 8
Joyce Spangler .....June 9
Sally Schwartz ..... June 10
Judy Johnson ..... June 16
Bruce Horney ..... June 21
Barb Kelly ..... June 25
Steve Heine ..... June 25
Sharon Wells ..... June 26
Beth Deger ..... June 30

Anniversaries

Will & Margaret Mattox..... June 11
Steve & Denise Sharp..... June 16
David & Bonnie Bingman ..... June 19



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, June 6 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!



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



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.



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



Congratulations to **Calista Dillon** (Fred Bartenstein's Granddaughter), who will graduate from Sinclair Community College (Art) on May 7.



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!



DINNER
Church Returns

Saturday, June 27 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.

This year, Dinner Church has 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.

This summer, however, we'll conclude with Evening Prayer or Compline instead of Communion, allowing 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!

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



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 stand-alone sessions, each centered around answering a single complex question. Participants may attend all five, or just come for those questions that you have.

- **Sunday, June 21** *Where is everything?* An introduction to the series, as well as a tour of the buildings and an overview of the many activities and ministries at Christ Church.
- **Sunday, June 28** *What do Christians believe?* A broad overview of Christianity, including "What is in the Bible?" "How did the Church develop from the time of Jesus until today?" and "How does this impact our lives here in Ohio in the 21st century?
- **Sunday July 5 NO SESSION**
- **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 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!

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 walker arrived at 3:30 am, followed by the first car at around 4:30 am. We used the remainder of the Rotary Grant to purchase essential items, including paper towels, boxes of tissues, bars of soap and body wash, deodorant, aluminum foil, baggies, laundry detergent, diapers, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, and cleaning supplies. Springfield City Schools are out on May 21st, and we anticipate that clients will need more meals at home.

The June Drive-thru Food Pantry will be June 17th. Dates on which volunteers are June are listed below. Volunteers are needed to:

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

Event	Time	June
Food Delivery	**8:15 AM**	3
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 **June 11.** 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 Please contact Brian Shelburne at bshelburne@wittenberg.edu, Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com, or Anne Randolph at annejrand@aol.com to volunteer.

Attention: The Food Pantry needs toilet paper!



The Food Pantry is urgently in need of toilet paper! Your donation can make a big difference for those in need. Please help us restock this essential item! Thank you to all who brought in toilet paper!! Our Food Pantry is one of the few pantries to give out toilet paper with the groceries. While toilet paper is something most of us take for granted, this necessity cannot be purchased with the SNAP card. Donations can be placed in the basket (or near it) outside the elevator on the upper level of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

Good News!

The Food Pantry has received a $1,500 grant from Covenant Presbyterian Church for 2026. We will also receive the same amount for 2027 and 2028. Last October, when we were unable to obtain food from Second Harvest, Kelly visited Covenant and asked them to collect specific items—cereal, peanut butter, and pasta—from the barrels outside the sanctuary, rather than random food items. Additionally, Kelly asked them to announce our hours of operation in their bulletins to encourage more volunteer support. We are excited and grateful to receive this grant and the extra assistance!



Springfield Pride Fest

Springfield Pride Fest will be on **Saturday, June 27th** from noon to 4 PM on City Hall Plaza. If you would be willing to serve on a team of folks representing Christ Church at this year's Pride Fest, please contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christspringfield.org by no later than **June 14th**.