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

The Clarion

Volume 30, Issue 11, November 2026 — A Monthly Publication

All Saints Day and Day of Change Sunday, November 1st!



We will remember those loved ones who have gone before us with prayer, candles, and music.



Day of Change

As our clocks "fall back" in the wee hours, that morning, we will collect loose change (bills gladly accepted too!) to support our Christ Church Food Pantry. Use your change to make a change in the lives of hungry Springfielders. Baskets will be passed at each service for this offering. If you are unable to attend the service, feel free to drop off your change to the Parish office! Just contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com.

November 2026 Happenings

Sun. 11/1 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Children's Chapel** @ 10 AM; **Day of Change Collection**

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

Wed. 11/4 **Pantry Food Delivery** @ 8:15AM

Thurs. 11/5 **Noonday Prayer**

Sun. 11/8 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Children's Chapel** @ 10 AM; **New Member Reception** @ 9 AM

Mon. 11/9 **Office closed for Veterans Day**

Tues. 11/10 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 11/12 **Pantry bagging** @ 9 AM; **Noonday Prayer; Vestry** @ 6 PM

Sun. 11/15 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Oakwood Service** @ 1 PM; **Last day for Promise Neighborhood Toy Donations**

Tues. 11/17 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Wed. 11/18 **Pantry Day** @ 8:30 AM

Thurs. 11/19 **Noonday Prayer**

Fri. 11/20 and Sat. 11/21 **Diocesan Convention**

Sat. 11/21 **Dinner Church** @ 6 PM

Sun. 11/22 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM

Tues. 11/24 **Lectio Divina** @ 1 PM

Thurs. 11/26 **Noonday Prayer**

Thurs. 11/26 and **Fri. 11/27** **Office closed for Thanksgiving**

Sun. 11/29 **Worship** @ 8 & 10 AM; **Youth Group** @ 12:30–1 PM at First Lutheran Church

The Clarion
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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 Nov. 9 for Veterans Day and Nov. 26-27 for Thanksgiving. Please plan accordingly!



On the Ironies of November

Sometimes, people wonder what I mean when I say Christians are called to be countercultural. But, the month of November seems to bring that calling into sharp focus.

Many years ago, I read an article by some theologian who noted that only in America do we follow one public holiday devoted specifically to gratitude, with another day devoted entirely to buying and acquiring more. I can't find that article now, but it made an impression.

Of course, that was before Black Friday expanded into almost a week of consumerism: late night Thursday shopping, Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday. We may justify much of this by saying that we're doing Christmas shopping, but research shows time and time again that many folks also use the sales to pick up a few things for themselves. All of which raises the question that this theologian raised so many years ago: if we follow Thanksgiving with so many days of buying, are we really grateful at all?

Of course, that's not the only irony of November. We start the month with the celebration of All Saints Day, followed by All Souls, when we remember the faithful departed of every generation. Yet, many of us see the decorations of Halloween, glamourizing the fiendish and violent, far more than we see decorations celebrating the saints among us.

Every November, we also mark the most ironic feast of all—the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday before we begin the season of Advent. The Roman Catholic Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925, in part as a reaction to the rising tide of nationalism. The observance highlights the difference between the various rulers on Earth, be they kings, or presidents, or dictators, and Christ. More than just a "one is mortal and the other is eternal" contrast, it invites us to think about the way Christ rules in love and service, whereas other rulers may not.

Then, we prepare for the birth of Jesus by welcoming the season of Advent, which reminds us of Christ's coming, both at Christmas and at the end of time. While the rest of the world is decorating and celebrating before end of the year, the Church remains more somber, considering the end of time.

(Continued on p. 3)

(Michelle's Musings, continued)

The season of autumn can feel unsettled, as weather changes and the leaves first turn bright and then fade away. These ironies of November can be unsettling, too. But, then, so is the rest of the world. Perhaps, then, the greatest irony of November is simply this: the reminder that in the midst of all the rapid changes, the constant demands that we buy the latest thing, the celebration of gore and violence, and the demands of partisanship, the love of God is constant, eternal and changeless.

Michelle Boomgaard+

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
- **Nursery Attendant:** Madison Smith

Your Vestry at Large

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



Birthdays

Juanita Artis ..... Oct 6
Reilly Smith ..... Nov 5
Susan Smith ..... Nov 19
Hannah Spangler ..... Nov 22
Don Wheeler ..... Nov 24
Pat Duncan ..... Nov 29

Anniversaries

Rick & Anne Guyton Dunbar ..... Nov 19
Richard & Joyce Spangler ..... Nov 27



Join us in the Guild Room at 6 PM on Saturday **Nov. 21**. 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

Future Dates: Dinner Church will take a break in December.

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.





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

November				
Date	**First Lesson**	**Psalm**	**Second Lesson**	**Gospel**
Nov. 1st	Revelation 7:9-17	34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
Nov. 8th	Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16	70	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
Nov. 15th	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	90:1-12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
Nov. 22nd	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	95:1-7a	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
Nov. 29th	Isaiah 64:1-9	80:1-7, 16-18	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37



Lectio Divina, AKA African Bible study, meets **Tuesdays at 1 PM**. 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 can send you the link before the gathering. If you have questions, contact Keith at keithdoubt@123mail.org or talk with him at church. We hope you consider joining us.

Children's Chapel Services for ages 2 through 6 will take place on November 1 and 8! 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. Each Sunday that we meet in the Chapel, when the sermon upstairs has concluded, an usher will get the children and me, and they will have the wonderful opportunity to take the gifts up to the Altar.

Answer to our "Saints Around Us" Sample question: St. Bernard.



In November, we will have a wide variety of programs and guest speakers. Join us in the parish hall at 12:30 on Sunday! Here's what's on offer:

November 1: The Saints Around Us Game! Join us for this fun quiz-style game. Compete on your own or for a team of 1-3 players and answer questions about saints whose names we see in everyday life. (For example, "This abbot and poet is more commonly known as the namesake of a Swiss dog breed.") If you think you know the answer, get ready to join in the fun (the answer is at the bottom of column 1, if you're curious). Not sure you're up to the challenge? Grab your coffee and join us to root for your favorite competitor!

November 8: Jerusalem Greer, author and former manager of Evangelism and Discipleship under Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Jerusalem will answer the question 'Is Episcopal Evangelism an oxymoron?' by expanding our understanding of ministry, including the importance of belonging as part of our "deep dive" into Invite-Welcome-Connect.

November 15: The Rev. Dr. Christian Brady, President of Wittenberg University discussing vocation. While he often works with students to help them find their sense of purpose or calling, he believes all of us can form our own personal mission statement. Join us for an inspiring morning, as part of our "deep dive" into Invite-Welcome-Connect."

November 22: News from Diocesan Convention. Stop by and learn what is happening in our Diocese, with updates from some of our delegates to Diocesan Convention.

November 29: Advent I. Be sure to participate in our Advent programming! (TBD!)

Vestry Highlights

Vestry Highlights from the October 8th, 2026 meeting. 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 meeting began with Rev. Michelle reading a short bio of St. Francis of Assisi, followed by the Collect for St. Francis of Assisi.

Jr. Warden's Report. Steve reported that Quality Masonry has completed the work on the church's exterior and have been paid in full. Triec Electric repaired the intermittent recessed ceiling light in the southeast corner of the parish hall. Hoke's Landscaping has been authorized to carry out the winter cleanup. Snow removal fees increased because of rising fuel costs.

Best practices for greeters. Rev. Michelle shared a list of best practices for greeters, outlining a basic routine that includes expected arrival time, info about what the welcome center contains, and the expected finishing time.

Mutual Ministry Review (MMR). Joyce Spangler explained that we are required to perform a Mutual Ministry for Rev. Michelle, as stated in her Letter of Agreement. The MMRs give a congregation's priest and lay leaders an opportunity to reflect collaboratively on their shared ministry through prayer, personal reflection, and facilitated conversation. Unlike traditional performance evaluations, MMRs focus on evaluating ministry efforts over the past one to two years, offering feedback and setting future goals. While the Rev. Derrick Fetz oversees the MMR process, he cannot conduct all reviews himself. Instead, an approved, trained, third-party consultant facilitates MMRs to ensure consistent reflection in ministry partnerships. The motion was made to hire a MMR consultant to facilitate the review to be funded from line 6140 (vestry discretionary) of the budget. Motion seconded and carried.

New Member Reception. A new member reception will be held on Sunday, November 8th between services.

Decision on whether to hire a facilitator for a discernment session. Rev. Michelle said she believes that CEC has not recently had a well-facilitated all-parish conversation. She believes CEC would benefit from such a conversation, as these discussions can promote growth and inspire visionary ideas. A Listening Phase proposal from J. Davey Gerhard was reviewed. The proposal's main goal is to foster conversation among parish members so everyone feels heard before starting building projects or fundraising efforts. Joyce Spangler asked each Vestry member how they felt about hiring a facilitator. Each member had the opportunity to share their thoughts and ask questions. Joyce would like the Vestry to research local facilitators. Fred Bartenstein thinks the facilitator should have a religious background, but doesn't necessarily need to be an Episcopalian. Rev. Michelle and Fred will call a few people they know who do this type of work. Additionally, Rev. Michelle will reach out to J. Davey Gerhard to let him know the Vestry wants to explore all available options before making a decision.

The meeting closed with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 12th at 6 PM** in the Parish Hall.





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

Concert Series

Concerts at Christ Church Series 2 starts on Sunday November 22, 2026 at 3:00 PM. Callisto Quartet from Columbus collaborates with our own Christopher Durrenberger on a pair of Piano Quartets by Brahms and Mozart. For more information about Callisto Quartet, visit www.callistoquartet.com

Church Photo Directory

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.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Our newly formed youth group will be meeting at various locations on the last Sunday of each month from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. November's will be on **November 29 at First Lutheran**. This group is open to tweens and teens in grades 6 and above. It is a combined effort of Christ Episcopal, First Lutheran, Good Shepherd Lutheran, and Zion Lutheran. Please see Rev. Michelle for more information.



Laugh and Craft Group is on hiatus at the present time.

Is Your Pledge Up To Date?

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. A blessing and celebration of all our gifts will take place on Christ the King Sunday, November 22nd at the 10 AM service.

Instant Church Directory

Christ Church is moving to an online church directory. With *Instant Church Directory*, it's easy to maintain and distribute a church directory that our congregation will utilize anytime and access anywhere! This directory is safe and secure, and allows instant updates to emails, phones, addresses, etc. The vestry has agreed that this is the best way to maintain accurate information for all parishioners throughout the year without the expense of printing and binding updates. We ask that, if you have not already done so, you follow the steps below to opt in and set up your personal information (address, phone, email). If you wish to opt out, or also want a printed directory, please let Kelly know.

Before you begin, be sure you have given the church permission to include you in the directory. You can do this by sending a brief email to Kelly Zeller at: zellerk0611@gmail.com

Here are the steps to begin using Christ Episcopal's online directory on your computer or cell phone:

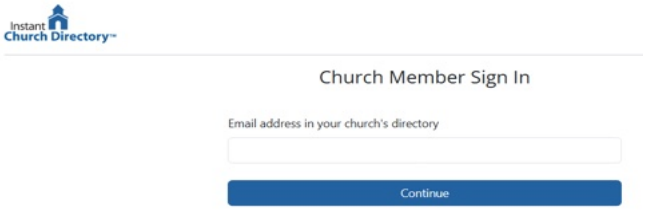
Step 1: On your device's browser (Google, Firefox, etc.) type: *Instant church directory* or enter this url: https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com

Step 2: In your Search Results, look for a green or blue identifying graphic:

Step 3: Click on that link. It will take you to the *Instant Church Directory*'s website.

Step 4:
Near the top right of your window, click on the *Member Sign In* button.

Step 5:
That will take you to the "*Church Member Sign In*" page.



Step 6:
Enter your email address. (Use the email address you have already given to the church office.)

Step 7:
On your computer, switch to your email account and locate the message just sent to you. Click on the link: "*Log in to Instant Church Directory."*

Step 8:
You will now be able to see the directory! To view your information, Click on your name. To make changes, look for the "*Edit My Info*" link.

That's it! Please help all parishioners stay connected through this new directory!

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

Pantry News

I would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all the pantry volunteers! A few regular volunteers are traveling or dealing with health issues; we wish them safe travels and send our best wishes and prayers. The first walker arrived at 3 AM, and the first car arrived at 4 AM. In October, we provided clients with whole chickens, fish sticks, chicken quarters, butter, eggs, peanut butter, shelf-stable milk, mac and cheese, cereal, pancake mix, cornbread mix, canned goods, produce, paper towels, diapers, laundry detergent, soap, shampoo, tissues, pet food, feminine hygiene products, and toothpaste. In total, we served 489 individuals.

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!

The November Drive-thru Food Pantry will be Nov. 18. 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	Nov.
Food Delivery	**8:15 AM**	4
Bagging Day	**9:00 AM**	12
Pantry Day!	**8:30 AM**	18

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!







Diocesan Convention

On November 20th and 21st, delegates from each congregation in the Diocese of Southern Ohio will gather at Hilton Columbus/Polaris in Columbus, Ohio for the annual 152th Diocesan Convention. Our parish delegates are Brian Shelburne, Kay Koeninger, Steve Sharp, and Diane Rode. Please keep them and the whole convention in your prayers as they make decisions that affect the entire Diocese and our individual congregations.

Toys Needed for Promise Neighborhood Christmas Store!



Once again, our friends in Springfield's Promise Neighborhood are hosting a Christmas Store from December 1st through the 6th. Promise Neighborhood residents can visit the store and choose from gifts that have been donated by church folks and other community members. The Christmas Store accepts donations of NEW toys/gifts for babies through teenagers. You can bring your items to the church on or before **Sunday, November 15th and place them around the basket by the elevator or drop them off at the parish office**. On November 22nd, we'll bless the gifts during the worship service, and then turn them over to the Promise Neighborhood leadership.