



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, April 26, 2026 | Fourth Sunday of Easter



### Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church:

[www.christchurchcolumbia.org](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org)

This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

PRELUDE |

OPENING HYMN 663 | The Lord My God My Shepherd Is

*Crimond*

1 The Lord my God my shep - herd is; how  
2 To whole - ness he re - stores my soul and  
3 Yea, e - ven when I must pass through the  
4 Thou hast in grace my ta - ble spread se -  
5 Then sure - ly I can trust thy love for

1 could I want or need? In pas - tures green, by  
2 doth in mer - cy bless, and helps me take for  
3 val - ley of death's shade, I will not fear, for  
4 cure in all a - larms, and filled my cup, and  
5 all the days to come, that I may tell thy

1 streams se - rene, he safe - ly doth me lead.  
2 his Name's sake the paths of right - eous - ness.  
3 thou art here, to com - fort and to aid.  
4 borne me up in ev - er - last - ing arms.  
5 praise, and dwell for ev - er in thy home.

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People:* And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY |

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

REFRAIN:

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo-ple on earth.

**Choir:** Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. *Refrain*

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

*Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: Receive our prayer.

*Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Refrain*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON | Acts 2:42-47

*Reader:* *A reading from Acts.*

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

Psalm 23 LEVAS 279 | *Dominus regit me*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

### Psalm 23

1. The Lord is my **shepherd**;\*  
I shall not **want**.
2. He maketh me to lie down in green **pastures**;\*  
He leadeth me beside the still **waters**. *Refrain*
3. He restoreth my **soul**;\*  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's **sake**.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no **evil**;\*  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they **comfort** me. *Refrain*
5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine **enemies**;\*  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth **over**.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my **life**,\*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord **forever**. *Refrain*

## THE EPISTLE | 1 Peter 2:19-25

Reader: *A reading from 2nd Peter.*

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand as able.*

SEQUENCE HYMN 343 | Shepherd of Souls

*St Agnes*

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen  
2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy  
3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not  
4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the  
word of grace, in strength of which we  
then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with  
and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.  
trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.  
us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.  
heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

**THE GOSPEL** | John 10:1-10

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**HYMN** | Lead Me, Lord

*Samuel Sebastian Wesley*

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eousness,

5 Make Thy way plain be-fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

9 For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on-ly, that

13 mak-est me dwell in safe-ty.

*The people stand as able.*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** |

Today's readings present God as the Good Shepherd, and we as his very fortunate sheep. He cares for all our needs and leads us into safety, even when we stray from the flock and get ourselves in trouble. Christ says in today's gospel: "My sheep hear my voice. I know them...." We too know Him, and his love for us. We pray, **Bless you Good Shepherd and thank You for your nurturing protection.**

We give a warm welcome to those who are new to Christ Church and those who are visiting this morning. We thank you for sharing in our worship and we look forward to meeting you. Our prayers are offered for the universal Church and in the Anglican Communion for the Church of Nigeria. In the Diocese of Maryland, we ask our Lord's blessing for: St. Francis, Timonium, St. George's, Hampstead and St. James', Monkton. We pray for our Church Leadership: our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. We pray for **Your holy church and all who worship in it.**

We pray for all those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, and those who care for them. We also pray for the homeless, for those threatened by the violence of war, violence in our streets, by the pain of domestic violence and those living in poverty. We ask for the blessings of peace throughout our world. We pray this week especially for Barbara, Jim, Kaci, Kristin, Carol, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry and those you now name. Good Shepherd, lead us beside still waters, and restore our souls. We pray, **Lord, may your healing touch ease their pain and restore them.**

We ask God Our Shepherd to accept in his loving arms all those who have departed this life, especially those you now name. We pray for all who mourn that they may heal in the warmth of Your love. Though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we shall fear no evil, for You are with us. We pray, **Thank you Jesus, for the gift of eternal life.**

We rejoice with all those members of our church family who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other milestones, especially Victoria, Violet, Ola & Mary, and Marie & Michael. We pray, **Thank you Lord for the gifts of your creation.**

We pray for peace in the world, and especially for immigrants and refugees searching for a safe-haven and a source of opportunities for their families. We pray for a world that will counter hatred and violence with love and peace. We pray for those who live in fear due to oppression, armed conflict, and war, that they may see Your loving light, and follow Your path. We pray, **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer for peace. AMEN**

**THE PEACE** |

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People:* **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** |

Please scan to give.



PRESENTATION HYMN 400 vs 7 |

*Lasst uns Erfreuen*

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him, Alleluia!  
Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



## THE HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B |

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.  
*People:* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.  
*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Celebrant:* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

"Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People:* **We remember his death,  
 We proclaim his resurrection,  
 We await his coming in glory.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER |

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

Our Fa - ther in heaven, hal - lowed be your Name, your king - dom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

# THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People:* Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

## FRACTION ANTHEM S171 | Mode 6 melody;

*adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)*

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

*Antiphon: Cantor; then All*



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]



2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,



for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

## COMMUNION HYMN | Eat This Bread

*Jacques Berthier*

Refrain

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun-gry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER |**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**All:** Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | 8 & 10:30 a.m. service**

*Celebrant:* In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

*People:* We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

**THE BLESSING |**

*The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen*



*Descant*

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his  
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,  
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou  
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.  
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

THE DISMISSAL |

*The Celebrant dismisses the people who respond.*  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE |

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## Assisting in Worship Today

### Altar Guild

Cara Ocampo, Jan DeBoissiere, Maria Rios, Virginia Jarrett

### 8:00 a.m. Service

**Chalicer:** We need volunteers! Speak with Yetti

**Lector/Reader:** Dione Mahoney

**Usher:** Kayode Fatodu

### 10:30 a.m. Service

**Acolytes:** Wynstan Eguakun, James Mercer, Eli Wasula

**Chalicer:** We need volunteers! Speak with Yetti

**Lector/Reader:** Alex Amponsah

**Ushers:** Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

### Tellers

Mary Oladipupo

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## PARISH CALENDAR

### APRIL 26 – MAY 2, 2026

#### Sunday, April 26

8:00 – 9:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 am	Family Worship – New Brick, UL
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday School, Sunday Circle
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 – 11:30 am	Coffee Hour - Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM) – Parish Hall, CR & Zoom
2:00 – 6:00 pm	Fishman Recital – New Brick, UL
3:00 – 5:30 pm	FISH Meeting – New Brick, LL
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

#### Monday, April 27

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Refugee Ministry Meeting – Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Protocol Meeting with Lay Preachers – Zoom

**Tuesday, April 28**

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
11:00 am– 12:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting  
12:00 – 1:00 pm Coffee Hour - Zoom  
6:30 – 9:00 pm Vestry Meeting – New Brick, LL & Zoom  
7:30 – 9:00 pm CEC Book Club – Zoom

**Wednesday, April 29**

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream

**Thursday, April 30**

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
12:00 – 1:00 pm Healing Eucharist – Old Brick  
12:00 – 1:00 pm Coffee Hour – Zoom  
6:30 – 9:00 pm Choir Practice – New Brick, UL  
6:30 – 9:00 pm Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom  
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

**Friday, May 1**

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
2:00 – 9:00 pm Flower Sale Set-up – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream

**Saturday, May 2**

7:00 am – 2:00 pm Youth Group Flower Sale – Old Brick  
2:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL  
3:30 – 4:30 pm Altar Guild prep





## ANNOUNCEMENTS



If you have an announcement to share with the church,  
Please send to [communications@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org) by Tuesday evening.

*SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS*

### **FAITHFULNESS: Taizé Vespers at Christ Church – Next Sunday, May 3**

Each month, Christ Church offers a service of contemplative prayer and music, in which we focus on a single perspective or discipline. Taizé Vespers is this special service, and next Sunday, May 3, we will focus on FAITHFULNESS.

Taizé Vespers at Christ Church is a unique and meditative form of evening prayer, characterized by simple, repetitive songs, prayers, silence, and candlelight, fostering a peaceful atmosphere for reflection. This ecumenical tradition, which originated in France, emphasizes communal singing and brief scripture readings, aiming to create a contemplative space where participants can experience inner stillness and calm. This community also promotes peace and justice through prayer and meditation, and offers a chance to meditate and reflect on God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims on the way. Come and join us at 6 p.m. on May 3 for a new way to sense a special connection with the divine.

### **Noonday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays**

Throughout the year, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist on Thursdays in Old Brick. A member of our clergy leads this service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and community members are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God, and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

### **The Spring Youth Ministry Flower Sale is Coming! - Saturday, May 2**

One of the most colorful and fragrant spring traditions is back! The Christ Church Youth Group will be sponsoring its annual Flower Sale next month, so stop by the Christ Church campus on Saturday, May 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and pick up your favorite spring annuals. We will have a variety of individual flowers in small pots, hanging baskets, and flower-and-herb combination pots.

The flowers come from Walnut Springs Nursery in Howard County, and all proceeds go to support youth ministry activities throughout the year. So stop by the campus and grab some fragrant, colorful flowers for yourself, or maybe as a Mother's Day or graduation gift. They will surely help brighten anyone's day!

### **First Wednesday Fellowship Returns - May 6**

Spring is definitely in the air, and with Lent and Easter now behind us, we will gather for food and flowers at May's First Wednesday Fellowship. Join us in the Great Hall of New Brick on Wednesday, May 6, at 6 p.m. for soup and sandwiches. Our activity that evening will be creating Mother's Day flowers, which we will then hand out to moms and mother figures at church services that Sunday, May 10th (Mother's Day). The church will provide the entree, but please either bring a salad, side, or dessert, or consider donating to help support our FWF events.

And stay tuned... because soon, we will share the details for what is a VERY popular Christ Church FWF tradition - our annual Crab Feast!

### **The Center for Spiritual Nourishment Celebrates All Mothers Next Month - May 9**

Journey with us as we discover the ways we view God as a divine mother and explore how we celebrate those who have played a nurturing role in our lives. At May's Center for Spiritual Nourishment, we celebrate the return of the community

bike ride and the introduction of our first-ever Sound Bath experience! Our inspirational film options are split into two sessions, so that you can mix and match your choices throughout the morning.

The 2nd Saturday Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN) provides opportunities for us to be in a closer relationship with God through an array of experiences that engage the mind, body, and spirit.

Learn all about May's packed CSN schedule on our website - [CECevents.org/CSN](https://CECevents.org/CSN) - and join us on Saturday, May 9.

## **The WOCC Took Us to Oz! Other Events are Coming Soon**

If you missed out on joining the WOCC at Toby's for *The Wizard of Oz*, you missed something special. Parishioners of all ages had a blast, and [you can view the pics here](#).

We are also gathering for many other events this spring:

- Don't forget our annual *Hats on Mother's Day* photo at church on Sunday, May 10
- The next WOCC meeting is on Zoom on Monday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m. Join us! [Link is here](#); ID is **843 0204 4790**; Passcode is **cecWOCC**
- Lumen Christi on Survivor's Sunday at Christ Church - June 7
- Come to the MOCC's rescheduled Family Picnic & BBQ on Saturday, June 14 from 1-4 p.m.
- Spring Tea at Kate Pearl Tea Room - Saturday, June 20

There's a lot more happening with the WOCC in 2026, so [visit our website page for details and calendar](#).

## **MOCC Breakfast - May 16**

Join us for French toast and fellowship - the MOCC breakfast is a monthly tradition, and in May, it will take place on Saturday, May 16. Set your GPS to Silver Diner at 8250 Gateway Overlook Drive in Columbia. We'll meet up at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome. You can also set a calendar reminder on your phone for every third Saturday of a month, for that's when we always meet up for this tasty start to the weekend.

## **Spring Family BBQ & Picnic (and Raffle) - NEW DATE**

The Men of Christ Church have rescheduled this weekend's Spring Family BBQ & Picnic for a later (and likely warmer) date - Saturday, June 14. This no-charge event is a new MOCC fellowship gathering that connects generations and celebrates our church family. All ages are welcome - there will be a moon bounce for the children, and fun, food, and drink for everyone.

Their raffle drawing has also been moved to this date, which means you still have time to get in on it! Tickets are \$10 each, and three for \$20. That's right - if you buy two tickets, you get one free, which sounds like a pretty good deal. Proceeds are split 50/50 between the winner and supporting MOCC Outreach programs and events. Speak with Duane, Ed, Sonni, or any MOCC member, or email [MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org).

The MOCC are providing all the grillables, but are asking for a little side support to make this event the best possible community gathering of the year. [Please sign up to contribute items for the event](#). If snacks or condiments are not your preference, you can also sign up to help with setup or cleanup on the day of the event. Thank you, and we hope to see you there!

## **Centering Prayer - Mondays**

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is **817 6254 3177**, and the Passcode is **CP**. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing [centering@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:centering@christchurchcolumbia.org).

## **Christ Church Book Club - Tuesdays**

This might be a perfect time to join the CEC Book Club, as we will be starting a new book soon. The Christ Church Book Club is an informal online conversation that selects a book and discusses it as a group, offering diverse perspectives and experiences. Email [bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org) and let us know that you're interested, or just log on later this month - everyone is welcome to take part, and we always welcome a few more participants!

## **Christ Church Choir - Thursday Evenings**

The Christ Church Choirs rehearse in New Brick on Thursday evenings, and anyone can join us. Handbell Choir meets from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m., and Adult Choir meets from 7:30 to 9:00 on the same night. You don't need to know how to read music, so whether you have previous experience or are ready to commit long-term or not, there's a place for you in our choirs. Why not give it a try? If you're interested, speak with our Director of Music, Larissa, on Sundays, email her at [music@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:music@christchurchcolumbia.org), or simply stop by a rehearsal and see if it's something you might enjoy.

## **Provide Eucharist to Those Unable to Travel to Church as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor**

This year, we have had more people request **Communion to You**, a service Christ Church provides to bring Eucharist to homebound parishioners. To fulfill this need, we require a few more Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV). If you're interested in helping with this vital ministry, please speak with Kathy Lyon at church or contact the Church Office. And if you require this service for yourself or someone you know, **please fill out this brief form**, or call the Church Office. We will ensure that Communion gets there.

## **Christ Church's Inreach Ministry**

Are you alone, or do you have family who lives far away and can't call often? Christ Episcopal Church is creating an Inreach program to help keep people in touch with one another and provide wellness checks. Parishioners will call and reach out to see that you're ok; we can call or text you - whichever is your preference. If you wish to be included in this program, please let us know. And since this is one of our newer ministries, we need volunteers. It doesn't take much time out of your schedule to make a difference in another person's life, so if you're interested, please speak with Michon Semon at church, complete the brief form at [cecevents.org/Inreach](http://cecevents.org/Inreach), or email us at [inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org), and we will get you started or answer any questions you might have.

## **We Need More Readers, Chalicists, Tellers, and Altar Guild!**

There are many roles in the church that most people don't think of regularly – or at all. However, the truth is that it requires a great deal of work by many people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish that it is. You can help your church by volunteering to be a Reader, Chalicist, Teller, or by assisting the Christ Church Altar Guild. None of these requires weekly assistance - both only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those specifically interested in the Altar Guild, please email [altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org) or speak with Pam Foreman or any other Altar Guild member setting up on Sunday mornings. For those interested in assisting as a Teller, please call the Church Office at [office@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:office@christchurchcolumbia.org) or speak with Yetti.

## **Do You Have a Green Thumb? Help Columbia Community Care Kick Off Its Garden Plot at Freetown Farm from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 26**

**Columbia Community Care** (CCC) invites volunteers to join in breaking ground on its new garden plot at Freetown Farm, 8000 Harriet Tubman Lane, Columbia, Md., 21044, in partnership with **Community Ecology Institute**. On the first work day at the plot, volunteers will help clear the ground and plant early-season crops like kale and snap peas.

Novice and experienced gardeners are encouraged to sign up in advance [here](#) to participate from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 26. Work will be organized into three zones: Clean & Clear, Soil Health & Preparation, and The Planting Row. Details are available online in the registration form.

## **Think Sharp: You Can Support Grassroots by Organizing a Team or Competing Solo at Trivia Night on Wednesday, May 6**

The **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center** will hold its second annual **Trivia Night** on Wednesday, May 6, at The Meeting House in Oakland Mills Village Center, 5885 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The competition goes from 7 to 9 p.m.

Trivia Night is described as “a fundraising event full of questions and prizes.” Food and drinks from Tino’s Italian Bistro will be available for purchase. Trivia will be presented by Charm City Entertainment. Go online [here](#) to buy tickets. Admission is \$25 for an individual, \$108.55 for a team of four, and \$161.90 for a team of six, plus online fees.

Proceeds benefit Grassroots’ operations, which, in addition to helping the homeless, provide 24-hour crisis intervention, including a **supportive counseling hotline**.

Christ Church supports Grassroots on the second Monday of each month by providing a hot midday meal for the homeless at Grassroots’ Day Resource Center (DRC) and drops off dinner for its Emergency Shelter residents. When we last participated on April 13, the evening meal drop-off included floral bouquets to brighten the dining room.

Our next date is May 11. Please check our **DRC online signup form** for midday details or our **Grassroots online signup form** for dinner information. Grassroots staff serves the evening meal. It’s efficient to provide for both venues on the same day. Your donations and Vestry-approved funds pay for the fried-chicken entrees. Thank you!

Your generosity has again helped ease the lives of our homeless neighbors, who rely on the DRC for pantry items, including food, sundries, and more. In response to a DRC request for clothing, the Outreach Commission at its April meeting approved spending \$323. On April 15, we delivered 30 pairs of men’s jeans, a dozen men’s T-shirts, and 16 women’s T-shirts. These were purchased with funds donated to the church by parishioners who give to “General Outreach.” A hearty thanks!

You, too, can pitch in by shopping for the pantry at the DRC and Grassroots’ two other sites. We welcome in-kind donations of items such as canned meats and hearty soups, peanut butter, and fruit cups to be dropped off ahead of time in the Parish Hall kitchen for delivery on second Mondays. Find Grassroots’ **monthly needs list** on our signups under “Related Files.”

## **Mark Your Calendars! DreamBuilders Fundraiser at Bushel and a Peck - May 13**

DreamBuilders will host their Spring fundraising event at Bushel and a Peck - 12250 Clarksville Pike in Clarksville. It takes place on Wednesday, May 13th and **you can reserve your seats for happy hour and dinner on their website**. Then, join us from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. that evening as we help raise funds to build three homes in Hazard, Kentucky. When you make your reservation, please put a note that you are there for the DB event. You can also call B&aP at 410.531.1809 to reserve space.

## **Bring Items for FISH/CCC, and Consider Volunteering to Take Calls from Home**

**FISH** and **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) partnered last year and merged pantries. CCC continues to hand out food at three sites on Saturday mornings and by home delivery to Howard County residents. For information, visit **Get Help online**. For updates on community services such as **youth programs**, check CCC’s **Facebook page**.

FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label “FISH/CCC”. Please bring baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes.

FISH will continue to provide telephone support to Howard County residents, offering guidance and financial assistance because the personal touch is very important when people are in crisis. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong (*seen in this photo*) or email him at **andydelong.fish@gmail.com**.

You could be the one to lend a helping hand by lending an ear! As a phone volunteer, you can help from your home by giving just one day a month to assist those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. Thank you!



**Christ Episcopal Church**

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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*  
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Shereen Benka-Coker, *Nursery Care Assistant*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

**Vestry**

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
- Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
- Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson