

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, July 30, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



JAZZ EUCHARIST

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 community: 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.

We are delighted you're here - welcome home!

Opening Hymn | Nothing Greater

Opening Acclamation |

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

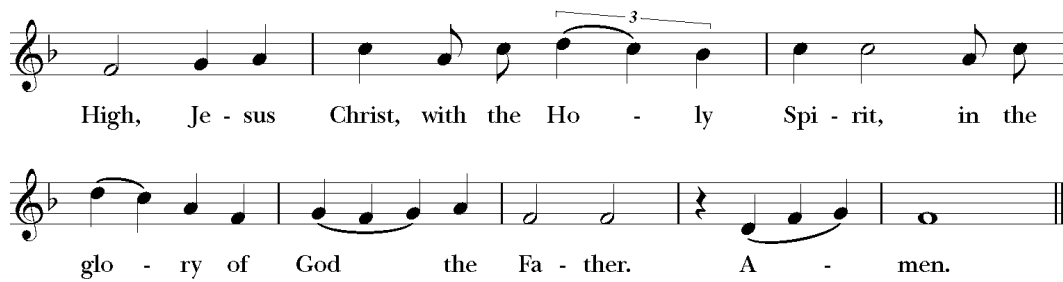
The Collect for Purity |

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.
People: **Amen.**

Glory to God | S280 Canticle 20 | *Gloria in excelsis*

setting: Robert Powell

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most



The Collect of the Day |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: ***Amen.***

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Genesis 29:15-28 |

Reader: A Reading from Genesis.

Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b | *Confitemini Domino*

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the LORD our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.

He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:

The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,

Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,

Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."

Hallelujah!

A Reading from Romans 8:26-39 |

Reader: A Reading from the Epistle to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able for the singing of the hymn and the reading of the Gospel.

Sequence Hymn LEVAS 194 | Lead Me, Guide Me

Doris M. Akers

Lead— me, guide— me, a - long the way,

For— if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord,— let me walk each day with Thee.

The musical score is for a hymn in 3/4 time, written in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady bass line and chords, with triplets in the right hand. The lyrics are: 'Lead— me, guide— me, a - long the way,' 'For— if you lead me, I can - not stray,' and 'Lord,— let me walk each day with Thee.'

Fine

Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my
 3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

1. help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me
 2. aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am
 3. blind with - out thy light to sec; Lord, just

1. through the dark - ness thy face to see,
 2. put - ting all my trust in thee.
 3. al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

D.C.

1. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.
 2. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.
 3. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

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

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The people may be seated at the invitation of the preacher.

Sermon | The Rev’d Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

The Nicene Creed |

All: **We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit**

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People |

Our Creator desires a loving relationship with all people. His unending mercy is present in Genesis and traced throughout the Scriptures. The Lord's grace extends to people everywhere, even those who often ignore His love and guidance. Intercessory prayer is close to the heart of God. **Lord, we sing your praise.**

Christ Jesus gives us new life. We now live empowered by faith. Christ's authority stands above all earthly rulers. His forgiveness of our errors, offenses, and self-centeredness is continual, as we seek God's purpose in our lives. Our Lord waits for our searching souls, calling out, asking for the gifts of love and blessings of the Holy Spirit within us. **Lord, teach us to pray.**

We ask that the Church, established as Christ's Body in the world, be given the strength, faithfulness, and compassion to stand in the midst of turmoil and offer peace and hope to all. We pray for our leaders in national, state, and local governments, that they exercise power with wisdom and great care. We hold up in the light of God the Anglican Communion, especially the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America, and in our diocese, St. Martin's in-the-Field, Severna Park; St. Philip's, Annapolis; and St. Stephen's, Severn Parish. We also pray for our spiritual leaders: the Presiding Bishop, Michael; our Diocesan Bishop, Eugene; our Bishop Co-Adjutor, Carrie; our Rector Emmanuel; all Christ Church clergy, staff, postulants, and lay leaders; and our Rector Emeritus, Richard. May they serve the Lord in the spirit of love, humility, and wisdom. We give thanks for all visitors and newcomers who worship with us today. We grow and flourish as we share our prayers, hymns, and Eucharist together. **Lord, we await the coming of Your kingdom.**

We offer our prayers for the health and well-being of our community of faith, especially Judy, Pamela, David, Dennis, Dave, Fran, Doris, Elizabeth, Emily, Beth, Kellene, Richard, Shirley, Louise, Danny, Cindy, Roberta, Francis, Fr. Ginnever, Samuel, Catherine, Caroline, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, and those we now name. May the healing touch of Christ be present in their lives. We also give thanks for the care extended to those who are ill, by friends and family who lend spiritual and emotional support when needed most. We also remember those who have completed their earthly journey and entered into eternal life, especially Laurie Benner, and those we now name. May light perpetual shine upon them. **Lord, Your love endures forever.**

We celebrate occasions of joy in our lives. Today we ask Christ's blessing for the birthdays of Levi, Amanda, Errick, Lamere, James, David, Aileen, & Marjorie, and the anniversaries of Audra & Westley Cox and Diana Hall & David Lanczynski. We are enriched by the fullness of our relationships with each other. We pray also for those in our parish family serving in the military and in harm's way, especially Kevin Deboissiere and Conner Warlow. **Lord, your goodness is everlasting.**

We are children of the living God, who grants us peace, love, and truth. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin |

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
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 |

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem | Blue Train

Please scan to give.



The people stand as able.

Presentation Hymn 380 (v. 3) |

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A |

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...

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

Celebrant: 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer | BCP 365

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

All: **Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread |

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

The musical score is written for organ and voice in the key of D major (three sharps). The organ part is indicated by the word 'organ' above the first staff. The vocal line is written in a single staff. The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.' The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with the organ playing a series of eighth notes. The vocal line enters on the second staff. The organ and vocal parts are written in a simple, melodic style. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn | Song for My Father

The people stand as able.

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.**

The Blessing |

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

Closing Hymn LEVAS 12 | I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says So

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

Postlude | Curto e Doce

Today's music was provided by The Leister Quartet.

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Diane LaGuerre

Usher: Yetti Lipede

Chalicerist:

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Mary Vail

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, JB Hanson, Cherry Williams, Beth Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Acolytes and Crucifer: Deepti Jackson, Caleb McKenna, James Mercer

Chalicerist: Mary Vail

Altar Guild

Pam Foreman, Cheryl Lucente, Gail Braatelein

PARISH CALENDAR

JULY 30 – AUGUST 5

Sunday, July 30

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – New Brick, upper level
9:00 am	Cycling for Health and Fellowship
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Monday, July 31

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 – 7:30 pm	Crab Kickers Soccer – Field
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, August 1

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, lower level

Wednesday, August 2

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Crab Fest & BBQ, FWF – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, August 3

8:00 – 8:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 8:30 pm	AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, August 4

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, August 5

1:00 – 2:00 pm	Acolyte Training – New Brick, lower level
2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
3:00 – 6:00 pm	BBQ at Rectory – 9259 Brush Run, Columbia, MD 21045
4:00 – 8:00 pm	Eagle Ceremony – New Brick, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication, email communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

For a digital copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Parishioners, We Need Your Unique Gifts!

It is time to nominate candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry. This year, there are four (4) slots open for election, and if you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and are a giving member of record to Christ Episcopal Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. We need your unique gifts to guide us, so we hope you'll consider submitting your name. The election will be held at our Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, October 16th. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org and they will let you know what's needed for this process.

Cycling for Health and Fellowship - Every Sunday

How about joining us for some group cycling before or after church on Sundays? Diane Phillips LaGuerre and Kevin Osborn are organizing invigorating cycling trips that depart from CEC and take advantage of bike lanes and trails around Columbia. There are some beautiful lakes and paved trails right outside our backyard and is a great way to see parts of our community from a different perspective. We always go at a pace that suits everyone in our group, with the goal of returning to Christ Church in time for the 10:30 service. These trips will occur every week, weather permitting. Please speak with or email Diane or Kevin at cycling@christchurchcolumbia.org

Help Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund

Recently, Father Manny shared the challenges that have plagued the Rector's Discretionary Fund with us. The RDF typically funds - among other things - rental assistance, gas and electric bill aid, financial support, mortgage assistance, and transportation needs. Since the beginning of the pandemic and our advent of online giving, we have seen a significant drop in income; however, the needs of those in our community have not subsided. There are real people

with real needs that we support on a consistent basis, so we appeal to you to consider supporting the RDF in order for us to help our neighbors. **Visit our main Online Giving Form** and select "Rector's Discretionary Fund" from the *FUND* dropdown menu if you'd like to help. Whether large or small, we thank you very much for your support of this vital fund.

Centering Prayer - July 31

Gather with us on Mondays in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. for Centering Prayer, a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God. You can also take part virtually from wherever you are. The Zoom link is **here**, the Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340**, and the Password is **Centering!**

CRAB FEST! August's First Wednesday Fellowship is August 2

Get ready for the tastiest FWF gathering yet! We are planning a BBQ and crab extravaganza that will leave no taste buds unhappy, followed by summer fun and fellowship. If you'd like to indulge in some crabs, it's \$25. per person to cover our cost of getting the freshest ones around - and you're welcome to BYOB! No cost for joining us for BBQ, but **donations are always welcome**. Speak with or **email the Church Office** for more information.

Meet the New Youth Director of Christ Episcopal Church! - August 2

Come to an evening of free BBQ and meet the new youth director Kiona Lookingbill at Christ Church from 6-8 p.m. on August 2nd. No need to worry about dinner; just show up and find out what is in store for the next program year! If you miss this date, please come to the BBQ at the rectory on Saturday, August 5th, and meet her there!

Barbecue @ The Rectory - August 5

Father Manny is inviting all parishioners to a barbecue gathering at the rectory on Saturday, August 5th at 3:00 p.m. for a fun afternoon to fellowship together. In addition to succulent ribs, hotdogs, burgers, and chicken, we will have delicious Ghanaian food... and we will have a Moon Bounce for the KIDS!!! The rectory is located around the corner from the Christ Church campus at 9259 Brush Run, Columbia. You don't have to bring anything - your presence is what's most important.

We Need Office Assistance... Can You Help? - August 7-11

Aisha will be on vacation the second week of August, and we would like to keep the office open in case anyone needs help. Can you assist us for a few hours, or for a day? We've created a sign-up page for those willing to help answer the phone and take messages, unlock and open doors for those using the facilities, and ensure that someone is present on campus in the event of an emergency. Don't worry - we'll leave detailed instructions on how to operate the phone system and other equipment, and you're more than welcome to email the Church office with any questions you might have. **If you're interested, please check the sign-up sheet and volunteer to take any time slot(s) available.** Thank you.

Youth Room Redecoration - August 12

With a new program year around the bend, we are soon going to gather and freshen up the Youth meeting rooms! We need youth and/or parents to volunteer to help with painting the space, so please join us on Saturday, August 12th from 9-11 a.m. Many hands make light work! **Please sign up here**. And we want to thank George Toth, who volunteered to put fenestration onto the doors to the Youth meeting rooms. Thanks, George!

Youth, Unite & Serve! - August 16

We need many hands to pack school supplies for students in need at Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS), an important part of Christ Church's Outreach Ministry. Chaplain Kiona is calling all youth to join this effort on Wednesday, August 16th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Snacks and drinks will be provided, so come and help out!

Sunday School Teacher Training - August 20

The CEC Sunday School is still looking for people to help out with our fall Sunday School curriculum. If interested, join us for a meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service. If you would like more info, please speak with Jennifer Atkins, Kiona, or Father Manny at church.

Christ Church's Parish Festival - August 27

The Annual Christ Church Parish Festival and Ministry Fair are back this year! There's only one service that day - Sunday, August 27th - so we'll begin with Holy Eucharist in New Brick at 10 a.m., followed by a fantastic festival of faith, food, fellowship, and FUN! Every Christ Church ministry will have tables set up around the campus with information, and you can speak with their members and learn more about how they contribute to our common life - and how you can, too.

WOCC September Meeting - September 5

Join the WOCC for our first meeting for the second half of 2023 on Tuesday, September 5th at 1:00 p.m. It will be a hybrid event, so you're welcome to gather with us in New Brick or on Zoom. The details will be available later this summer. The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick **and on our website** and contains all the fun events planned for this year. Come join us for these events! Speak to any WOCC member, or email us at **WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Reserve Your Space for the Annual Flea Market and Crafts Fair - September 16

Soon, it'll be time for that wonderful annual event, the Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC. It's taking place on Saturday, September 16th (rain date 9/23) and you can now reserve your space(s) - grab one for \$15., two for \$25., three for \$35., or four spaces for \$45. If you have rented space in the past, you should have recently received a registration form. We also have forms available in the Narthex, or you can download a copy at **<https://tinyurl.com/CEC-FleaMarket>**. You can also email **wocc@christchurchcolumbia.org** and we'll send you one. To pay for your reservation, you can use Realm - simply use this link to get to it: **<https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/give/fleamarket>**. You can also pay by cash or check, as in years past. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at the WOCC email address above. We will also be looking for volunteers, crafts, bakers, and books! It's the WOCC's biggest fundraiser of the year, and proceeds are used to help Christ Church. We're getting organized for this big event, so stay tuned for more information and opportunities to participate. The more people that take part, the more successful this important event can turn out to be!

CEC Health and Wellness Fair - September 30

The Christ Church Health Ministry is creating a Community Health and Wellness Fair for Saturday, September 30, on the Christ Church campus. Many health-related tables, booths, and presentations will be available, and everyone's invited to take part. Stay tuned for more information.

Christ Church's Annual Auction - November 4

And so, the countdown begins... in three months, we will hold Christ Church's 34th Annual Auction, and we'll host both an online and in-person, live auction again this year. Start thinking about great gifts and ideas that you can donate in order to help raise funds to support our common life, and keep watching this space as we gear up for online bidding during the week leading up to a fun-filled evening on Saturday, November 4th! If you have any questions, please email **auction@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday

We are gathering and planning for Christ Church's 300th year, but are always looking for more input, so join us! This celebration is such an important milestone for our church, and we want participation and ideas from as many of us as possible. There are a variety of committees that you can serve on and so we would like to encourage everyone to

consider being a part of this historic occasion. If you have ideas, are interested in assisting, or need more information, please speak with Father Manny or email 300@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Communion to You

In an effort to connect more directly with those of you who are local and worship virtually, Christ Church offers Communion to You, an opportunity to have altar gifts delivered to you or made available for pickup at the Church Office. If you want more information, [please complete this form](#) or [email](#) the Church Office.

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present altar flowers and gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on any upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2023 sign-up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltarflowers>. You can also sign up and reserve a slot by using our [Realm Online Giving Form](#); just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* drop-down menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. [Email the Church Office](#) with any questions.

Supporting Aid to Neighbors in Need in Baltimore County

Christ Church has become one of several congregations in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area that support RISE, a ministry that distributes food every other Wednesday to families who likely would go hungry otherwise.

RISE was established by [Christ the King](#) (CTK), an Episcopal Church in the Woodlawn area of Baltimore County whose rector is the Rev. Mary Eliot, formerly a member of the clergy at Christ Church. RISE partners include a Roman Catholic parish and a congregation in Arbutus, Md., which is a blend of the Episcopal Church USA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

CTK lists the purpose of its pivotal ministry on the [“Our Story”](#) part of its website: “RISE is actively seeking to connect and form new partnerships, working with others to overcome the challenges of food insecurity, language barriers, insufficient housing, under-employment, transportation limitations, racism, and the trauma of economic insecurity.”

RISE offers free food such as produce, rice, beans, and meseca on distribution days and operates other programs. “Camp in a Bag” is aimed at children and another helps mothers and babies. RISE also holds community events such as one on June 3 ([see video](#)).

The Christ Church Outreach Commission at its July meeting voted to send \$250 to CTK to support RISE efforts. That follows a similar donation in March, bringing the total in 2023 to \$500. This is in keeping with our mission to support organizations – local, national, and international – that enhance the lives of people in need. Funds are derived from parishioner donations to Outreach and a Vestry-approved budget drawn from your pledges and contributions. Heartfelt thanks go out to all who make this possible.

In a June 29 letter expressing gratitude to the members of Christ Episcopal Church for the March contribution, Sam Alger, RISE board president, wrote: “On behalf of the RISE ministry of Christ the King, we would like to thank you for your donation to our ministry. We are now distributing food to over 100 families at each of our distribution days, and the need continues to grow. Without the help of your contribution, we would not be able to begin to meet this need. We welcome your financial support and encourage anyone interested to join us to help on Wednesdays. Thank you again for your support in this ministry.”

RISE distributions are planned from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 9, Wednesday, Aug. 23, Wednesday, Sept. 6, and Wednesday, Sept. 20 at CTK, 1930 Brookdale Rd., just off Security Boulevard in Woodlawn, Md., 20244.

Volunteers are welcome to help with preparation as well as distribution. For more information and to sign up, go online to “**What is RISE**”

Following Up on Our Hybrid Zoom Event with Sabina Leaders and Students

Outreach members and parishioners connected virtually with leaders of the nonprofit **Friends of Sabina** (FOS) after the second worship service on Sunday, July 23. An engaged group of participants also spoke with students and the librarian at Sabina Boarding Primary School and enjoyed a selection by Sabina’s choir. Stay tuned for a link to the recorded event in a future Gatherings communication.

For more than a decade, Christ Church has supported Sabina after helping to establish its library, a resource center for the school and for residents of Sanje, Uganda. Parishioners who have traveled there include the Alperns, the Hokes, and the Aribiahs, whose ties go back to Teddy Aribiah’s childhood. Through the Outreach Commission, we pay the librarian’s salary and other expenses. For more information about how to support FOS improvements at Sabina, please email Outreach at outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Since 2020, Christ Church has facilitated the opportunity for parishioners to sponsor Sabina students whose families otherwise cannot afford schooling. In an uplifting response to the July 23 event, parishioners stepped forward to sponsor two students: Roger, 10, and Phionah, 15 (see photos). You’ll find a photo collage of children who were previously matched with sponsors on the **FOS page** of the Christ Church website. Several enjoyed speaking with each other on Zoom at the event.

Columbia Community Care Seeks Volunteer Spanish Translators

Please continue supporting **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) by giving essentials and with your time and talent. People can choose tasks to suit them such as gardening but currently the greatest need is for Spanish translators. They are a key part of a team who arrange home deliveries for those lacking transportation to obtain free groceries. Here’s **a CCC volunteer signup form** for translators. Other volunteers make the deliveries or sort and stock items at the CCC pantry building, 10750 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. Look for updates posted in the **CCC Facebook Group** or on the **“I Can Help” portion of its website**.

Please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put any of these in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers their contents.

Donate Snacks, Crackers and Cookies to FISH in Bin on our Breezeway

Organizers for **FISH of Howard County** continue to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill its shopping lists. Please put items in a basket that has been returned to the altar. Or drop them in the yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Thanks for your contributions to our neighbors in need.

Lake Elkhorn Middle School Supplies

Our parish enjoys an ongoing partnership with Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS). Just over a mile away, LEMS is truly our neighboring school, and at Christ Episcopal Church we believe we should love our neighbors. We established this partnership because many LEMS families are financially stressed.

One measure of whether a student lives in a family that is financially challenged is if they meet the federal guidelines for free and reduced meals (FARMS). In Howard County overall, about 14% of students qualify for free and reduced meals. However, at LEMS over 48.5% of LEMS students qualify for FARMS, the highest percentage amongst the middle schools in the county.

To help alleviate the financial hardship of parents having to buy school-required supplies (at a cost of \$50 per child), Christ Church will once again provide school supplies for 125 children for the 2023-2024 school year. We are requesting your generous financial support now to reach this important goal. Please join us to pack the supplies in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, August 16 at 9:00 am. The school will distribute the supplies the week of Aug 21st, so we also will need your help delivering the supplies that week. Strong arms and larger vehicles are helpful.

Contributions can be made via check, online, or via text. If you'd like to write a check, please make sure you indicate "LEMS School Supplies" on the memo line. If you'd like to give online, please also write "School Supplies" in the Memo line. If you have questions about our LEMS partnership or would like to help, please contact Cathy Whittaker (catharinewhittaker@gmail.com) or Mary Vail (mevail@verizon.net). Thank you for your support!

In general, if you have suggestions about ways to help the community, if you want to get involved, or if you need assistance, please email Christ Church Outreach at outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Thank you.

CHRIST CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

We want to thank YOU.

Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables our parish to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us. We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness.

Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving.

Text Giving

You can give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text **CECGIVING** to **73256**, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

Online Giving

You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing toward your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our **overview page** for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org

**Thank you very much for your support
of our vital common life.**



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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Chaplain Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Denisa Abdallah • Jane Adams • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Sara Kirkpatrick

Andrea Leeman • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Alfred Titus-Glover