



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, July 12, 2026 | Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

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.

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 398 | I Sing 'Th'Almighty Power of God

Forest Green

1 I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, but makes thy glo - ries known;

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the lof - ty skies.
he formed the crea-tures with his Word, and then pro-nounced them good.
and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,
while all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

the moon shines full at his com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
and ev - ery-where that I could be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

Celebrant: Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - might - y 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
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 55:10-13

Reader: *A reading from Isaiah.*

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Psalm 65: (1-8), 9-14 | *Te decet hymnus*

You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.

THE EPISTLE | Romans 8:1-11

10:30 a.m. service

Reader: *A reading from Romans.*

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.



1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed up - on the ground,
 2 Let not our self - ish - ness and hate this ho - ly seed re - move,
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant des - troy,



now let the dew of heaven de - scend and right - eous fruits a - bound.
 but give it root in ev - ery heart to bring forth fruits of love.
 but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

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

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

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

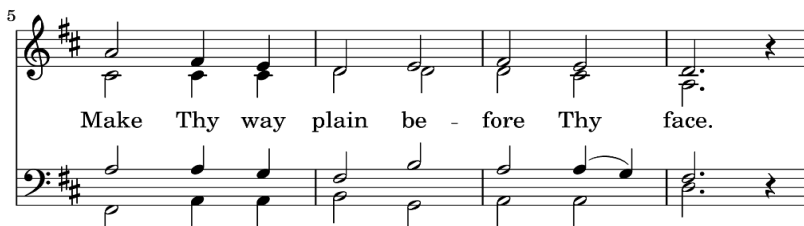
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley



Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness,



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 SERMON | The Rev. 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 worshipped 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 |

Lord, do we listen to Your Word? Do we understand its importance? Does Your Word influence our thoughts, beliefs and actions? Does Your Word touch our hearts deeply and change our lives? Are we prepared to respond to God's call? May the Spirit dwell within us and bring us into a close relationship with our Lord and Saviour. **Praise to Christ, our living hope**

Lord of forgiveness, lord of deliverance, provider of shelter and love, author of incredible beauty, creator of life on the land and sea that nourishes humanity, and giver of light and water that sustains all living things. We are so blessed. May we be worthy of Your trust as caretakers of this world. **Praise to God, our Eternal Father**

We pray for the Church universal, that we may all demonstrate mercy, generosity, faith, and love, as ambassadors of Christ in our troubled world. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. In our home Diocese of Maryland, we ask our Lord's blessing for the parishes of Church on the Square, Baltimore, Emmanuel, Baltimore and Grace & St. Peter's, Baltimore. We pray for our spiritual leaders, our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia. May they be granted wisdom in their decisions. May we continue to be One in Christ. **Praise to God of our Salvation**

We extend our warmest welcome to all newcomers and visitors, who worship with us today. We are enriched by your presence with us in worship and praise. We hope that you will return in the future and join in our fellowship. **Praise God for His goodness**

We also pray for those who are ill, especially Roger, Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Brandon, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry. May they be restored to health. Lord, we ask your blessings on the friends, healthcare workers and family members who give of themselves to bring joy and comfort to those in need. **Praise the Lord for His Healing Touch**

We remember all those who have died and entered into the eternal presence of God, especially those you now name. May light perpetual shine upon them. We pray for peace for those who mourn. **Praise to God for the Gift of Everlasting Life**

We celebrate occasions of joy in our Parish family. This week we extend our love to those with birthdays especially Ainsley, Kyle, Elizabeth, Bill, Catherine, Shahra, Patricia, Dee & Pamela, wedding anniversaries of Ed & Kathy Chrzanowski and Ron & Lexi Couch, and baptismal anniversaries of Cathy, Gavin & Cherry. May we all share in the happiness of these important landmarks in a person's life. **Praise God who gives purpose and meaning to our lives**

May we set our minds on the Spirit of God, who abides within us. May we quiet our souls and remain in His love. **AMEN**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

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.

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.



Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me,

Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.

Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me.

PRESENTATION HYMN 380 vs 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 HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC 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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

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, ho - ly -
 - ho - ly - Lord God - of hosts -
 - Heav-en and earth - are - filled with your glo -
 ry. Ho - san - na in - the - high - est -
 ! Bless-ed is the One who - comes in the name -
 - of the Lord, - of the Lord -
 - Ho - san - na - in the high -
 est, Ho - san - na in - the - high - est.

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."

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 has risen.
Christ will come again.**

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. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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

organ

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.

COMMUNION HYMN 328 | Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord

Song 46

1 Draw nigh and take the Bo - dy of the Lord,
 2 Saved by that Bo - dy and that ho - ly Blood,
 3 Sal - va - tion's giv - er, Christ, the on - ly Son,
 4 Of - fered was he for great - est and for least,
 5 Ap - proach ye then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,

1 and drink the ho - ly Blood for you out - poured.
 2 with souls re - freshed, we ren - der thanks to God.
 3 by his dear cross and blood the vic - tory won.
 4 him - self the Vic - tim, and him - self the Priest.
 5 and take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.

6 He that his saints in this world rules and shields
 to all believers life eternal yields;

7 with heavenly bread he makes the hungry whole,
 gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

8 Alpha-Omega, unto whom shall bow
 all nations at the doom, is with us now.

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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.

CLOSING HYMN 376 | Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Hymn to Joy

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach — us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild

Cheryl Lucente, Leigh Smith, Pamela Foreman, Sandra Griffin

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist:

Lector/Reader: Ron Baran

Ushers: Michon Semon, Nancy Winchester

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Shreya Chrzanowski, Chloe Spencer, Hope Spencer

Chalicerists: Alfred Bracey, Alex Amponsah

Lector/Reader: Theo Jones-Quartey

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

Tellers

Amanda Kirkpatrick, Andy DeLong

PARISH CALENDAR

JULY 12 – 18, 2026

Sunday, July 12

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist
9:00 am	Family Service
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
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, July 13

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Dorsey Center Meal Drop-off – Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 4:00 pm	Meal for Rt. 1 – Parish Hall, parking lot
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Grassroots Drop-off – Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Outreach Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 10:00 pm	Columbia Conjurers – Parish Hall, LL

Tuesday, July 14

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour - Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

Wednesday, July 15

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:30 pm Theology on Tap – Frisco & the Reckless Shepherd

Thursday, July 16

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, July 17

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, July 18

8:00 – 10:00 am Altar Guild prep
9:30 am – 11:00 am MOCC Breakfast – Silver Diner, Elkridge
2:00 – 4:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall
3:30 – 4:30 pm Altar Guild prep
6:00 – 10:00 pm Total Restoration Church Event – New Brick, UL & LL

**NEXT WEEK: AT 8:00, 9:00,
& A SHORTENED SERVICE AT 10:30 A.M.**

**WE DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF CHRIST CHURCH
NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 19 AT 11:00 A.M.**





ANNOUNCEMENTS



If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

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

NEXT SUNDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH - July 19

Over the past several weeks, we have been working with a consultant, and they will share their findings with the Christ Church congregation next Sunday, July 19. That morning, there will be an abbreviated 10:30 worship, followed by an 11:00 presentation, so we encourage everyone to come to New Brick as they share their findings and recommend a few ideas for a long-term use plan for our campus. Their presentation will be followed by a Q&A, where we open the floor for discussion among all of us. The future of Christ Church belongs to everyone, and so your input and voice matter.

Help Shape Our Littlest Hearts!

Our Youth and Family Ministry is growing—an amazing blessing—but it also means we need a little help. Right now, we are looking for three enthusiastic volunteers to step into our preschool Sunday School classrooms for the next program year, beginning in September. You don't need a degree in theology, of course, just a warm heart and a willingness to share God's love with our littlest ones. The curriculum and all supplies are provided for you, and we have a team of clergy and leaders to help you get started and support you along the way. If you can help us fill one of these three spots, please speak with Mother Marcia Davenport at church or email revmarcia@christchurchcolumbia.org. You can also call the Church Office to see when she is in her office.

Let Love Lead You to Consider Joining the Christ Church Vestry

The nomination of candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry has begun! This year, four (4) slots are open, and if you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and a giving member of record at Christ Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. We need your unique gifts to help 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 18. 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. You can also pick up a special *Let Love Lead* flyer in the Narthex, **or download a copy [here](#)**. It outlines the responsibilities and commitments of a Vestry member to help you guide your decision. Thank you for your consideration.

300th Anniversary Committee Leadership Meeting - Wednesday, July 15

Next Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., we have a 300th Anniversary committee leadership meeting. It's required that all committees be represented, as this is a very important gathering to discuss the entire 300th Anniversary calendar. We will be going over the calendar, committee expectations, membership, updates, and plan our way forward as a group.

The Zoom link has been sent by our Committee Chair, Toni, but if you need it again, please email communications@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we'll send it.

We look forward to seeing you next week!

MOCC Breakfast - Saturday Morning, July 18

Join us for French toast and fellowship - the MOCC breakfast is a monthly tradition, and in July, it will take place on Saturday, July 18. Set your GPS to **Silver Diner at 8250 Gateway Overlook Drive in Columbia**. We'll meet 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 meet up for this tasty start to our weekend.

Parish Festival and Ministry Fair - August 30

The Christ Church Parish Festival & Ministry Fair, an annual tradition, is back! There's only one worship service that day,

August 30, so join us in the New Brick sanctuary at 10:00 a.m., followed by a fantastic festival of faith, food, fellowship, and FUN! We'll have BBQ goodies, fun for all ages, and an opportunity to learn about the many ministries that make Christ Church a very special place.

Ministry leaders, this is your opportunity to speak with every parishioner about your beloved ministry and get them to join and assist your group in the coming year. If you have had a ministry trifold or flyer in the past, please prepare any new information to send to Chris by August 2nd so that he can get you an updated document in time for the Fair. And if your ministry would like a flyer or trifold but hasn't had one before, please email him at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org so he can arrange a time to discuss it with you.

The 2026 Flea Market - September 19

Soon, it'll be time for that wonderful Columbia summertime tradition, the Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC. This year, it's on Saturday, September 19th from 9am to 2pm (rain date 9/26), and takes place on the Christ Church campus.

This community event is open to the public, so come see what your neighbors have to offer. You can have your own space in the market, or if you're cleaning out closets or garages the church will be sponsoring the white elephant tables & welcomes your unwanted treasures. Whether you're a vendor or a participant, you can learn more on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

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.

An Organ Donation is Needed for a Member of Our Vestry

Parishioner Jim Berkson, who was baptized here at Christ Church last year, requires a kidney transplant. He is on the transplant list for a deceased donor, but a living donor has many advantages, including a longer lifespan, being able to avoid dialysis, and being guaranteed a transplant. Please consider giving the gift of life. If you are interested in or curious about Jim's case, please speak with Jim at church, with Father Manny, or with a vestry member. **You can also download a PDF of Jim's here.** Thank you very much.

Interested in Learning About EfM? This Might Be Your Chance to Join this Rewarding Program

Education for Ministry at Christ Church (EfM) is a rewarding long-term program, a unique, small-group series based on study and practice in theological reflection, helping participants discover and nurture their call to Christian service. The first few years of EfM at Christ Church have been extremely insightful for its participants, many of whom have experienced unexpected yet beautifully transformative experiences while gaining friendships with others in the study group. Starting now, they're opening a few extra participant spots for next season for both sessions, which begin towards the end of this summer. Even if you're currently unsure whether it's the right fit for you, now is the time to ask questions and learn as much as you can from its current participants, so you can make an informed and prayerful decision. Learn more by visiting www.christchurchcolumbia.org/efm, and by speaking with Mother Marcia Davenport at church.

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.

We Always Need More Help at Christ Church

There are many roles in the church that most people don't think of regularly – or at all. However, it requires a great deal of work by many people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish it is. You can help your church by volunteering as a Reader, Chaliceist, or Teller, serving in the Inreach Ministry, or 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, email **altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org** or speak with Pam Foreman or any other Altar Guild member setting up on Sunday mornings. If you want to know more about the Inreach Ministry, please speak with Michon Semon at church, complete the brief form at **cecevents.org/Inreach**, or email us at **inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org**, and we will get you started. For those interested in assisting as a Reader, Chaliceist, or Teller, please call the Church Office at **office@christchurchcolumbia.org** or speak with Yetti.

Coffee Hour Signups

We are looking for people and ministries to occasionally help host the Coffee Hour that follows our 10:30 New Brick worship. This takes place in the Elevator Room of the Narthex right after worship concludes, is a great opportunity for fellowship and fun, and is a fantastic way to get to know your fellow parishioners. We simply gather for a few minutes to refresh ourselves before heading out to our weekend's other obligations. You can sign up at **cecevents.org/Coffee**.

Learn the Latest About Your Christ Church - Read the Monthly Vestry Meeting Minutes

To ensure complete transparency with our parish family, we now share the minutes from each monthly meeting of the Christ Church Vestry. **You can read a PDF of the latest Vestry meeting minutes here**. If you have any questions or wish to discuss something with a Vestry member, please stop by the Vestry Table at church on any Sunday morning.

Inviting You to Join Our Monthly Outreach Meeting on Monday, July 13

Learn many ways to help others by joining us remotely for the Outreach Commission meeting on Monday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m. Our mission has a local, national, and international scope. You'll find the link in our *This Week on Zoom* email on Monday, and we'll see you there!

Help Grassroots by Providing Food for the Homeless on Monday, July 13

On the second Monday of each month, Christ Church serves a hot midday meal at the Day Resource Center (DRC) that is operated by the **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center**. We last participated on June 8, when volunteers were greeted by former collaborators in providing care and over-the-counter medicines to the homeless (see photos). Dr. Joseph Gagliardi retired in 2023, as described in the **Outreach Blog of June 8, 2023**.

A team led by Outreach member Shahra Toth makes side dishes and desserts that we serve in person after car-pooling to the Leola Dorsey Center in Jessup. To help on Monday, July 13, please check our **DRC online signup form**, which describes the procedure. Drop-off time is 12:45 p.m. in the parking lot near Old Brick.

Some parishioners prefer to cook or shop for the evening meal at Grassroots' Emergency Shelter, whose staff serves the residents. Please arrive between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. in the Old Brick parking lot, where a volunteer picks up the food for delivery to Grassroots. Get details in our **Grassroots online signup form**. It's efficient to provide for both venues on the same day, in total feeding more than 150 people. Your donations and Vestry-approved funds pay for the fried-chicken entrees. Thank you!

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 hearty soups and fruit cups to be dropped off ahead of time in the Parish Hall kitchen for delivery on second Mondays. Find Grassroots' **current needs list** on our signups under "Related Files."

Christ Church Helps CCC Meet Summertime Demand by Donating \$500 to Help Stock Its Shared Pantry with FISH of Howard County

Recently **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) posted online about a problem of rising demand and falling supply. “It's a difficult time for food banks now, especially smaller ones like CCC's. Every summer, donations of both food/supplies and money drop significantly around this time. People are understandably busy with travel, weddings, retreats, family reunions, etc., but that means that our shelves are empty.”

To help meet the summertime needs of hungry families, the Outreach Commission approved a \$500 donation to CCC last month. “Thank you so, so much for your generosity,” responded Pantry Manager April Lee. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions to Christ Church. Thank you!

Last year **FISH** and CCC partnered and merged their 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](#).

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 or email 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!

Continue to Support the MOCC's *Random Act of Kindness*

The MOCC's current R.A.K. (*Random Act of Kindness*) is supporting **Comfort Cases**, and they continue to need donations. A Comfort Case is a small duffel bag or backpack designed to provide comfort to youth entering the local foster care system - many enter with nothing more than a simple trash bag - an item that provides no comfort or dignity at all.

In today's world, the number of kids entering the foster care system is rising, and so anything that can be done to help provide a level of comfort, compassion, and care for the youngest in our world is welcome. The MOCC is accepting donations throughout the summer, and you can find details and the donation bin in the Narthex. You can also speak with Duane Smith, Ed Chrzanowski, or any MOCC member to get more information about Comfort Cases, or click the link above.

Save the Date: ‘Birdies for Bridges’ Golf Tournament to be Held on Friday, Sept. 25 to Help Bridges to Housing Stability in Preventing Homelessness

It's not too early to hit the practice greens. **Bridges to Housing Stability** will hold its annual **Sheehy Toyota Birdies for Bridges Golf Tournament** on Friday, Sept. 25, at The Timbers of Troy, 6100 Marshalee Dr., Elkridge, Md. Participants will help Bridges achieve its mission – advocating for affordable housing and helping individuals and families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads.

The tournament begins with a light breakfast, a shotgun start at 9 a.m., and a full day of golf, food, and awards. Check-in opens at 7:30 a.m. The cost for a single golfer is \$200, or \$800 for a foursome, which covers greens fees, unlimited range balls, food, and beverages.

The event is for a worthy cause. All proceeds from Birdies for Bridges will benefit Bridges and its work to provide a path to self-sufficiency to prevent and end homelessness through affordable housing solutions and advocacy in Howard County.

Christ Church has supported Bridges in various ways since 2019, most recently last fall, when a group of volunteers spent several workdays refurbishing a Columbia townhouse. Known as **Guilford House**, it is the residence of several returning citizens who have gotten their lives on track after incarceration. Bridges operates this transitional housing in partnership with the Howard County Department of Corrections.

Read about improvements – made indoors and out – by a team led by Vestry and Outreach member George Toth in the **Outreach Blog of Dec.18, 2025**. “The transformation is night and day!” said Sarah Hicks, Affordable Housing Program Manager at Bridges.



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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*
 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