



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:00 A.M.

Sunday, August 30, 2026 | PARISH FESTIVAL



Parish Festival & Ministry Fair Sunday, August 30

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 536 | Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

Torah Song

1 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple,
 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage,
 3 Is - ra - el comes to greet the Sa - vior,
 4 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple,

o - pen your ears and hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O
 they who have ears, then let them hear. They who would learn the
 Ju - dah is glad to see his day. From east and west the
 o - pen your ears and hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O

roy - al priest - hood, God has come to you.
 way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.
 peo - ples trav - el, he will show the way.
 roy - al priest - hood, God has come to you.

God has spo - ken to his peo - ple, Hal - le - lu - jah!

And his words are words of wis - dom, Hal - le - lu -

jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! God has spo - ken to his peo - ple,
 To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra,

Hal - le - lu - jah! And his words are
 To - rah o - ra,

words of wis - dom, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 To - rah o - ra, Hal - le - lu - jah!

"Torah ora" is Hebrew for, "The Law is our Light."

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**

GLORIA S280 | Glory to God

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 - 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
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.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Jeremiah 15:15-21

Reader: *A reading from Jeremiah.*

O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.

I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the Lord:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

(continued)

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

says the Lord.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

THE PSALM

Psalms 26:1-8 | *Plea for Justice and Declaration of Righteousness*

Give judgment for me, O Lord,
for I have lived with integrity; *
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

Test me, O Lord, and try me; *
examine my heart and my mind.

For your love is before my eyes; *
I have walked faithfully with you.

I have not sat with the worthless, *
nor do I consort with the deceitful.

I have hated the company of evildoers; *
I will not sit down with the wicked.

I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, *
that I may go in procession round your altar,

Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving *
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

Lord, I love the house in which you dwell *
and the place where your glory abides.

THE EPISTLE | Romans 12:9-21

Reader: *A reading from Romans.*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN 533 | How Wondrous and Great Thy Works

Lyons

1 How won - drous and great thy works, God of praise!
2 To na - tions of earth thy light shall be shown;

How just, King of saints, and true are thy ways!
their wor - ship and vows shall come to thy throne:

O who shall not fear thee, and hon - or thy Name?
thy truth and thy judg - ments shall spread all a - broad,

Thou on - ly art ho - ly, thou on - ly su - preme.
till earth's ev - ery peo - ple con - fess thee their God.

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

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

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

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

mak-est me dwell in safe-ty.

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, help us to seek out those who lead lives that differ from ours and to welcome them into our midst- to offer a place of refuge and acceptance. Let us share our time in conversation, music, joy and heart-felt prayer and demonstrate real interest, love and care. May we offer friendship and the awesome bond of Christ extending our true selves to all. Guide us in igniting the flame of the spirit in each and every person we meet. Jesus, please show us how to build your church, by engaging heart, mind and soul. **Lord, create in us clean hearts and renew our spirits**

May we breach the gap that exists between people of Faith. May we all embrace peaceful means to resolve conflicts. Help us to end terrorism and senseless violence and bring justice to all.

Lord, forgive our offenses and lead us in Your Truth

We pray for our national, state and local leaders: our President, our Congress, our Governor, and for the County and Community elected officers. May they work together to achieve our common goals. We ask God's blessing for our spiritual leaders: our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia. We also hold up in prayer, our sister Parishes of: Emmanuel, Cumberland, St. Andrew's, Clear Spring, and St. Anne's, Smithburg. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for: The Church of the Province of the West Indies. May goodness, peace and prosperity abound for all the people of God on our fragile planet. **Lord, strengthen us to better serve in Your Kingdom**

(continued)

We pray for those who are ill, especially for Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Mark, Brandon, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry,. May they be restored to health and wholeness. We thank those who care for the homeless, for victims of domestic violence, for the unemployed and for those recovering from substance abuse. May we find solutions to these problems and a way to heal the needs of our society. We pray for those who have died and entered into eternal life, especially those you now name. Help those who mourn, ease their pain of separation and surround them Lord with your love. **Lord, may your Grace overflow our hearts and bring us peace**

Gratitude and joy are found in many occasions of our lives. Today we honor those in our Parish, who are celebrating birthdays, baptismal and wedding anniversaries this week, especially Kevin, Kirk, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Jenn, Deji & Janet; Sherry & Tim Beaty and Shirley & Jesse Funches, and Alex & Bob. Sharing our life events brings us closer as a community of faith. We warmly welcome all visitors and newcomers who worship with us today. We hope that our music, prayers, and Eucharist have brought the light of Christ into your spirit. Your presence is a gift and we thank you. **Lord, we rejoice in Your presence**

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. **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.

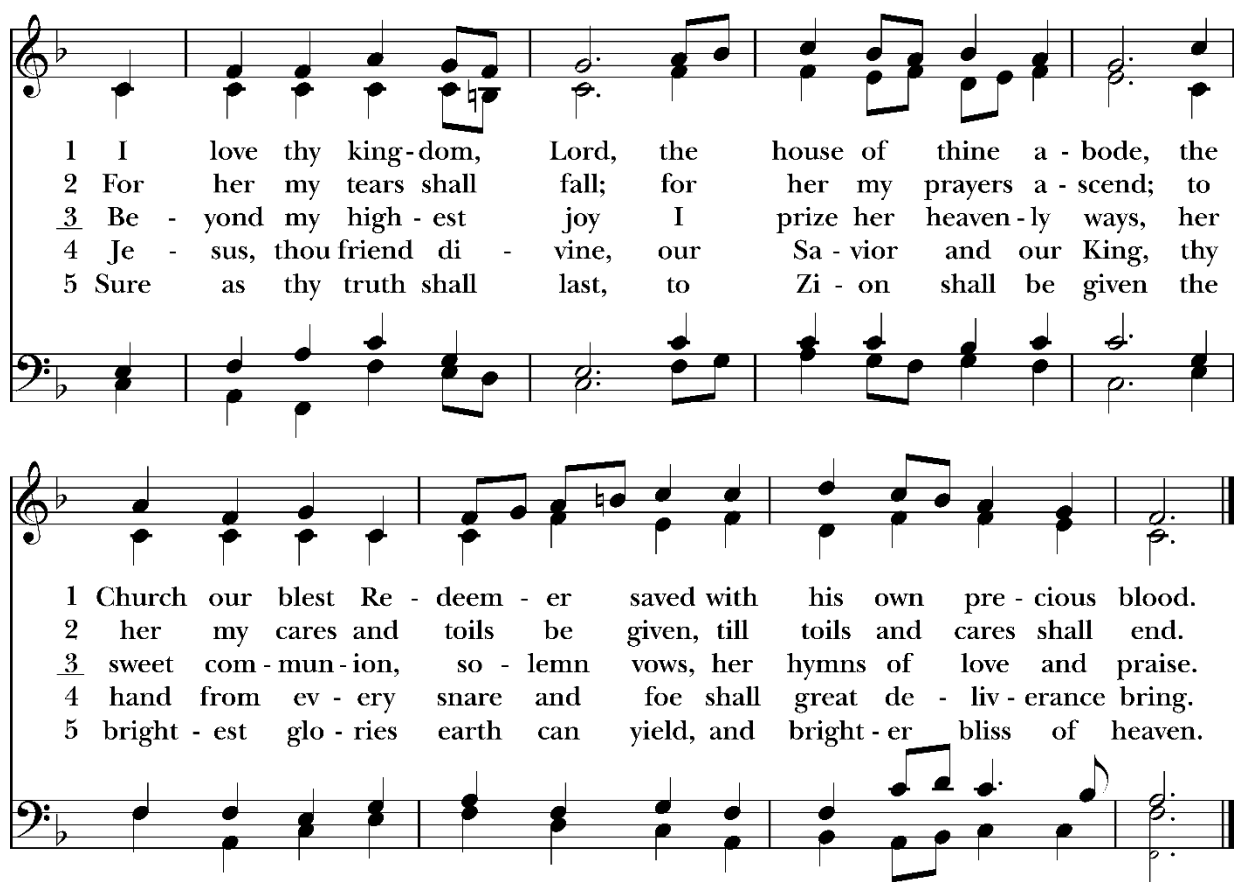
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY HYMN 524 | I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

St. Thomas

Please scan to give.





1 I love thy king-dom, Lord, the house of thine a - bode, the
 2 For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers a - scend; to
 3 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heaven - ly ways, her
 4 Je - sus, thou friend di - vine, our Sa - vior and our King, thy
 5 Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be given the

1 Church our blest Re - deem - er saved with his own pre - cious blood.
 2 her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.
 3 sweet com - mun - ion, so - lemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.
 4 hand from ev - ery snare and foe shall great de - liv - erance bring.
 5 bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright - er bliss of heaven.

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.

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 is 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,

***Alt:* 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.

Refrain

Taste and see, taste and see the
good - ness of the Lord. O
taste and see, taste and see the
good - ness of the Lord, of the
Lord.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times.
2 Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me. To -
3 Wor - ship the Lord, all you peo-ple.

Praise shall al - ways be on my lips; my
geth - er let us all praise God's name. I
You'll want for noth-ing if you ask

soul shall glo - ry in the Lord for
called the Lord who an - swered me; from
Taste and see that the Lord is good; in

D.C.
God has been so good to me.
all my trou-bles I was set free.
God we need put all our trust.

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 530 | Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word

Gott sei Dank

1 Spread, O spread, thou might - y word, spread the king - dom of the Lord,
2 word of how the Fa - ther's will made the world, and keeps it, still;
3 word of how the Sa - vior's love earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;
4 word of how the Spi - rit came bring - ing peace in Je - sus' name;
5 Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the na - tions long,

1 that to earth's re - mot - est bound all may heed the joy - ful sound;
2 how his on - ly Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;
3 how for - ev - er, in its need, through his death the world is freed;
4 how his nev - er - fail - ing love guides us on to heaven a - bove.
5 spread a - broad, un - til from night all the world a - wakes to light.

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

Assisting in Worship Today

10:00 a.m. Service

Altar Guild: Cara Ocampo, Jan DeBoissiere, Maria Rios, Virginia Jarrett

Acolytes: Chloe Spencer, Aston Fox, Ava Fox, Margaret Taulbee, Allison Whong, Avery Leeman

Chalicians: Dione Mahoney, Natalie Bedard

Lectors/Readers: Audra Cox, Christina Frederick, Katie Doxzon

Ushers: Cherry Williams, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,
Nancy Winchester, Alex Amponsah, Michon Semon, Andrea Leeman

Tellers: Cherry Williams, Diana Hall

PARISH CALENDAR

AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

Sunday, August 30

10:00 am Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:30 am – 2:00 pm Parish Festival - New Brick, UL
4:30 – 7:30 pm Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, August 31

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm Food Addicts Anonymous – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, September 1

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm Coffee Hour - Zoom
1:00 – 10:00 pm IRC Prep – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 9:00 pm MS Support Group – New Brick, LL
7:30 – 8:30 pm 300 Yr Race & Slavery Committee Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, September 2

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
4:00 – 5:00 pm Exercise Class – Parish Hall, LL

Thursday, September 3

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 Rehearsal – New Brick, UL
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, September 4

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream

Saturday, September 5

8:00 – 10:00 am Altar Guild prep
10:00 am – 12:00 pm Vision & Strategy Committee Meeting – New Brick, LL & Zoom
2:00 – 4:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall
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 by Tuesday evening.

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

It's Almost Time for Sunday School!

From Autumn through Spring, Faith Formation is thriving at Christ Church, and anyone from pre-K to 12th grade is invited to gather with us next fall. It's a program of age-appropriate classes that's relevant and engaging, and we're looking forward to an exciting year! The next Sunday School year begins on September 13, and registration links are on [our website's Sunday School page](#). 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 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 these spots, please call the church 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.

Church Office Closed - Monday, September 7

In observance of Labor Day, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 7, and reopen on Tuesday, September 8. If you require pastoral care during Labor Day weekend, please contact Father Manny - revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org.

WOCC Meeting - Tuesday, September 8

WOCC meetings resume in September, so join us! The first is on Tuesday evening, September 8, at 7:30 p.m. and is a Zoom meeting - that info will be in next week's *Gatherings*. We are also planning our annual **Flea Market and Craft Fair for September 19**, and need all the help to run the event. We need help with setup and cleanup, and also need a lot more people to help us direct traffic. Simply put, ***this event is impossible*** to hold without the efforts of many volunteers. So, please consider joining us for this Zoom meeting to see how you can help.

Christ Church's Fall Service Schedule Begins Sunday, September 13

On Sunday, September 13th, Christ Church begins its fall schedule with three services. The first service takes place in Old Brick at 8:00 a.m. and does not contain music. Our popular Family Worship returns to New Brick at 9:00, featuring songs, stories, and communion centered around the younger members of our church. Then at 10:30, we have Holy Eucharist with choral and musical accompaniment, also in New Brick. Sunday School, Youth Formation, Sunday Circle, and all of our other formation and fellowship gatherings also begin that day. No matter what service or classes you choose, we hope to see you

because **EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.**

Theology on Tap - Wednesday, September 16

Join us for brew and banter, suds and spoken word, lager and laughs... no matter what you call it, Theology on Tap is a fun, informal get-together where we can chat about interesting religious, spiritual, or social articles of the day, grab a beverage or snack, and enjoy fun, engaging, structure-free conversation with other parishioners and friends. We like to use this time to speak about things that might be considered a bit casual or light for a Sunday morning at church, but that matter to us, and we want to hear others' perspectives on them. If this sounds interesting to you, it's your kind of gathering! Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16 at **Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd** at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia. If you have any questions, please speak with any MOCC member or email **MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

The 2026 Flea Market - Saturday, 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 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date 9/26), and takes place on the Christ Church campus. And vendors - **you can reserve your spaces now!** This community event is open to the public, so come see what your neighbors have to offer. There will be housewares, jewelry, books, clothing, tasty baked treats, grilled goodies, and so much more! Whether you're a vendor or a participant, you can learn more on our website, which goes live today - **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.

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.

Collection of Lightweight, Natural-fiber Clothing Continues Until Aug. 30 to Help Visually-Impaired People and their Families in Nigeria

Christ Church is supporting a late-summer clothing drive by Living Above Limitation Charity Foundation (LALCF), which sends lightweight, natural-fiber garments to visually-impaired people in Nigeria. Their disabled residents and their families face greater barriers than the general population and may not be able to afford sufficient clothing.

Dr. Liz Trimmell of Laurel, Md., founded the charity to provide Braille classes, vocational training, white canes and similar aids to the blind. Read about its work on [its Facebook page](#). She made a presentation last Spring to the Outreach Commission, which is sponsoring the drive under the direction of Sonni Aribiah. Her planned shipment by ocean freighter is intended to arrive in time for Christmas in Calabar, Nigeria, which is Sonni's hometown. The visually-impaired men and women who rely upon LALCF for better lives – and their spouses and children – eagerly anticipate its arrival.

Our deadline is Sunday, Aug. 30, which is the same day as the Parish Festival & Ministry Fair. Look for the marked box in the Narthex. New or gently used clothing should be suitable for wear in a tropical climate and made of cotton, linen, flax, bamboo, and other natural fibers. No synthetics! Please bring the following:

- **Men's** – T-shirts and polo shirts (Sizes S–XL); Lightweight pants and jeans (waist sizes 28–42); Shorts (S–XL); Casual button-down shirts (S–XL).
- **Women's** – T-shirts (Sizes S–XL or 6–18); Casual dresses and skirts (Sizes S–XL); Blouses and tops (Sizes S–XL or 6–18).
- **Children's** – Everyday play clothes for boys and girls; School-appropriate clothes, all sizes; Infant and toddler clothes, all sizes.

Community Action Council Gets Funds to Help Families in Many Ways

In response to community needs, the Outreach Commission at its August meeting approved a donation of \$2,500 to the **Community Action Council of Howard County** (CAC). These are Vestry-approved funds derived from parishioners' pledges and contributions. Thank you for helping others when they need it most.

Christ Church is a long-term supporter – monetarily and through in-kind contributions to CAC's Howard County Food Bank. Our seasonal food drives at Giant supermarkets collect hundreds of pounds of non-perishable groceries each year.

The CAC is the county's official anti-poverty, non-profit agency, which posted a snapshot of its impact in Fiscal Year 2026: 242 students educated, 88 families saved from eviction, 1,359,481 meals provided, 3,999 families kept their lights on, and 688 homes made more energy efficient. With your help, that work continues.

Part of the donation will go toward the general fund, which covers aid for these services through **several essential programs**: early childhood education, housing assistance, energy assistance, and weatherization. A \$1,000 donation goes to the Howard County Food Bank, which will use the funds to provide more options for Thanksgiving dinners. Some families and individuals prefer a hen, turkey breast, or plant-based proteins rather than a whole turkey. Having a choice becomes yet another aspect of a meaningful holiday.

CAC expressed gratitude for the “tremendous support” by Christ Church. “You can be assured that the donation will go towards providing critical human services to Howard County residents in need,” said Development Specialist Todd Stubbs.

Despite being among the nation's most prosperous, many residents in Howard County struggle with rising costs and financial

instability. Demand for food assistance and affordable early childhood education has grown significantly, particularly along the Route One Corridor. CAC and government officials broke ground last fall in Elkridge on a site that will house a more efficient food bank and an education center, as described in a [Sept. 26, 2025 county release](#). CAC received county and state funds to launch the project but is conducting a [fundraising campaign](#) for the balance.

LEMS School Supply Drive was a Rousing Success!

Last Saturday was like Christmas morning for all of us: the students, their families, the staff, parishioners of CEC, and the community of Owen Brown. It was a warm, affirming time of looking back at the 50 years of Education in Owen Brown and looking ahead at the promise of another school year. So much generosity and so many smiles.

The day started with a wonderful program that celebrated the 50 years that school has been held in the Cradlerock/Lake Elkhorn building. Superintendent Barnes welcomed the families, students and present and past staff that have served at the schools, including previous teachers and principals. Howard County Executive Calvin Ball brought his enthusiasm to the event and declared August 22nd Cradlerock and Lake Elkhorn Day in Howard County. Alumni played in the orchestra and students read poetry.

Then all the students and families moved outside where over 20 community organizations sponsored tables where attendees were able to find out about a host of services available to them. Christ Episcopal Church had our first table at the event and many came by to find out more about our church. Many thanks to Beth and Daniel Baker and Sara Kirkpatrick for welcoming folks to our table.

Ernest and Yvonne Grant, Jan DeBoissiere, Pam Foreman, Phil Bray, Patricia Fanning, and our wonderful maintenance engineer John were on hand to load up supplies and/or unpack them at the school. Thanks to the generosity of so many of you we had enough school supplies for about 100 students. All but a few pens and pencils were left and they will be distributed to those who couldn't attend the Block Party.

While we were distributing school supplies, students were getting free haircuts, having their faces painted, learning to jump rope, and making videos of their best dance moves. It truly was like Christmas.

Next week the students will start school and all the LEMS students will be getting agenda books supplied by CEC. Not long after that, we'll be starting our food pantry. Stay tuned!





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*

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