



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, June 28, 2026 | Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – VBS Sunday

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



& Choir Camp

June 22 - 26, 2026

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.

We are march - ing in the light of God, we are
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya -
Mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios, Mar - cha -

march - ing in the light of God, We are march - ing in the
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we are march - ing in the light of God.
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we are march - ing in the light of God.
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mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios..

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba
Mar - cha - re - mos

light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing, we are
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We are march - ing
 Si - ya - ham - ba
 Mar - cha - re - mos

light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing we are
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 luz de dios. Mar - cha - re - mos, re - mos mar - cha -

Oo
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march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God.
 ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 re - mos re - mos mar - cha - re - mos en la luz do Dios.

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.

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; 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 28:5-9

Reader: A reading from Jeremiah.

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Psalms 89:1-4,15-18 | *Misericordias Domini*

Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; *

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

"I will establish your line for ever, *

and preserve your throne for all generations."

Happy are the people who know the festal shout! *

they walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.

They rejoice daily in your Name; *

they are jubilant in your righteousness.

For you are the glory of their strength, *

and by your favor our might is exalted.

Truly, the Lord is our ruler; *

the Holy One of Israel is our King.

THE EPISTLE | Romans 6:12-23

Reader: *A reading from Romans.*

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN | Father, I Adore You

Traditional round

Father, I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You
Jesus, I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You
Spirit, I adore You
Lay my life before You
How I love You

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 10:40-42

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

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

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

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 SERMON | The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian*

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 |

The Psalmist sings of God's love, faithfulness, and righteousness, all of which light the way for His people and give them joy and strength. Paul goes a step further to remind us that we have been freed from enslavement to sin and given the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus. As people of faith, let us continue to walk together in the light of God's presence saying: **"We rejoice daily in your Name."**

As we enjoy these summer days with family and friends, we also lift up in prayer those who are hungry, the homeless, the imprisoned, the oppressed, and the sick, especially Lee, Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Jim, Kaci, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Brandon, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry and those you now name. Hold them close, O Lord, and give them hope as we pray: **"Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing."**

We pray for all those in positions of authority throughout the world that they may be Spirit led in their decisions and minister with wisdom, equity, and justice. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for St. Mark's, Deal, St Martin's in-the-Field, Severna Park, and St. Paul's, Prince Frederick. We ask God's blessing and guidance for our Church leaders: our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. As we bid farewell to Yehinuel today, we express our deep gratitude for his time and service with our Parish. Lord, we ask Your blessing on all newcomers and visitors to Christ Church. We give thanks for the willing hands of every member of this congregation who in ways, large and small, do Your work here and in the world. We pray: **"We rejoice daily in your Name."**

Our faith tells us that we have been freed from sin and sanctified, and that the end is eternal life. We remember those who have left this earthly life for the eternal one in the light of God's presence, especially those you now name. Comfort those who grieve and strengthen our spirits as we pray: **"Your love is established forever."**

With joy and thanksgiving, we lift up those in our congregation who are celebrating anniversaries of their wedding, birth, baptism, or other joyous occasions, especially Amanda, Beth, Avery & Michon; Jennifer & Phil Bray, Shahra & George Toth, Hennessee Lamere & Bob Foreman and Hope Chase & David Jenkins; Suzanne. We give thanks for each other saying: **"We rejoice daily in your Name."**

O Lord, as we begin this week, help us to carry your welcoming words in our hearts in every encounter, this day and every day: "Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me." **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 | Not Alone - *Sung by the VBS Children*

Lisa M. Clark & David Browning

Please scan to give.



Thank you.

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 sing,

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 Landmark-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.

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

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

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

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

THE BLESSING |

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

CLOSING HYMN 490 | I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Houston

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol-low Je-sus.
 I want to look at Je-sus.
 I want to be with Je-sus.

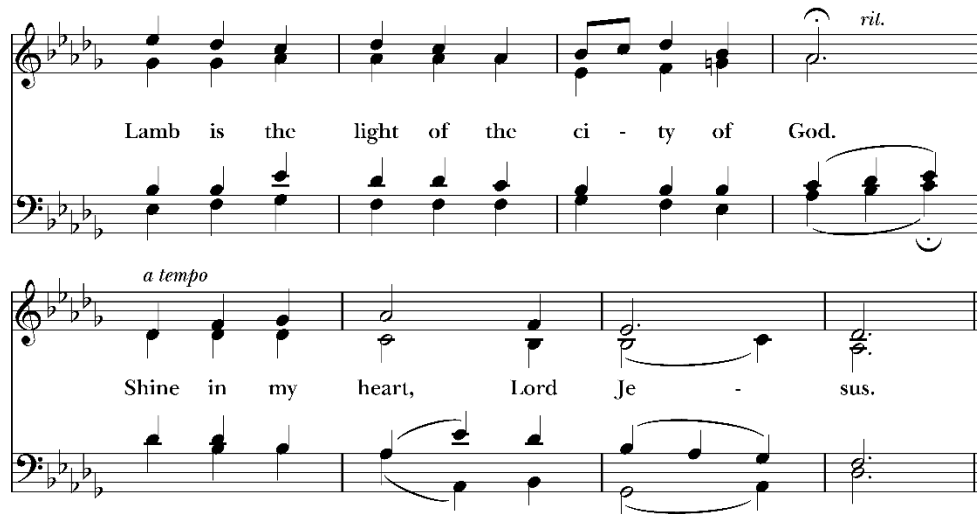
God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear sun of right-cous-ness, shine on my path, and
 When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je-sus.
 show me the way to the Fa-ther.
 shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The

night and the day are both a-like. The



THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild

Cara Ocampo, Jan DeBoissiere, Maria Rios, Virginia Jarrett

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist: Joan Harvey

Lector/Reader: Joan Harvey

Usher: Jo Emily Knox

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Lucinda Hart, Ava Fox, Aston Fox

Chalicerist: Ivy Amponsah

Lector/Reader: Cheryl Lucente

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

Tellers

Catherine Mille, Lisa Taitt-Wynter

PARISH CALENDAR

JUNE 28 – JULY 4, 2026

Sunday, June 28

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
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	VBS Sunday Celebration New Brick, LL
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, June 29

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, June 30

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour - Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	300 th Yr Communications Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

Wednesday, July 1

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship (FWF) Crab Feast – Zoom

Thursday, July 2

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 3

All Day	Independence Day Holiday – Office Closed
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, July 4

All Day	Independence Day
8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild prep
1:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Group Picnic – 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

Celebrate Rev. Yehinuel Odidi's Year of Service at Christ Church – After the 10:30 Worship

We are sad to say that our seminarian, Yehinuel Odidi, has concluded his year of service at Christ Church and will be moving on, but we are very excited to see where he may go from here! Yehi has been an integral part of our common life, especially with the younger members of our parish, and for that, we are truly grateful. Please join us for a celebration of his time here with a lunch party in the Great Hall after the 10:30 worship this Sunday.

And if you would like to contribute towards a gift for Yehi, **you can do so via Realm** and write "Yehi" in the memo line. We will present it to him at the celebration.

Join 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. Thank you for your consideration.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

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.

Crab Feast - An Annual FWF Extravaganza! - July 1

The most anticipated First Wednesday Fellowship of the year comes this Wednesday, so get your crab-eatin' bibs ready! At 6 p.m., we'll host our annual Crab Feast just outside the Great Hall of New Brick, and everyone is invited, no matter what your age is! Signup deadline has passed, but if you missed it, there might be space – speak with Yetti today to find out.

Noonday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

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

The Church Office is Closed Next Friday - July 3

The office is closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. It will reopen for business on Monday, July 6 at 9:00 a.m.

Adult Inquirer's Class Series – Begins Tuesday, July 7

Christ Church's clergy are presenting a summertime Adult Inquirer Class series for those interested in learning more about faith, stewardship, and the many elements making up our Episcopal Church. This is a welcoming, engaging, and foundational

introduction to the history, theology, and traditions of the Church, designed for newcomers, long-time attendees, and anyone seeking a deeper understanding.

This series is held on Zoom, and it begins on Tuesday, July 7, at 7:00 p.m., continuing for six consecutive weeks. If you might be interested, please speak with Father Manny or Mother Marcia at church, or [email](#)/call the church office to express your interest. We will then send you the details and help prepare you for a unique and important step in your faith journey.

Let Your Spirit Bloom at the Center for Spiritual Nourishment – Saturday Morning, July 11

As summer reaches its height, we reflect on the ways that God is bringing us into greater fullness of life, how we are “bloom” into all that we were created to be. This month’s wonderful sessions help us delve into these topics as well as into stillness and reflection in community. The 2nd Saturday CSN provides opportunities for us to be in a closer relationship with God by offering an array of experiences that engage the mind, body, and spirit. Learn about the 2nd Saturday Center for Spiritual Nourishment at our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-nourishment.

Small Delusions (with Guest!) Summer Concert - July 11

You know 'em... now you can sing and dance to them - Christ Church's favorite supergroup, Small Delusions (Jan, JB, and Shannon - with special guest Meghan Pruitt!), is delighted to announce their next gig in the warm confines of the New Brick sanctuary. In just a few weeks - July 11 at 1:00 p.m. - gather as they play all the memorable classics, and maybe even take a few requests. Heck, even bring your dancing shoes if you feel like it! Definitely consider bringing a small dish or refreshments to share. Looking forward to seeing you there!

MOCC Breakfast – Saturday, 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.

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.

Learn More About Your Parish - Read the Monthly Vestry Meeting Minutes

To help provide complete transparency with our parish family, we have decided to provide 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.

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, the truth is that it requires a great deal of work by many people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish that it is. You can help your church by volunteering to be a Reader, Chalcist, Teller, the Inreach Ministry, or by assisting the Christ Church Altar Guild.

None of these requires weekly assistance - both only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant.

For those specifically interested in the Altar Guild, 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, Chalcist, or Teller, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Yetti.

Interfaith Refugee Ministry Urges Us to Heed God's Call in a Sermon Observing World Refugee Day

As the Christ Church-led **Interfaith Refugee Ministry** (IRM) approaches its fifth year of service, leader Ann Barnes delivered **the sermon** last Sunday during worship services in observance of World Refugee Day on June 20 (Go to 29:50 to 41:38). She described how the ministry has grown from resettling one Afghan family who fled during the **Fall of Kabul** in August 2021 to helping 12 families and interacting with other individuals, including people from countries other than Afghanistan.

Our faith partners have expanded, too, bringing the total to 16 Christian and Jewish congregations collaborating to help Muslims. With that assistance, families whose lives were torn asunder have managed to stand on their own. But God's call remains for acts of kindness, from being a "talk buddy" for English-language learners to teaching someone to drive – or going that next step to donate a sorely-needed used car. To learn how to pitch in, email info@christchurchcolumbia.org

Garden Plot at Freetown Farm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays

Columbia Community Care (CCC) invites volunteers to help cultivate its garden plot at Freetown Farm, 8000 Harriet Tubman Lane, Columbia, Md., 21044, in partnership with **Community Ecology Institute** (CEI).

"Our garden plot at Freetown Farm offers something that our pantry alone can't -- fresh produce and a place to practice a more intentional relationship with food," CCC said in a **Facebook post on June 17**. Those interested are encouraged to learn more by reading an **article posted on May 21** on CCC's website, "From Farm to Pantry: CCC Puts Down Roots at Freetown Farm."

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance for slots on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m., on Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Go online to this **CEI signup form** to register for a slot, and choose "general volunteer" under "group."

CCC encourages both novice and experienced gardeners to help "plant, weed, and maintain this source of fresh, nutritious food for local Howard County families."

Registration is Open for DreamBuilders' Mission Trip to Puerto Rico on October 18-24, 2026

Hurricane Maria, a category 5 hurricane, struck Puerto Rico in September of 2017 with sustained winds of 155 mph. 53% of all structures on the island suffered major damage. Today, almost 9 years later, many families are still trying to repair their homes. We will be helping one of those survivors, Maria del Carmen Rivera Nieves. You can read about Maria and her project below.

We have worked with the nonprofit Apoyemos/One Hand Foundation of Puerto Rico, led by Kike Garcia, on a previous trip to the island. They will supply the materials needed and supervise our project. Maria's home needs windows, interior doors, ceiling panels, flooring, and more that we can't complete in one week. But we can make a big difference in moving her home closer to completion.

We will be staying at Posada Colonial Apartments in San Juan, where you can walk to an outstanding beach, and it is only 3

blocks from Calle Loiza, a street full of restaurants, cafes, and shops. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Cathy Gold (heycathy@verizon.net).

Trip Dates: October 18-24

Missioner Fee: \$1100 (covers airfare, lodging, rental cars, and food)

Age Requirement: 18 or older

How Many? Maximum of 8 missioners

Partner Organization in Puerto Rico: Apoyemos/One Hand Foundation of Puerto Rico

If you would like to join the trip, please find instructions and the registration form on their website: dreambuildersmd.org/puerto-rico-trip-october-2026. Registration closes on July 31st.

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.

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

FISH and **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) partnered last year and merged pantries. CCC continues to hand out food at three sites on Saturday mornings and by home delivery to Howard County residents. For information, visit **Get Help** online. FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar baskets 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 home by giving just one day a month to assist those who could benefit from FISH's financial assistance. 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.



Christ Episcopal Church

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

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Shereen Benka-Coker, *Nursery Care Assistant*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

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