

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Taizé Vespers | ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



Welcome to Sunday Taizé Vespers at Christ Church!

For centuries, people have asked God for guidance and care as day turns to night. This night, we ask God to refresh, inspire, and call us into a deeper relationship with the Divine Spark that is in this world. Enter into God's presence through prayers, readings, songs, silence and poetry. And as you feel so moved: breathe deeply, be still, and know that you are loved.

May God bless you in this time of reflection and meditation.

TAIZÉ

Taizé (named for the ecumenical Christian community formed in Taizé, France, in 1940) is a quiet, sung, meditative prayer. The songs are short phrases that we sing repeatedly so that the words may enter our hearts. The songs may be sung in many different languages, reminding us that the Gospel is for all the world and we are all God's people.

THE PATTERN OF VESPERS

Gathering: God beckons us to gather, to reflect on life where we live it, and to be engaged as fully as possible in the world around us. We light candles and sing a song of thanksgiving for God's bringing light into the darkness of our lives.

Word: God continues to communicate through words of wisdom, encouragement, hope, and challenge spoken throughout the ages by God's beloved children.

Psalms: Psalms are the Bible's language of prayer and praise. They provide us language to speak about all of life, including our joys, disappointments, confusion and anger, sadness, and concern for ourselves, others, and this world.

Meditation: When we listen and pray while gathered in community, we are reminded that we are not alone. We also affirm that life is not about "just me," but about participating in a larger movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Prayers: Prayer is honest, holy conversation with God and those who gather. God invites our honesty, joys, sorrows, confusion, anger, and wonder. Prayer practices can open us up to deeper understanding and meaningful spiritual connections with God, others, and ourselves.

Going Out: As we leave the Vesper service, we are reminded of Christ's peace, presence and purpose in all of life.

Gathering Song | Laudate Omnes Gentes

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with the first line of the first system containing the main text and the second line containing a translation. The second system continues the melody and includes a final line of text.

Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi -
Sing prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the

num. Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num!
Lord. Sing prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord!

Officiant: God dwells in you.
People: And also in you.

Officiant: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:14-16*

Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

Song | Come and fill

Ostinato Refrain

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

quo - ni - am bo - nus. Con - fi - te - mi - ni
You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly. Come and fill our hearts

Do - mi - no, Al - le - lu - ia!
with your peace, Al - le - lu - ia!

Friendship is a mirror to the presence and testament to forgiveness. Friendship not only helps us to see ourselves through another's eyes, but can be sustained over the years only with someone who has repeatedly forgiven us for our trespasses as we must find it in ourselves to forgive them in turn. A friend knows our difficulties and shadows and remains in sight, a companion to our vulnerabilities more than our triumphs, when we are under the strange illusion we do not need them. An undercurrent of real friendship is a blessing exactly because its elemental form is rediscovered again and again through understanding and mercy. All friendships of any length are based on a continued, mutual forgiveness. Without tolerance and mercy all friendships die.

In the course of the years, a close friend will always reveal the shadow in the other as much as ourselves, to remain friends we must know the other and their difficulties and even their sins and encourage the best in them, not through critique but through addressing the better part of them, the leading creative edge of their incarnation, thus subtly discouraging what makes them smaller, less generous, less of themselves.

Through the eyes of a real friendship, an individual is larger than their everyday actions, and through the eyes of another, we receive a greater sense of our own personhood, one we can aspire to, the one in whom they have most faith. Friendship is a moving frontier of understanding not only of the self and the other, but also, of a possible and yet un-lived future.

Friendship is the great hidden transmuter of all relationships: it can transform a troubled marriage, make honorable a professional rivalry, make sense of heartbreak and unrequited love and become the newly discovered ground for a mature parent-child relationship.

The dynamic of friendship is almost always underestimated as a constant force in human life: a diminishing circle of friends is the first terrible diagnostic of a life in deep trouble: of overwork, of too much emphasis on a professional identity, of forgetting who will be there when our armored personalities run into the inevitable natural disasters and vulnerabilities found in even the most average existence.

Through the eyes of a friend, we especially learn to remain at least a little interesting to others. When we flatten our personalities and lose our curiosity in the life of the world or of another, friendship loses spirit and animation; boredom is the second great killer of friendship. Through the natural surprises of a relationship held through the passage of years we recognized the greater surprising circles of which we are a part and the faithfulness that leads to a wider sense of revelation independent of *human* relationship: to learn to be friends with the earth and the sky, with the horizon and with the seasons, even with the disappearances of winter and in that faithfulness, take the difficult path of becoming a good friend to our own going.

Friendship transcends disappearance: an enduring friendship goes on after death, the exchange only transmuted by absence, the relationship advancing and maturing in a silent internal conversational way even after one half of the bond has passed on.

But no matter the medicinal virtues of being a true friend or sustaining a long close friendship with another, the ultimate touchstone of friendship is not improvement, neither of the other nor of the self, the ultimate touchstone is witness, the privilege of having been *seen* by someone and the equal privilege of being granted the sight of the essence of another, to have walked with them and to have believed in them, and sometimes just to have accompanied them for however brief a span, on a journey impossible to accomplish alone.

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalms 139 | *Domine, probasti*

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,*
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning*
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"

Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *

they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.

How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!

If I were to count them, they would be more in number
than the sand; *
**to count them all, my life span would need to
be like yours.**

They speak spitefully against you; *
your enemies take your Name in vain.

Do I not hate those, O LORD, who hate you? *
and do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

I hate them with a perfect hatred; *
they have become my own enemies.

Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.

Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

Song | Ubi Caritas (Live in Charity)

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in 2/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is in B-flat major (two flats). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of the lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as rests and repeat signs. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the second system.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

Scripture Reading | 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Reader: A reading from The Epistle to the Corinthians.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading | Matthew 5:1-16

Reader: A reading from Matthews.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
You are the salt of the earth.
But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?
It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.
Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.
Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.
In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Homily/Reflection | The Rev. Cannon Dr. Kristofer Lindh-Payne

A Meditation | We Come In Love

Bishop Michael Curry

We do not come to put anybody down. We come to lift everybody up.
We come in love. We come in love because we follow Jesus and Jesus taught us love.
Love the Lord your God and Love your neighbor.
Love your liberal neighbor.
Love your conservative neighbor. Love your Democratic neighbor.
Love your Republican neighbor.
Love your Independent neighbor.
Love your neighbor whom you don't like.
Love your neighbor who you disagree with.
Love your Christian neighbor. Love your Muslim neighbor.
Love your Jewish neighbor. Love your Palestinian neighbor.
Love your Israeli neighbor.
Love your refugee neighbor. Love your immigrant neighbor. Love the prison guard neighbor.
Love your neighbor.
We come in love.
I would submit that the teaching of Jesus to love God and love our neighbor is at the core and the heart of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Silent Meditation |

Announcements |

Please scan to give.



Offertory Song | O Lord, Hear Our Prayer

During the singing, you are invited to come forward to light a candle in prayer.

O Lord, Hear my Prayer

A musical score for a two-part setting of 'O Lord, Hear my Prayer'. The score is written for a soprano or alto voice (treble clef) and a bass voice (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.' The music features a mix of whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding musical lines.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.



Love

Our faces
Are painted
With many shades
Of love
And laughter
Whose hues
We can change
At will.

And our bodies
Are tinted
Daily
With different
Measures
Of compassion,
Courage,
And resolve.

Others
Can even see
Glitter
In our eyes.

God missed nothing
When creating
Rainbows.

His light
Comes
In all
The colors.

The Prayers of the People |

Father, Lord and Savior, Spirit of the Living God, we come to you each week with our prayers. They are our prayers of thanksgiving. They are our prayers of petition. They are our prayers of profound praise. On this November Sunday our prayers are manifold

We lift up our presidential candidates and other individuals running for political office and we pray for them, dear Lord. May they may serve with wisdom, patience and perseverance. We pray for Your protection and guidance. We are so grateful for this wonderful country we call home. ***Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord.***

On this Annual Pledge Sunday we humbly offer our gifts. May we embrace stewardship as a way of life. ***We pray to the Lord.***

We pray for the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, for our Bishop Carrie, for the blessing of our Christ Church Community and for our Rector, Emmanuel, our assisting Clergy, Marcia, our postulants, Rebecca, Kiona and Mike, our staff and laity. In our Diocese, we lift up our sister Parishes. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we remember: Church of the Province of Southeast Asia We ***pray to the Lord***

We pray for those who suffer and those in need of any kind, We pray for those who are ill, especially for Rhonda, Jay, Ronald, Dolores, Edvon, Kitzel, Claudia, Sarah, Rachan, Ian, Jerry, Kristin, Kim, Sabrina, Jim, Erica, Marilyn, Carolyn, Mary Ann, Barbara, Cindy, Tim, Sherry, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Mildred & Nell, and for the individuals that you now name. We pray and we give thanks for caregivers. ***God is our refuge and our strength.***

We remember those who have died and have passed on to their eternal home and into arms of God Marie Chrzanowski and those you name. May the perpetual light of God's love surround them forever. We pray for those who grieve. Comfort them, Heavenly Father. Stay near and be their healing. ***We pray to the Lord.***

We celebrate occasions of joy and gladness; Birthdays and Anniversaries of Weddings and Baptisms, especially those of Marilyn, Sydneya, Maurice, Evelyn, Francis, Krista, Kimberley, William, Paula, Samuel, Paul & Jeannette, Margaret & Charles Thompson, and Leon, Kevin, Ainsley, Victoria, Jonah, Violet, Ben, Francis, Jonathan, George, Amanda, Daniella, Laura, Nicole & Saah. ***We give thanks with a joyful heart!***

We give thanks for our country and for the freedom that has given us the right to vote. We give thanks for our own Christ Church and the opportunity to support it with our time, talent and treasure.

We give thanks to God, Father, Son and Spirit with a grateful heart for all He is and for all he has given to us. Praise the Lord-

Good and gracious God, You call us to be disciples carrying out your mission. Transform us through the power of your Spirit. Open our hearts to acknowledge your many blessings in our lives, to use your gifts wisely, to give generously, to serve joyfully, to live responsibly, to be a gift to others. Help us nurture a stewardship way of life, which connects, serves, and impacts our communities. Guide us as we prayerfully discern how to give of our time, talents, and treasures, to further Your kingdom on earth. We pray, through Christ our Lord, ***Amen***

The Lord's Prayer |

Officiant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Officiant: The coming night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives be dispelled in this hour. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Officiant: The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Song | Nunc Dimittis

Alternate between Spanish and English refrains. 1st time in Latin, all following repetitions in English.

Ostinato Refrain

System 1 (Latin):

Treble staff: Nunc di - mīt - tis ser - vum tu - um, Dó - mi -
Bass staff: Let your ser - vant now go in peace, O

System 2 (English):

Treble staff: ne, Lord, se - cún - dum ver - bum
Bass staff: ne, Lord, Dó - mi - ne, Lord, ac -

System 3 (English):

Treble staff: pa - ce. Last time
Bass staff: tu - um in pa - ce, Dó - mi - ne. Nunc di -
cord - ing to your word, to your word. Let your

Caitlin Gompf, soprano
Catherine Hinton, soprano
Maureen Monk, flute
Amanda McKay, viola
Larissa Sanders, piano

Thank you for joining us today!



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PARISH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 3 TO NOVEMBER 9

Sunday, November 3

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Worship Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick & Zoom
9:30 am	Sunday School – New Brick & Parish Hall
9:30 am	Parents Group – New Brick, lower level
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Auction Item Pickup – New Brick, lower level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
1:00 – 4:00 pm	EFM – Parish Hall, conference room & Zoom
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Taizé in New Brick

Monday, November 4

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 9:30 pm	WOCC Monthly Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, November 5

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
1:00 – 7:00 pm	Larissa Practice
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick lower level
7:30 – 8:30 pm	300 yr. Race & Slavery Comm. Meeting

Wednesday, November 6

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship – New Brick lower level
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	CCD zoom check in with Kristen Krantz

Thursday, November 7

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:45 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, November 8

All-Day	Diocesan Convention
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Recital Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
6:00 – 9:00 pm	Health & Wellness Fair Setup – New Brick, lower level
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 9:00 pm	“The Pilgrims” Movie Screening – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, November 9

All-Day	Diocesan Convention
8:30 – 12:00 pm	Center for Spiritual Nourishment
9:00 – 11:00 am	“Metamorphosis” Movie Screening – Parish Hall, lower level
1:00 – 3:30 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Sheu Recital – New Brick, upper level
5:00 – 7:00 pm	Larissa & Friends Recital – New Brick, upper level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,
email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.
For a digital copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Pledge to Christ Church for 2025

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can safely complete one electronically on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/pledge-2025

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present altar flowers and gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on any upcoming service, you can do so by using our **Realm Online Giving Form**; just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* dropdown menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. Then please email or call the church office and let them know, and we'll be sure to place an acknowledgment in the Sunday service leaflet for that day.

Digital Service Leaflets & Announcements

You might have seen our recent flyers around the church advertising a digital copy of the weekly service leaflet. In an attempt to be better stewards of the planet by saving paper while using your generous support of Christ Church in a more conscientious manner, we are downsizing the printing of this document. Beginning next week, some portions of the leaflet - including most of the announcements - will be available in digital format only. Everyone is encouraged to bring their phones or tablets to church, scan the QR code on the flyer, and download a copy of the service leaflet. If you do, you'll get a copy with working links and color images – and do your part to conserve our planet's resources.

Auction Winners, Please Grab Your Items Today

Thank you to everyone who joined us for last night's *An Evening in Paris* Auction event, as it was a great success and fun for everyone. Heartfelt thanks also to the volunteers, donors, and bidders, for without you this event could not happen. If you were a winning bidder on any item and did not take your item home, please do so today. They are located in the Great Hall; if you don't see yours, please ask Robin Bradley or any Auction Committee member.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God and a more powerful experience of God's presence in our lives. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. We are a hybrid gathering, so be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **875 9496 3596** and the Passcode is **Centering!** You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church, or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

WOCC November Meeting - Monday Evening

Mark your calendars for the next WOCC meeting - next Monday, November 4th at 7:30 p.m. It will be a hybrid event, so you're welcome to gather with us in New Brick or on Zoom - **the link is here**, the Meeting ID is **843 0204 4790** and the Passcode is **cecWOCC**.

Costume and Pasta Party! First Wednesday Fellowship is this Week

November's FWF will be a costume and pasta party that celebrates Halloween/All Saints Day, so gather with us in the Great Hall at 6 p.m. on November 6th all decked out in your fun Halloween getup! There will, of course, be a prize for the best costume, so get creative! And be sure to bring their leftover Halloween candy to share with others. It's sure to be a blast - see you there!

Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

Singers and music lovers, come lift your voice! The Christ Church Choirs rehearse in New Brick on Thursday evenings, and anyone is welcome to join us. Handbell Choir meets from 6:45-7:30 p.m. and Adult Choir meets from 7:30-9:00 p.m. You don't need to know how to read music, so whether you have previous experience or are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our choirs. If you're interested, please speak with Larissa on Sundays, email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org, or simply come join us in New Brick on a Thursday evening.

Christ Church Book Club - Thursday Evenings

The CEC Book Club returns this Thursday, November 7th to conclude their discussion of David Brooks' *The Road to Character*. A new book is on the horizon, so if you're interested in reading and discussing great books with a friendly, engaging, and welcoming group of fellow parishioners, the CEC Book Club might be for you! We choose a book as a group, read a chapter or two each week, and then gather virtually for an hour or so on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. to share thoughts and have lively conversations - [the Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366**, and the Passcode is **CECbooks**. If you have any questions, email bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org.

240th Diocese of Maryland Convention - November 8 & 9

Each year, elected delegates from each congregation in our diocese gather to elect diocesan leaders, discuss issues, and review policies and structures. While voting delegates and alternates must register to participate and vote in the Convention, anyone is welcome to attend as an observer for free. The Convention takes place at the Claggett Center, Frederick County, MD, and all of the relevant Convention details and materials are posted on the EDOM Convention web page - episcopalmaryland.org/diocesan-governance/diocesan-convention

Two Days, Two Films - November 8 & 9

George Toth will host two films over the second weekend in November. On Friday, November 8th, the PBS film *The Pilgrims* will be shown, a documentary film that provides a comprehensive look at the Pilgrims and their perilous journey across the Atlantic, their landing at Plymouth Rock, and their efforts to establish Plymouth Colony in the New World. It delves into the challenges they faced, including harsh winters, disease, and interactions with the Native American inhabitants, particularly their relationship with Squanto, a Patuxet Native American who played a crucial role in their survival culminating in the celebration of the first Thanksgiving in 1621.

The next morning at The Center for Spiritual Nourishment, *Metamorphosis* ([view the trailer here](#)) is a film that explores the design and engineering of the butterfly and discusses how they came into being. Using spectacular photography, computer animation, and magnetic resonance imaging, once-hidden doors will be opened to every stage of a butterfly's life cycle, letting you explore their remarkable world as few ever have before.

Want to host a film in the CEC Theatre? [Let us know!](#)

Join Us at the Center for Spiritual Nourishment - November 9

The next CSN gathering has some new programs in store on Saturday, November 9th from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and everyone is invited to gather with us. The Center provides opportunities for spiritual growth for Christ Church members and the larger community by offering an array of experiences that engage the mind, body, and spirit. You can learn more about the CSN at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-nourishment, and if you have any

questions or wish to help in the future, please fill out the contact form on that page or email us at csn@christchurchcolumbia.org.

"Larissa and Friends" Recital - Saturday, November 9

We are thrilled to present our Music Director, Larissa Sanders, in this year's fall recital, which is now an annual tradition. Larissa and her selection of incredibly talented musicians and vocalists will present a program of beautiful music spanning several centuries and cultures. Light refreshments will be served at a reception with the musicians following the performance, as well. Offerings are gratefully accepted for this performance, and they will help support Christ Church's flourishing Music Ministry, so we hope that you'll all save the date, and gather with us in New Brick on November 9th at 5:00 p.m. You'll be sure to enjoy a program excellent works performed by talented musicians.

WOCC Christmas Feast - December 8

On Sunday, December 8th at 1:00 p.m., we will gather for our annual Christmas Feast at **The King's Contrivance Restaurant**, and we hope you'll all come! You can sign up using the sheet in the Narthex. The cost for this event is \$65. And the deadline for signing up is December 1st. Lots of other events are coming up, too - the WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick **and on our website** and contains all the fun events planned. Speak to any WOCC member or email WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org if you need more info.

Kiona's Ordination - December 14

Bishop Carrie Schofield-Broadbent will ordain Kiona Lookingbill, our Director of Youth and Family Ministries, to the Sacred Order of Deacons. This service takes place on Saturday, December 14th, and parishioners can gather at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Baltimore at 11:00 a.m.

300th Anniversary News

The new landing page for the 300th Anniversary celebrations is live on our website, so visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/300 and see how we are gearing up for a year-long series of special gatherings, activities, and parties! Please bookmark it and check for updates often. It's still early days, but committees are already taking shape and making plans. We are always looking for more people to provide their input and would love to have you join us. This celebration is a massive milestone for our church, and we encourage everyone to consider being a part of this historic occasion. If you are interested in assisting, please speak with Robin Bradley at church, **complete the brief contact form on our website**, or email 300@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Thanksgiving Food Drive Begins Sunday, Nov. 3 to Collect Holiday Meal Sides & Non-perishables for the Howard County Food Bank

Once again, Christ Church will help those who depend upon the **Howard County Food Bank** by conducting a food drive in the weeks before Thanksgiving. This year the holiday falls on Nov. 28. The drive begins Sunday, Nov. 3, and ends Thursday, Nov. 21. That deadline gives the **Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC)**, which operates the food bank, sufficient time before Thanksgiving to prepare and distribute its "Holiday Meal Kits." In 2024, the Food Bank expects to feed more than 1,000 people for Thanksgiving and another 1,000 around Christmas. Families will have the opportunity to choose the protein and sides they need to have a warm holiday meal on their tables.

Please help by bringing **non-perishable** food items that complete the menu with the usual sides: boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, olives, pickles, and canned fruits and vegetables (low-sodium preferred). Keep in mind that household pantries often are bare this time of year; please add items such as canned beans, soups, tuna, pasta and sauce, rice, peanut butter, and spices.

Put items on the designated table in the Narthex. Or put them in the latest yellow bin, which is marked "Thanksgiving Food Drive," to be found near the door to Old Brick on the breezeway. NOTE: ***No pies, other desserts, or rolls*** because of perishability.

After the onset of the pandemic, the Outreach Commission ended its previous practice of collecting turkeys at Thanksgiving. Instead, Christ Church again this year has helped to fund the protein component of holiday meal kits. Outreach members approved a \$750 donation to the CAC for purchases such as roasting hens and plant-based entrees. The holiday funding is our latest monetary donation to CAC.

In August, the Outreach Commission approved sending \$2,000, half for utility assistance and half for milk and eggs at the food bank, as described in the **[Outreach Blog of Aug. 29, 2024](#)**. Thanks to all whose contributions to Christ Church make this possible.

Display Crafts or Shop at the Cedar Lane Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 16

If you're an artisan or a shopper looking for handmade crafts, please participate in the Holiday Bazaar & Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 11630 Scaggsville Rd., Fulton, MD, 20759. The event is being organized by Christ Church parishioner Amanda Cheong and sponsored by Cedar Lane School PTA. Find details for vendors and shoppers on **[its Facebook page events entry](#)**.

Cedar Lane students are integral to the operations of **[Prepare for Success](#)** (PFS), the school supplies' nonprofit and **[a CAC partner](#)**. PFS, which got **[its start at Christ Church](#)**, says on its website: "Some of our hardest workers are the students with special needs at Cedar Lane School in Fulton. The school is a one-of-a kind learning environment with the motto, "Learning is for everyone." In September, PFS delivers a bulk order of elementary school supplies purchased with monetary donations and some of our August collections. As part of their work skills development, the students pack about 1,100 elementary school backpacks." Parishioner Kristin Cheong is a Cedar Lane alum.

Help Families in Need by Filling the Altar Basket and our FISH Bin on the Breezeway

If you are concerned about people in our midst who are going hungry, please consider regularly donating non-perishables to **[FISH](#)** of Howard County. Put groceries and/or toiletries in the altar basket in New Brick or in a marked yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and Parish Hall. FISH provides committed support to select families in need. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

Columbia Community Care Needs Diapers, Recruits Volunteers of All Ages

[Columbia Community Care](#) (CCC) keeps its pantry open each Wednesday, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., in hopes of attracting youth who earn community service credits at their public schools by sorting supplies. Also teens can help at upcoming events that CCC is sponsoring. Find options on the **[CCC Facebook Group](#)**.

Volunteers of all ages help at the pantry, located in the rear of the Long Reach distribution site at Long Reach Village Center, Suite 107, 8775 Cloudleap Ct. Also consider helping at that site on Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or at these sites: Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., and The Barn at Oakland Mills Village Center, 5853 Robert Oliver Place. Go online to **[learn how to volunteer](#)**. Those who need groceries and other necessities can find information by going online to **["Get Help"](#)** on CCC's website. CCC continues to request baby-care items and diapers, especially sizes 4-6. Put these along with sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sundays. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bin and delivers items.

For more Outreach information, please visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/outreach



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

Of Mice and Men... and Football... and Music Ministry... and Stewardship.

Anyone who has been in charge of a group of people trying to do anything knows the importance of good planning. One must consider the task at hand, short-term and long-term goals, the people involved, their abilities and challenges, and the resources available. A good leader has a plan, but also has the ability to anticipate possible snags and has contingency plans for these pitfalls.

As a church music director, I plan the music for all our services, matching the congregational hymns and choral selections to the lectionary, holiday observances, and current events. Because I am a professional organist, I prepare new music and have a repertoire of music that I know that I can choose from when I decide what I will play each week. During choir rehearsals, we learn new music and review pieces that we have sung before so that we are also building a repertoire of music that we can choose from. As any choir member can tell you, we rehearse a lot of pieces each week! We have been rehearsing music for the upcoming Christmas season for several weeks already. But as the saying goes, “the best-laid plans of mice and men often go astray.”

While I map out what I want the choir to sing for months at a time, it doesn't always pan out the way I plan. Sometimes, our volunteer choir has several singers who are out of town for a few weeks. Some weeks, we take a hit from allergy or cold season, sometimes taking out the whole soprano section or making our numbers so low, that it is not feasible to sing what we had planned. A few weeks ago, you may have noticed that we did not sing what was listed in the bulletin. Like a football quarterback, I determined the plan was not going to work and had to call an audible and change the plan at the last minute on a Sunday.

Why call an audible? Why not just do what we planned and present the music, even if we were missing some parts or not confident with the whole song? Our volunteer singers rely on our practices to learn the music and receive guidance on how to practice. They are not professional musicians who have the skills and musical expertise to prepare music on their own. At the same time though, we are not preparing for a concert. We do love music and enjoy singing, but this is about more than just music. The music we share each week is not a performance, it is our offering to God. In this stewardship season, we often hear about tithing and giving of our time and talents. We are told to give and not just what is extra. Proverbs 3:9 says ***“Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.”*** We are told to give our best to the Lord, whether that is in our time, talents, or treasure. I don't want to present any music that is just “ok” or “good enough.” When we present a musical offering, we should present the best we have to offer. Sometimes that means we need to change the plan at the last minute to ensure we give our best to our God.

Larissa Sanders

music@christchurchcolumbia.org

CHRIST CHURCH 2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



USING THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN US,
TO DO THE WORK GOD IS CALLING US TO DO.

Stewardship 2025

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can complete one electronically on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/pledge-2025

Text Giving

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

Online Giving

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

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

Thank you.



Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday is on December 8th, and we will be rehearsing during Youth Faith Formation time (9:30-10:20 a.m.) and want every youth to have an opportunity to serve. Please sign up [here](#) and let us know which role you want to have in it. Thank you!

Can You Help Out on a Saturday?

Our Seminarian Associate, Mike Looney, is looking for youth who can help watch younger kids in our church during the Center for Spiritual Nourishment. This takes place every second Saturday of the month. Even if you can only help once in a while, your assistance will be greatly appreciated! Please sign up [here](#).

Upcoming Events - check the Youth Ministry emails for dates and times

Friendsgiving

Invite your friends to share a turkey dinner at Christ Church! We will have games and carve pumpkins. Please [RSVP to Chaplain Kiona](#).

Wreath-Making Social Fundraiser - December 1

For those not traveling over the Thanksgiving weekend, we are holding our wreath-making fundraiser. Come and make your Advent wreath and enjoy Christmas music and treats. Each wreath kit costs \$50, but is free to those who volunteer for the event. Pre-made holiday wreaths will be available for pick up after the 8 and 9 a.m. services.

Christmas Fundraiser Gathering

Our youth will provide entertainment and babysitting while our Christ Church parents do their Christmas shopping, or go on a date. You can look forward to Christmas cookie decorating, card-making, and ornament crafting. There will be cookies and cider, hot chocolate, Christmas music, and Christmas movies to get us all in the Christmas spirit!

Christ Church's Christmas Eve Pageant

Before we know it, it'll be time for that beloved annual tradition, the Christmas Pageant! We are looking for youth who would like to assist with the Pageant rehearsals. Please inquire with Chaplain Kiona or Mrs. Jenn Atkins.

Principle *by Father Manny*

During my brief stint in law school, I learned something very important about the American experiment. I learned how the Founders thought deeply about fashioning a system whose foundations were strong enough to withstand the divisions that often plague us and ultimately destroy us. They were very much aware of the decadence that feeds on the divisions within. Remember, most of the families of these Founders had fled England during the English Civil War, so they had heard about the horrid stories of that war and learned about the brutal lessons from the not-too-distant past.

One word which was constructive to my understanding of Constitutional Law is ‘Factions.’ And James Madison in Federalist 10 enunciated such a deep understanding of this idea. Below is Madison’s take on factions:

By a faction, I understand a number of citizens, whether amounting to a majority or a minority of the whole, who are united and actuated by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community.

There are two methods of curing the mischiefs of faction: the one, by removing its causes; the other, by controlling its effects.

There are again two methods of removing the causes of faction: the one, by destroying the liberty which is essential to its existence; the other, by giving to every citizen the same opinions, the same passions, and the same interests.

It could never be more truly said than of the first remedy, that it was worse than the disease. Liberty is to faction what air is to fire, an aliment without which it instantly expires. But it could not be less folly to abolish liberty, which is essential to political life, because it nourishes faction, than it would be to wish the annihilation of air, which is essential to animal life, because it imparts to fire its destructive agency.

By this reading, it is safe to argue that Madison and the Founding Fathers of our republic did see factions as a necessary evil. It wasn’t something that they could wish away. They had to embrace it for what it was. Factions by themselves, in fact, guarantee the liberty for which their ancestors fled England and Europe. His writing is an acknowledgment that each of us is uniquely different, and because of our differences, we wouldn’t like the same things. We would want different things.

Hear James Madison again:

*The inference to which we are brought is, that the **CAUSES** of faction cannot be removed, and that relief is only to be sought in the means of controlling its **EFFECTS**.*

We cannot wish our differences away; we can only control the effects of those differences. But how then do we control the effects of our differences?

A few days ago, I read a quote from the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry: “*The principle is the principle. If it isn’t about love, it is not about God.*” That’s the principle. This is the principle that should influence our decision-making process. This is the only principle that should guide us. This is the only principle that should motivate us. This is the only principle that should be our goal. This is the one principle that should shape everything we do. This is the only principle upon which all our worries should rest. This is the only principle that should drive us. And the principle is love.

Listen to how the famous English comedian Charlie Chaplin captures the idea of factions:

‘I don’t want to be an emperor, that’s not my business. I don’t want to rule or conquer anyone. I would like to help everyone if possible - Jew, Gentile, Black, White. We all want to help one another; human beings are like that. We want to live by each other’s happiness,

not by each other's misery. We don't want to hate and despise one another. In this world, there is room for everyone. The good earth is rich and can provide for everyone. The way of life can be free and beautiful. But we have lost the way, greed has poisoned men's souls, has barricaded the world with hate, has goods stepped us into misery and bloodshed. We have developed speed, but we have shut ourselves in. Machinery that gives abundant has left us in want. Our knowledge has made us cynical, our cleverness hard and unkind. We think too much and feel too little. More than machinery, we need humanity, more than cleverness, we need kindness and gentleness.'

Imagine this: on a planet of over 5 billion people, there is no one else exactly like you. Each of us is uniquely different from the other - amazing. Does that not surprise you? And if it doesn't surprise you, does it not humble you? It humbles me to know that I am a unique person among 5 billion people. And it is for this reason that I take nothing for granted. It is for this reason that I honor each person. It is for this reason that I refuse to hate. It is for this reason that I can disagree with you and still love you. It is for this reason that I respect you. It is for this reason that I love you. It is for this reason that I worship God and honor the dignity of every human being.

Yes, we may disagree a whole lot about everything under the sun - that is given. But why should I hate you because I disagree with you? At our Adult Forum this past Sunday, Imam Aamir, who led our discussion on the Islamic perspective of the common good, said something so profound. He said, *'Hate the issues, not the people.'*

I think this idea comes a little close to what the Founders meant when they talked about factions. We cannot all believe in one thing; we should be able to give room for others to believe in the one thing that they want to believe in, or if they don't want to believe in anything at all. We don't have to hate them for believing in something other than what we believe in. And if the principle continues to be the principle, then we should have no problem loving each other whilst vehemently disagreeing with them because we love them - just the way they are. After all, what is the essence of love if I cannot overcome our tribal leanings?

The good thing is, if our factions are about issues and not personalities, we make great strides for ourselves, our communities, and our country. But if they are about personalities, then we reduce ourselves to competitors, and not comrades whose sole aim is the common good of all.

There's no doubt that elections are always competitive. I have run for elections a few times, and in most cases, I embraced the competitive nature of it - even though the elections were about service. It feels good to know that you won an election. But is the feeling in itself the end or be all, if you desire to truly serve?

This is my question: if the goal is to serve the common good, why should elections be competitive to the point where they bring out the worst in us? Why should it divide us?

I am glad and thankful that I live in a country where every two or four years I get the chance to pick someone that I like to serve all of us by serving the common good. I am glad that each of us is free enough to choose someone different to represent us, whether in local, state, or national elections.

And so during this election cycle, you and I have the opportunity to choose - to choose is one of the blessings of living in a 'factionusque' society. I know the people I would be choosing but I am not in the position to tell you who to choose. As Aristotle said, *"Choice, not chance, determines your destiny."* So I encourage you to make the choice that you believe will not only determine your destiny but the destiny of your children and millions of your neighbors. Make a choice that reinforces your belief in humanity and love.

Go vote! But remember, the principle still remains the principle - if it isn't about love, it isn't about God.

Manny +

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Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre (*Junior Warden*)

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Deepti Jackson (*Youth Liaison*)

• Ronald Baran • John Curley • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick • Ed

Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector Emeritus*