



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST
THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, January 11, 2026 | First Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 29:11

*"The LORD gives strength
to his people; the LORD
blesses his people with
peace."*

Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church:
www.christchurchcolumbia.org.

This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

PRELUDE |

OPENING HYMN 497 | How Bright Appears the Morning Star

Wie schön leuchtet

1. How bright appears the Morning Star, with mercy beam-ing.
 2. Though cir-cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a.
 3. Re-joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re-ply; with praise, ye sin-ners,
 from a-far; the host of heaven re-joic-es;
 pit-ying eye up-on his help-less crea-ture;
 fill the sky, for this his In-car-na-tion.
 O right-eous Branch, O Jes-se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and
 the whole cre-a-tion's Head and Lord, by high-est ser-a-on, ride on, great
 In-car-nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, great
 Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic-es:
 phim a-dored, as-sumed our ve-ry na-ture;
 Con-quer-or, till all know thy sal-va-tion.
 Je-sus, Je-sus! Ho-ly, ho-ly, yet most low-ly,
 Je-sus, grant us, through thy mer-it, to in-her-it
 A-men, a-men! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
 draw thou near us; great Em-man-u-el, come and hear us.
 thy sal-va-tion; hear, O hear our sup-pli-ca-tion.
 Praise be giv-en ev-er-more, by earth and hea-ven.

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY |

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
People: Amen

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
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you alone are the Ho - ly One,
you alone 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.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 42:1-9

Reader: *A reading from Isaiah.*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

(continued)

I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 29 | *Afferte Domino (Hymn to the Lord of the storm)*



Ascribe unto the Lord, O you ¹ mighty, |
ascribe unto the Lord worship and ¹ strength. ||

Give the Lord the honor due unto his ¹ Name; |
worship the Lord with holy ¹ worship. ||

It is the Lord that commands the ¹ waters; |
it is the glorious God that makes the ¹ thunder. ||

It is the Lord that rules the sea; ¹ the voice of the Lord is mighty in its ¹ working; |
the voice of the Lord is a glorious ¹ voice. ||

The voice of the Lord breaks the ¹ cedar trees; |
indeed, the Lord breaks the cedars of ¹ Lebanon. ||

He makes them also to skip like a ¹ calf, |
Lebanon also, and Sirion, like a young ¹ ox. ||

The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire; ¹ the voice of the Lord shakes the ¹ wilderness; |
indeed, the Lord shakes the wilderness of ¹ Kadesh. ||

The voice of the Lord makes the deer to bring forth young, and strips the forests ¹ bare; |
in his temple all cry, ¹ “Glory.” ||

The Lord sits above the flood ¹ waters, |
and the Lord remains King for ¹ ever. ||

The Lord shall give strength to his ¹ people; |
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of ¹ peace. ||

THE EPISTLE | Acts 10:34-43

Reader: *A reading from Acts.*

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN 139 | When Jesus Went to Jordan's Stream

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam



1 When Je - sus went to Jor - dan's stream his Fa - ther's will o -
2 The Ho - ly Spi - rit then was shown, a dove on him de -
3 He came by wa - ter and by blood to heal our lost con -



bey - ing, and was bap - tized by John, there came
scend - ing; the Tri - une God is thus made known
di - tion; he cleans - es, rec - on - ciles to God,



a voice from hea - ven say - ing, "This is my dear be -
in Christ as love un - end - ing. He taught, he healed, he
and gives the Great Com - mis - sion. Then let us not heed



lov - èd Son up - on whom rests my fa - - vor."
raised the dead, yet, in his great en - deav - - or
world - ly lies nor rest up - on our mer - - it,



And till God's will is ful - ly done he will not bend or
to save us, his own blood was shed; but death could hold him
but trust in Christ who will bap - tize with wa - ter and the



wa - ver, for he is Christ the Sa - - vior.
nev - er. He rose, and lives for ev - - er.
Spi - rit that we may life in - he - rit.

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 3:13-17

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness,
Make Thy way plain before Thy face.
For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord only, that
mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

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

THE SERMON | Leah Chrest

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 |

Our God is the Creator of all and the center of our Being; with Him is order, purpose, unity and peace. He has invested His loving care in all of humanity. His knowledge is boundless. He has created time within eternity. He has instilled within His Creation marvel, wonder and hope. **GLORY TO GOD**

May we as believers in Jesus Christ continue to receive the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. May we honor God in all that we do and that we say. We are no longer ruled by law, but by grace. Let us follow the Lord, expecting to see great things transpire. **GLORY TO GOD**

The voice of the Lord is heard throughout the earth. We pray for our international, national, state and local governmental leaders. We are an international parish with members from four continents and more than 12 countries. Acknowledging our worldwide Anglican communion, we offer our prayers for Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America and in our own Diocese of Maryland, we ask God's blessing for our sister parishes. We ask our Lord's blessing on the leadership of our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. **GLORY TO GOD**

We express our joy in welcoming visitors and newcomers to Christ Church. Sharing our time of worship and praise is a wonderful opportunity. We hope that our service has been enriching and challenges us to grow in our Spiritual life. We invite all to further involvement in our Parish and in service to our community. We extend our friendship and thanksgiving for your presence today. **GLORY TO GOD**

Lord, to you, the author of compassion, we offer our prayers for those who are ill, especially MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Clarence, Diane, Natasha, Mildred, Nancy, Patrick, Winifred, Priscilla, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry. May your healing presence bring wholeness and peace to their lives. **GLORY TO GOD**

We remember those who have died, especially David Attoe and those you now name. May those who mourn be comforted in their grief by Christ's eternal love and care. **GLORY TO GOD**

Lord, we also celebrate occasions of joy within our Church community, especially the birthdays of Monica, Deepti, Caleb, Diya, Joe, Vernon, Greta, Brett, John, Virginia & Ronald, the baptismal anniversaries of Vincent, Alicia, Ava & Jeannette. May we always give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. **GLORY TO GOD**

May we listen to the voice of the Lord, as He comes to us in unexpected times and places, and may we respond in awe and obedience to follow His direction in our lives. **GLORY TO GOD**

AMEN

CONFSSION & ABSOLUTION |

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

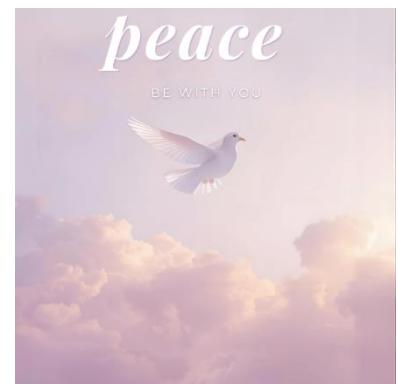
All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your 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 ANTHEM | Christmas Joy

Mark Schweizer

Please scan to give.



DOXOLOGY 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 B |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, heav - en and earth are full,

full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

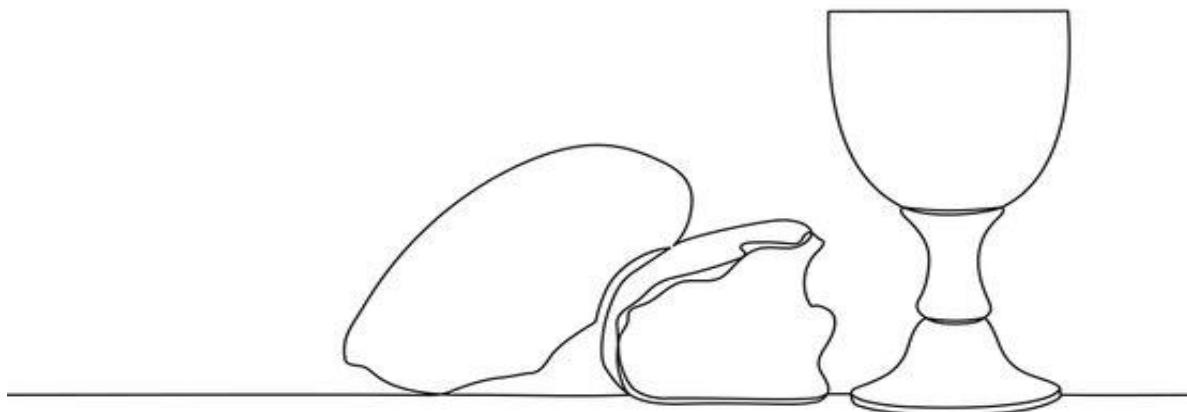
Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

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

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



FRACTION ANTHEM S164 | Jesus, Lamb of God

from Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Jesus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Jesus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

COMMUNION HYMN 132 | When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known

Erbalt uns, Herr

1 When Christ's ap - pear - ing was made known, King He - rod
 2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far and fol - lowed
 3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood the heaven - ly
 4 Oh, what a mir - a - cle di - vine, when wa - ter
 5 All glo - ry, Je - sus, be to thee for this thy

1 trem - bled for his throne; but he who of - fers
 2 on his guid - ing star; by light their way to
 3 Lamb in meek - ness stood, that he, to whom no
 4 red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and
 5 glad e - piph - a - ny: whom with the Fa - ther

1 heaven - ly birth sought not the king - doms of this earth.
 2 Light they trod, and by their gifts con - fessed their God.
 3 sin was known, might cleanse his peo - ple from their own.
 4 forth it flowed in streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Ghost for ev - er - more.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

THE BLESSING |

The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen

CLOSING HYMN 135 | Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Salzburg

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

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicist:

Lector/Reader: Ron Baran

Ushers: Michon Semon, Nancy Winchester

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes : Lesley Lokko, Anya Sheriff, Mikailu Sheriff

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

Chalicist: Theo Jones-Quartey

Lector/Reader: Theo Jones-Quartey

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,

Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Tellers: Amanda Kirkpatrick, Andy DeLong

PARISH CALENDAR JANUARY 11 – 17, 2026

Sunday, January 11

All Day	Fr. Manny out (Day 9)
8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am– 9:30 am	Coffee Hour
9:00 am– 9:30 am	Family Worship – New Brick, UL
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM) – Zoom & Parish Hall, CR
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, January 12

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

Tuesday, January 13

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Yoga Camp – Online

Wednesday, January 14

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Refugee Leadership Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, January 15

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:30 – 9:030 pm	Choir Rehearsal
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, January 16

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

Saturday, January 17

11:00 am – 2:00 pm	BSO Rehearsal – New Brick
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep

Thanks for Your Submissions to the 2026 LMB... Keep 'Em Coming!

For nearly 25 years, Christ Church has been publishing an annual Lenten Meditation Booklet and distributing it to our parishioners on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The LMB is created with love and designed to assist us all in times of quiet contemplation, preparing ourselves for rebirth and renewal at Easter. Poems, quotes, stories of reflection, images, prayers, and inspirational pieces by writers or theologians - they all come together to make up this special booklet - one that you can take home with you and use each day throughout the season. The 2026 Spiritual Life Theme is *Building Relationships through Love*, and you can learn more on our website's SLC page - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-life-commission.

To accomplish the LMB in time, we must have yours by Sunday, February 1. That gives us less than one month for submissions, so please don't delay. You can submit these by name or anonymously - your choice. If you need help getting started, visit christchurchcolumbia.org/lenten-meditations and check out past reflections. Submit yours by email to SL@christchurchcolumbia.org or place it in the Spiritual Life mailbox in the Church Office. Questions? Speak with Ellen Hoke at church or email the address above.



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

Sunday School Returns this Weekend

Sunday School returns today, January 11. If you have any questions, please email us at sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church's 2026 Pledge Envelopes are Here

For those who have requested or need them, 2026 pledge envelopes are now available in New Brick. Please stop by the table in the Tower Room (front entrance) of the Narthex at church on Sunday to collect yours. This will help us save postage from sending them. Thank you.

Of course, you can also set up safe and secure online giving if you haven't already. Email info@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we'll send you instructions on how to do so.

Inviting You to Join Our Monthly Outreach Meeting this Monday, Jan. 12

Learn many ways to help others by joining us remotely for the Outreach Commission meeting on Monday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Our mission has a local, national, and international scope. Look for Church notices about online activities. See you on Zoom!

Help Grassroots by Providing Food for the Homeless on Monday, Jan. 12

On the second Monday of each month, Christ Church serves a hot midday meal at the Day Resource Center (DRC) that is operated by the [Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center](#). A team led by Outreach member Shahra Toth makes side dishes and desserts that we serve in person after car-pooling to the Leola Dorsey Center in Jessup.

To help on Monday, Jan. 12, please check our [DRC online signup form](#), which describes the procedure. Drop-off time is 12:45 p.m. in the parking lot near Old Brick for DRC's side dishes. We last participated on Dec. 8 (see photos). Your donations and Vestry-approved funds pay for the fried-chicken entree. Thank you!

During the winter months, Christ Church has paused our previous delivery of an evening meal at the Grassroots Emergency Shelter. Other congregations involved in the Code Blue and Cold Weather Shelter programs are handling those duties instead. Mark your calendars: Our next date for an evening meal drop-off and delivery of dishes will be Monday, April 13. If you want to plan ahead, go to our [Grassroots online signup form](#).

Make "A Healthier You in 2026" Happen – Saturdays in January

We all know that it's the time of year when we make New Year's resolutions - and we also know how difficult it can be to maintain them - so let's try and make it a little easier to do so. Jane Adams, Christ Church parishioner and certified instructor, will be teaching a basic exercise class at Christ Church this month, a way to comfortably and safely get your body accustomed to a path of fitness and good health. She will provide resistance bands and all other accessories needed for this hour-long session; all you need to do is wear comfortable sportswear and sneakers, and bring a bottle of water.

Gather with us this Saturday morning at 10:30 in the lower level of the Church Office/Parish Hall Building, and get started on the road to exercise under the guidance of a professional who can help you listen to and respect your body's sensations, adjusting your practice without forcing it. With regular exercise, your physical and mental abilities will naturally and steadily improve.

MOCC Monthly Breakfast - January 17

Join us for French toast and fellowship - the MOCC breakfast is a monthly tradition. This month, it will take place on Saturday, January 17, at Silver Diner, located at 8250 Gateway Overlook Drive in Columbia. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome. See you there!

And be sure to catch the final few days of our *Random Act of Kindness* that helps support and provide comfort to foster children in the Outreach section of this newsletter.

Theology on Tap is Back! - January 21

That's right - Theology on Tap, our fun and much-loved fellowship event, returns for 2026, and in January, it'll take place on Wednesday, January 21st. If you are not familiar with Theology on Tap, this is a time where adults gather for fellowship in a casual, fun environment. This season, we'll meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd for great food, drink, and conversation. Topics can range from current to historical events; nothing is off the table - we welcome all ideas - and everything should inspire lively, insightful dialogue. All adults are welcome and encouraged to join us, and be sure to invite your neighbors and friends as well. If you have any questions, speak to Ed Chrzanowski or any MOCC member at church, and then meet us at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia for a fun evening! You can also email ToT@christchurchcolumbia.org if that's easier, as we'll answer any questions.

Claggett Center Retreats - Early 2026

Next February, the Diocese of Maryland will host two retreats at the Claggett Center to gather and connect, and to form new friendships and nurture old ones. First, from January 30 - February 1 is a men's retreat, *What Does It Mean to Be a Man in 2026? How Can Men Find and Make Community Now?* and later that month, from February 20-22, is a women's retreat, *Who Is My Neighbor? Loving All in Divided Times*. Both are filled with workshops and keynote speakers, and aim to leave participants connected, cared for, and inspired.

Registration information, event details, and other information can be found on the Diocese website - visit here for the men's retreat and here for the women's weekend.

Wear RED for Heart Health – February 8

Wear your favorite red on Sunday, February 8th, in support of National Heart Health Month. This is an important awareness event, as heart disease remains a leading killer in the country - yet studies show that 80% of cases can be prevented. Five steps to help prevent a heart attack are 1) eat healthily, 2) get active, 3) stop smoking, 4) achieve a healthy weight, and 5) take medications as prescribed.

Come to church that day in your favorite red items, and be sure to email Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org a photo of you in red so he can include you in the 2026 *Wear Red for Heart Health* photo collage on our website and social media later that week.

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. 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 817 6254 3177, and the Passcode is CP. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Join the Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

If you ever thought about giving Choir a shot, how about now? We have rehearsals in New Brick on Thursday evenings—

Handbell Choir at 6:45 and Adult Choir at 7:30—and all adults are welcome to join us. Whether you read music or not, have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit full-time or not, there's a place for you in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If interested, please speak with Larissa at church, email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org, or stop by New Brick on any Thursday evening.

Find a Ministry that's Right for You!

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the vibrant, active, dedicated parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others. None of these requires weekly assistance - they 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 interested in the Altar Guild, please email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org, or inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org for Inreach (or [visit their website page](#)), and if you're interested in assisting as a Teller, LEV, or Acolyte, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Youth & Family Ministry Newsletter Submissions

The next edition of Christ Church's Youth and Family Newsletter will be published in January, so if you have any announcements, news articles, funny stories, holiday memories, or upcoming events that you want to share with everyone, send them to us! We'd also love to use any Christmas photos you want to share - whether you took a trip somewhere, or had a nice holiday at home, let us know. You can email your items to Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org or send them to your Sunday School or Youth Ministry leader any time between now and Sunday, January 18th.

Read to Our Sunday School Children

Do you love sharing stories and reading? Did you know that we have volunteers who read a Bible story to our youngest children in the nursery? We can always use more, and we welcome anyone - young, or young at heart - to participate in this ministry. We have books and children's Bibles, or you can bring your favorite story to share. There is no preparation needed; you can do it as often or as little as you wish, and it only takes ten minutes on a Sunday morning. If you are interested, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jenn Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net or speak with any Sunday School volunteer.

Register for Christ Church Sunday School

Christ Church's Sunday School ministry believes in growing a deep and wide faith in kids through education in the Gospel, serving our community, and fellowship with one another. From the earliest age, we want kids to know the fundamental truths of God's Word and how to apply them in their daily lives. If you've been coming to Sunday School this fall, you don't need to register again. But if you are new to Christ Church or haven't registered before, please visit www.cecevents.org/SundaySchool-2526 to learn more and complete our registration form (one form per child) so we can reserve space for your children. And if you have any questions or need assistance, please email us at sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Bring Non-Perishable Foods, Household Supplies and Diapers for CCC/FISH

Columbia Community Care (CCC) has reopened after shutting down operations over the holidays. Distributions are on Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or while supplies last. The three distribution sites are located at Long Reach Village Center, Suite 107, 8775 Cloudleap Ct., Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., and The Barn at Oakland Mills Village Center, 5853 Robert Oliver Place, all in Columbia, MD. People who require home deliveries should go to "[Get Help](#)" on CCC's website to make a request. FISH and CCC partnered last year and merged their pantries. FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label "FISH/CCC". Please bring baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes.



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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 Lipedé, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

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