



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:30 A.M.

Sunday, July 19, 2026 | Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

“Teach me more about you,
how you work and how you move,
so that I can walk onward
in your truth until everything within me brings
honor to your name.”

PSALMS 86:11 TPT

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 470 | There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Beecher

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven;
3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sure of the mind;

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.

There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more gra-cies for the good;
There is plen-ti-ful re-demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we should take him at his word;

there is mer-cy with the Sa-vior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
there is joy for all the mem-bers in the sor-rows of the Head.
and our life would be thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

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 | Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, AMEN.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19

Reader: A reading from Wisdom of Solomon.

There is no god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly; for your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose.

Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The people stand as able.

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

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

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

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 |

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all baptized, our bishops, priests and deacons;
Lord, hear our prayer.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
Lord, hear our prayer.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
Lord, hear our prayer.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Lord, hear our prayer.

We praise you for the great triumph of your love;
Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **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.



Please scan to give.

1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
 2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us

ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
 learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,

for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
 with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!

Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

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:

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

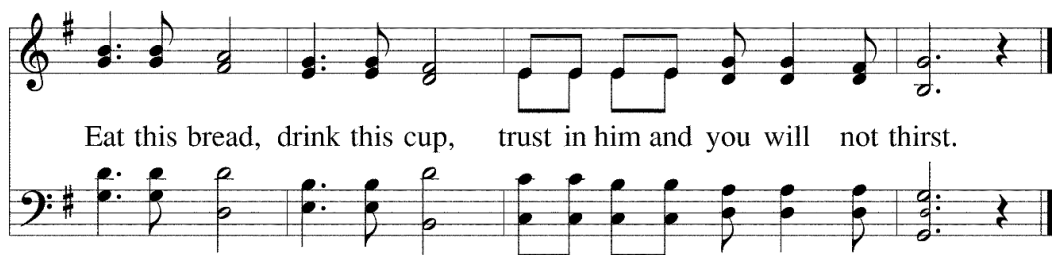
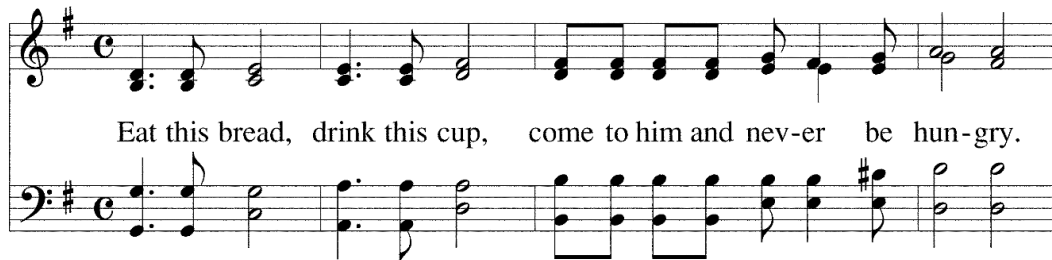
Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

COMMUNION HYMN | Eat This Bread

Jacques Berthier

Refrain



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 | In Christ There Is No East or West

McKee

Unison or harmony

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in
2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-
3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

3
him no South or North, but one great fel - low -
e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther
him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

6
ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

THE DISMISSAL |

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

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Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild

Cara Ocampo, Jan DeBoissiere, Maria Rios, Virginia Jarrett

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Aston Fox, Ava Fox, James Mercer

Chalicians: Ivy Amponsah, Alex Amponsah

Lector/Reader: Alex Amponsah

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

Tellers

Jenny Cecil

PARISH CALENDAR JULY 19 – 25, 2026

Sunday, July 19

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist
9:00 am	Family Service
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 am	Consultant Presentation in New Brick
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, July 20

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, July 21

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

Wednesday, July 22

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
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Thursday, July 23

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 24

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Friday Faith Film: WHAT DREAMS MAY COME – Parish Hall, LL

Saturday, July 25

8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild prep
2:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



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

This Sunday, We Discuss a Path Forward for Christ Church - July 19

Over the past several weeks, we have been working with a consultant, and they will share their findings with the Christ Church congregation this Sunday, July 19. That morning, there will be an abbreviated 10:30 worship, followed by an 11:00 presentation, so we encourage everyone to come to New Brick to hear their findings. Their presentation will be followed by a Q&A, where we open the floor for discussion among all of us. The presentation will be captured on YouTube for those who may not be able to join us.

Three Films in Two Days – August 7 & 8

In early August, George Toth presents a two-day film feature fest in the lower level of the church office building. Bring some shareable treats on Friday evening and watch *Show Me the Father* (**trailer**), a film that explores the lives of five fathers and how their lives are each guided by forming a relationship with God. Then the next morning, a double feature from the *Miracle* series is shown, so gather in the same space (the first film starts at 9:10). Info on these films is posted around the campus, so read about them, grab some movie munchies, and stop by for two enlightening films.

Parish Festival and Ministry Fair - August 30

The Christ Church Parish Festival & Ministry Fair, an annual tradition, is back! There's only one worship service that day, August 30, so join us in the New Brick sanctuary at 10:00 a.m., followed by a fantastic festival of faith, food, fellowship, and FUN! We'll have BBQ goodies, fun for all ages, and an opportunity to learn about the many ministries that make Christ Church a very special place. Ministry leaders, this is your opportunity to speak with every parishioner about your beloved ministry and get them to join and assist your group in the coming year. If you have had a ministry trifold or flyer in the past, please prepare any new information to send to Chris by Sunday, August 16, so that he can get you an updated document in time for the Fair. And if your ministry would like a flyer or trifold but hasn't had one before, please email him at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org so he can arrange a time to discuss it with you.

The 2026 Flea Market - September 19

Soon, it'll be time for that wonderful Columbia summertime tradition, the Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC. This year, it's on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date 9/26), and takes place on the Christ Church campus. And vendors - **you can reserve your spaces now!** This community event is open to the public, so come see what your neighbors have to offer. There will be housewares, jewelry, books, clothing, tasty baked treats, grilled goodies, and so much more! Whether you're a vendor or a participant, you can learn more on our website, which goes live today - **www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market**

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

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

Noonday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

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

Let Love Lead You to Consider Joining the Christ Church Vestry

The nomination of candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry has begun! This year, four (4) slots are open, and if you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and a giving member of record at Christ Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. We need your unique gifts to help us, so we hope you'll consider submitting your name. The election will be held at our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, October 18. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing **nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org**, and they will let you know what's needed for this process. You can also pick up a special ***Let Love Lead*** flyer in the Narthex, **or download a copy [here](#)**. It outlines the responsibilities and commitments of a Vestry member to help you guide your decision. Thank you for your consideration.

Let Your Love for Christ Church Show! Pick Up One of Our New Magnets

Bring a part of Christ Church into your home with our beautiful new custom magnets! We are offering two unique 3" x 5" designs: our classic CEC shield, and the vibrant 300th Anniversary *Learning from Our History, Living into Our Future* tree. Perfect for your refrigerator, filing cabinet, car, or any magnetic surface, these heavy-duty magnets are a wonderful way to show your parish pride and support our community. Each magnet is yours for only \$6, or you can get one of each for just ten dollars! Speak with Yetti at church, or stop by the office to pick yours up. You can pay in advance - **[simply go to Realm](#)** and write "Magnet" in the memo line - or pay by cash or check when you get yours. Thank you for helping promote our amazing church while supporting the 300th Anniversary celebration!

Help Shape Our Littlest Hearts!

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

Marcia Davenport at church or email revmarcia@christchurchcolumbia.org. You can also call the Church Office to see when she is in her office.

An Organ Donation is Needed for a Member of Our Vestry

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

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

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

Provide Eucharist to Those Unable to Travel to Church as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor

This year, we have had more people request **Communion to You**, a service Christ Church provides to bring Eucharist to homebound parishioners. To fulfill this need, we require a few more Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV). If you're interested in helping with this vital ministry, please speak with Kathy Lyon at church or contact the Church Office. And if you require this service for yourself or someone you know, **please fill out this brief form**, or call the Church Office. We will ensure that Communion gets there.

We Always Need More Help at Christ Church

There are many roles in the church that most people don't think of regularly – or at all. However, it requires a great deal of work by many people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish it is. You can help your church by volunteering as a Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, serving in the Inreach Ministry, or assisting the Christ Church Altar Guild. None of these requires weekly assistance - both only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those specifically interested in the Altar Guild, email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Pam Foreman or any other Altar Guild member setting up on Sunday mornings. If you want to know more about the Inreach Ministry, please speak with Michon Semon at church, complete the brief form at cecevents.org/Inreach, or email us at inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we will get you started. For those interested in assisting as a Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Yetti.

Coffee Hour Signups

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

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

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

Important Traffic Change for Those West of Route 29

For those parishioners who live west of Route 29, this might affect your travel: the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration has closed the eastbound Broken Land Parkway ramp to southbound US 29. It began this past Tuesday, July 7, so crews can realign the ramp to connect with Symphony Woods Road. The ramp is expected to be closed until November, weather permitting. **You can read their entire press release here.**

300th Anniversary – July's History Teasers

In anticipation of our monumental **300th Anniversary Celebration in 2027**, the Communications and History/Race & Slavery arms of the 300th Anniversary committees began sharing insightful **History Teasers** with the parish. These Teasers began earlier in the spring with bits about **Rev. Richard Henry Waters**, followed by **"The Role of a Vestryman during the Early Years."** and **Slavery & Discrimination in Howard County and Christ Church**. During worship this past Sunday, Committee member Tom Baxter elaborated on a few more History Teasers, **and you can now read his complete PDF here.** **ENJOY!**

Grassroots Marks 18th Anniversary of Serving the Homeless in Jessup

On July 9, the **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center** took note of a milestone and thanked Christ Church and other faith-based partners for their role in helping the homeless at the Day Resource Center (DRC) in Jessup.

"The DRC opened on July 9, 2008, in partnership with our faith communities, local government and foundations to serve homeless men and women who slept outside along Route One in Howard County. The homeless consumers were involved in determining the services, hours of operation and policies. The DRC provides hot meals, showers, laundry, access to social services, case management, a food and clothing pantry and other critical resources to anyone in need, no questions asked. In 2017, it moved to its current location at the Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center." Grassroots posted on **its Facebook page**: "We also want to thank some of our amazing faith partners who have been with us since the very beginning...." Among 12 Howard County congregations, Christ Church is one of four Episcopal parishes that are listed.

On the second Monday of each month, Christ Church provides a hot midday meal of fried chicken, side dishes and desserts that a team led by Outreach member Shahra Toth serves in person. On Monday, July 13, we had a total of nine volunteers at the DRC – including a mother and son duo (see photos). Many more parishioners helped behind the scenes in their own kitchens or by bringing fruit, paper goods, or pantry items such as hearty soups.

And thanks to you, the homeless and low-income residents who depend upon the DRC's pantry could choose shelf-stable milk boxes in either plain or chocolate flavors that the team delivered on Monday. The Outreach Commission approved spending \$170 for a total of 180 8-oz boxes of milk. These were purchased with funds donated to the church by parishioners who give to "General Outreach." A hearty thanks!

In its post, Grassroots described the growing demand: "In Fiscal Year 2026 (which ended on June 30), the Day Resource Center served 1,616 individuals – more than any year since it opened and 4% more than last year! In fact, when we opened 18 years ago, we served just 30-50 people each year. In addition, we gave away more than 150,000 food items and nearly 25,000 articles of clothing, including shirts, shoes, jackets, and new underwear and socks. We were able to do this thanks to the support of our many, many donors, our dedicated team members, and 769 volunteers who gave 8,900 hours of time."

Christ Church next provides meals for the homeless at the DRC and at Grassroots' Emergency Shelter on Monday, Aug. 10. For details, please check our **DRC online signup form** or our **Grassroots online signup form**. For pantry needs, items can be brought ahead of time to the Parish Hall kitchen. Find Grassroots' **current needs list** on our signups under "Related Files."

Kentucky Residents Praise DreamBuilders Crew, Including a Christ Church Teen

A team of more than 30 adults and youth – including Mikailu Sheriff, representing Christ Church – completed a blitz-build of three homes from June 21-27 on the most recent **DreamBuilders'** trip to flood-damaged Hazard, Kentucky. Local broadcaster WYMT-TV featured their work in **a June 22, 2026 video report** that shows Mikailu in the center of a group of three teens, one of whom spoke for the group about helping the future homeowners. "Even if I don't know them, I know I'm just improving their lives, and giving them kind of a fresh new start."

The local nonprofit partner posted photos on **its Facebook page** of grateful homeowners along with dozens of photos of work in progress. The Housing Development Alliance (HDA) also expressed thanks: "DreamBuilders, thank you for coming back for the fourth year in a row to serve our community! Your work makes a real difference for families here, and we are grateful for your friendship, faithfulness, and hard work." The gratitude can be shared more widely as Christ Church supported the trip with \$750 in Vestry-approved Outreach funds, parishioners' individual support, and by sales of DreamBuilders goods (We will next sell coffee and tea at the Parish Festival on Aug. 30). Many thanks!

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

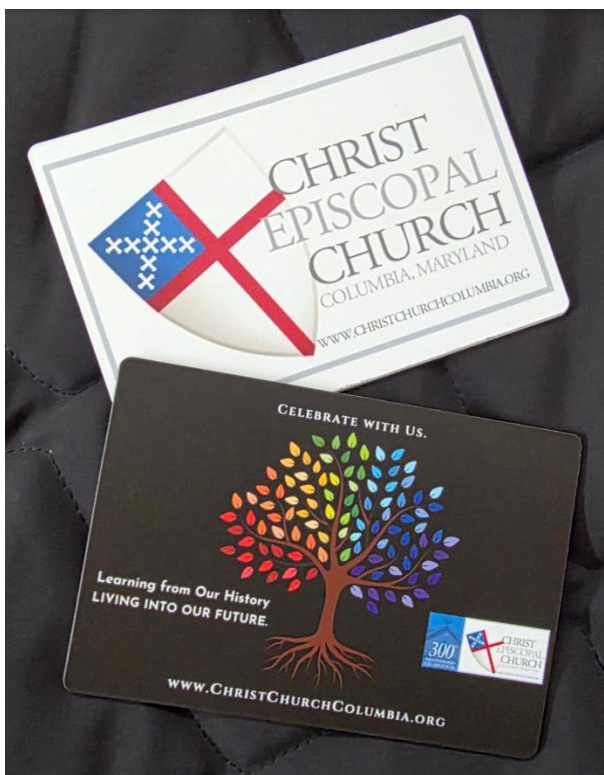
FISH and **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) partnered last year and merged pantries. CCC continues to hand out food by home delivery to Howard County residents and at three sites on Saturday mornings, except on holiday weekends. For information, go online to **Get Help**.

FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label "FISH/CCC". Please bring baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes.

FISH will continue to provide telephone support to Howard County residents to provide guidance and financial support because the personal touch is very important when people are in crisis. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong or email **andydelong.fish@gmail.com**.

You could be the one to lend a helping hand by lending an ear! As a phone volunteer, you can help from your home by giving just one day a month to assist those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. Thank you!

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6800 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org
office@christchurchcolumbia.org

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