



The Clarion

Christ Episcopal Church

601 East Walnut Street
Springfield, Missouri 65806
(417) 866-5133

May 2021

The Messenger of Good News

www.christepiscopalchurch.com

Next Steps for Christ Church Attendance

by the Clergy and Staff

“Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

These simple words proclaim our Christian hope: as God has raised his son Jesus from the tomb, so he will raise us from death and will give us the gift of eternal life in his name.

We delight in this future hope and in a more immediate one: the eradication of the Coronavirus and end of the pandemic.

We are thankful that we have witnessed a steady decline in COVID-19 infections in the last several weeks as people continue to observe safety protocols and as increasing numbers of us receive vaccinations.

It is now time for the church to look to the next stage in our science-based, gradual reopening plan.

After the City of Springfield moved to its “yellow” phase of its Road to Recovery Plan, the clergy, staff, wardens, and vestry of Christ Episcopal Church considered our next steps regarding in-person worship.

We reviewed the updated city guidelines and consulted medical professionals in the church before revising our existing reopening plan. Our updated plan, which was approved by the vestry, will increase the number of people who may gather for worship while maintaining our safety protocols. The following plan will be in effect here, beginning Sunday, April 25, 2021:

- Occupancy at the Sunday services will be increased from 40 to 75, in addition to ministers and members of choral ensembles.

- Registrations are still required and can be made by going online or calling the church office.
- All church pews will be available for seating, but physical distancing will be encouraged outside of family units.
- Face masks and frequent hand washing/sanitizing will be required while inside the building.
- Temperature checks, for now, will still be taken at the door, and members will be urged to monitor their own health status and stay home if they have a fever or feel unwell.
- Holy Communion will continue to be in one-kind only, per Bishop Field’s dispensation and direction.
- The 10 a.m. Sunday service will still be livestreamed on the church’s YouTube page, with a link to the stream on the church’s Facebook page and website.

Christ Church will follow these guidelines through the summer, until and unless the city of Springfield issues new directives, which might cause further changes in our plan.

Please understand that our decisions are based on a desire to provide worship opportunities for as many people as possible while providing for the safety and well-being of those who gather.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Father Ken, Senior Warden Mary Chiles or Junior Warden Nancy Hopkins, or a vestry member.

Rejoicing in the resurrection, we pray that God be with us on our continued journey to recovery.

Online Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning live at 10 a.m. on our YouTube Channel, Christ Episcopal Church Springfield, MO.

In-Person Worship

Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8 a.m. and Rite II at 10 a.m. Please reserve in advance at ChristEpiscopalChurch.com and click “Plan A Visit” or call the church office at (417) 866-5133.

Evening Prayer live on Facebook daily at 5:30.

Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday, 8 a.m.—5 p.m.
(Closed for lunch 12 p.m.—1 p.m.)

Stay Signed up for In-person Worship



With a decrease in COVID-19 cases, we are thrilled to now be able to accommodate up to 75 people in our sanctuary. But even with the relaxed restrictions, we ask that you please continue to sign up for worship.

You can easily do so by visiting our website at ChristEpiscopalChurch.com and click the “Plan A Visit” button in the center of the home page. If you have trouble signing up, please call the church office at 866-5133 and we will help.

Father Ken Announces his September Retirement

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

In this Easter season, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our hope of new life now and forever.

I am writing here about new life—yours and mine by God’s grace.

With joy and sadness, I am announcing my intention to retire this September as rector of Christ Church after more than 25 years of service.

You have been (and will always be) a great blessing to me and my family.

There is much to celebrate because of your faithfulness and the grace of God at work in, among and through you. Thank you.

I also thank Penny for her support of me and my ministry over these many years. I could not have done the work of ordained ministry for 35 years without her.

I am grateful for her faithfulness to God, her wisdom and encouragement—and her sacrifices, especially of time with me.

I will still be your rector until September and, until then, will continue to strive to do my best for you as your spiritual leader.

After my departure, the vestry will be in charge of the parish and will work with the Bishop’s office for a smooth transition to new leadership. We will keep you informed.

As for my future, I have been awarded a teaching assistantship in the English Department at Missouri State University, beginning in the spring of 2022. (I earned my master’s in English there in 2013.)

As a teaching assistant, I will teach two courses per semester, will take further graduate courses in the department and will pursue my own writing projects. Possibilities for further service to God and to his people are also in process.

I welcome your prayers. You will be in mine.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*Submitted by
The Rev. Kenneth L. Chumbley
Rector*



Father Ken and Penny’s daughter Clare, and grandson Damian

A Big Bissett Thank You



A very big thank you to everyone who donated to OneSolePurpose at Bissett! Thanks to your generous donations we have reached our goal, and every child will be receiving new tennis shoes this month. We are still in need of volunteers to help measure and distribute shoes for our big day.

We will be at Bissett on Friday, May 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. We need 12 to 15 volunteers this year since we are completing this event in one day instead of two.

We will continue to be safe and provide masks, hand sanitizer, water and we hope to be able to be outside (weather permitting). Again, thank you for your generosity, and know each child will be smiling, because of you!

Please contact me if you are available to help at kathysheppard1950@gmail.com or call 861-9971.

Submitted by Kathy Sheppard

*Happy
Mother's Day*



May 9

The Day of Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts in the church year and is the time when we commemorate and acknowledge the gift of the Holy Spirit into our lives.

For many Christians, the day is celebrated as the birthday of the church when the disciples, filled with the Spirit of God, began their mission to proclaim the gospel

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Pentecost (continued from pg. 2)

throughout the whole world. It is also one of the most appropriate occasions for baptisms because of the strong thematic connection that baptism has with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost itself is actually the Eighth Sunday of the Easter season, the last of the Great Fifty Days which started on the Feast of the Resurrection. The season of Easter is sometimes referred to as a “week of weeks, plus one”—seven Sundays (a “week” of Sundays), plus the eighth Sunday and 50th day in the season, Pentecost. This numbering of weeks harkens to the seven days of Creation, and then it includes one more day, the eighth day, recalling a new Creation



brought forth through the death and rising again of Jesus Christ.

The celebration of Pentecost, therefore, can be viewed as two church holidays in one: it is not only the principal feast to celebrate the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church, but it is also the final day of our Great Fifty Days of Easter to commemorate the Resurrection. Thus it functions as both a beginning and an end, just as baptisms held on this day—and every day—signify a death to sin and new life in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Submitted by
The Rev. Mark W. Ohlmeier
Assistant Rector*

The Importance of Like, Share, and Subscribe

Christ Church was no stranger to social media this past year. Between all the virtual worship videos, photos, ministry testimonies, and Evening Prayer videos streamed by our wonderful clergy and lay volunteers we have created hundreds of videos and social media posts.

As more people are vaccinated and we return to a sense of normal worship, we hope to see many of our members returning to safe in-person worship. But we also would like to encourage new people to join us, and there is something you can do to help.

As we post more content to Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram you can further our mission “To know Christ” and especially to “make Christ known” by sharing, liking, and subscribing to our content. The more “likes” and

subscribers we have, the better our chances of generating more traffic to Christ Church. We have more than quadrupled our YouTube subscribers in the last year, and it has greatly helped the channel. Facebook has also seen an uptick in members and engagement.

Sharing content is also a fantastic feature and probably our best tool. There is something special about the Episcopal Church, and especially Christ Church, that warrants being shared. When you share our posts with your friends, family, and followers they can learn a little more about the Episcopal Church and Christ Church. I often joke that the Episcopal Church is the best kept secret in Springfield. I would like to see it become not-so-secret. Evangelism is challenging, but sharing a post or

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Geranium Orders, Needle Pointing



Thank you to all the flower-loving gardeners who bought geraniums, supporting the Garden Guild. The flowers were ready to have a happy home and bring happiness to those around them.

We will continue improving the grounds around church and hope you are able to enjoy some time this spring and summer in the church garden.

We are also still needlepointing and stitching at Christ Church each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. We encourage you to bring any project you have to work on and socialize while you point, crochet, sew, or whatever you enjoy.

Submitted by Kathy Sheppard



The Daughters of the King recently obtained a grant from the Diocese and provided a donation to The Well of Life Food Pantry. We have continued to meet during the pandemic and our next meeting will be for the election of officers.

*Submitted by Kathy Alexander
President*

...Like, Share, and Subscribe

(continued from pg. 3)

picture about what we value here at Christ Church can make it less challenging.

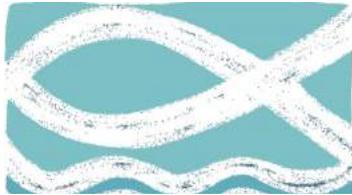
Next time you see a post or video from Christ Church that really speaks to your heart, please give it a like. Share it with

your friends. Comment about how you feel. All of this helps us to spread the word and love of Christ here at Christ Church.

*Submitted by Franz Ginsberg
Office and Communications Manager*

FISH at Crosslines

Our FISH Day at Crosslines was April 7. Jane Mellers, Jan King, Nancy Hopkins, Charlie Bare and Henry Foster helped shop for our clients. We had 29 families visit, totaling 90 visitors. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers! The clients are still turning in their orders and doing curbside pick up. If you need ideas for items to bring to bring to the Church pantry, consider the following: boxed helper-type meals, tuna, soups



(and low sodium soup too), macaroni and cheese, laundry and cleaning supplies.

If you are planting a garden, please plant an extra row for Crosslines. Fresh vegetables and fruits should be taken directly to Crosslines at 615 N. Glenstone Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thank you as always for helping with this local outreach project.

Submitted by Pam Tynes



1 Charlie Bare	14 Edna Johnson	22 Catherine Long
1 Riley Talbot	14 The Rev. Mark Ohlemeier	22 Margot McGinnis
2 Kenneth White	14 The Rev. John Steinberg	23 Lauren McNew
3 Bob Johnson	14 Richard Reynolds	24 Carter Quirk
3 Mary Lou Smith	15 Mike Stevens	25 Bobbie Donnell
3 Marion Spicer	16 Liam Forbes	25 Claire Carter
5 Wally Munden	16 Nicholas Larsen	28 Christopher Stovall
7 Kai Ruff	16 Ethan Luke	29 Rosie Garza
8 Anne Dunn	16 Patsy Scott	30 Mary Mills
8 Courtney Heinlein	17 Lindy Cronkhite	
11 Mike Long	17 Poppy Cronkhite	
11 Philip Robertson	17 Kathy Munsey	
13 Lily Murad	20 Carrie Vore	
13 Charlotte Summers	20 Leigh Ann Garza	
14 Michael Cunniff	22 Julie Carter	

Vestry Members:

The Rev. Kenneth L. Chumbley, Rector/
Chair

Mary Chiles, Sr. Warden

Nancy Hopkins, Jr. Warden

Susan Smith, Secretary

Austin Boyland

Mary Christiano

Rachael Dockery

Ben Fisher

Kristie Forbes

Evelyn Mangan

Frank Miller

Sarah Smith

Julia Taylor

Parish Treasurer:

Kristie Forbes

Church Staff:

The Rev. Kenneth L. Chumbley, Rector

The Rev. Mark W. Ohlemeier, Assistant
Rector

The Rev. John W. Biggs, Priest Associate

The Rev'd Dr. Robert Seney, Priest
Associate

The Rev. John Steinberg, Vinton Director

Sheila McGinn, Parish Administrator

Franz Ginsberg, Office/Communications
Manager, Multimedia Specialist

Mary Bohlen, Children's Christian
Formation Director

Aubrey Smith, Director of Youth Ministry

Allin Sorenson, Music Director and
St. Gregory Choir Director

Kenny Kabak, St. Cecilia Choir Director

Mary Christiano, Handbell Choir Director

Catherine Wong, Organist

Kellie Medina, Nursery

Carrie Vore, Nursery

Will Rohrer, Sexton

Safe To Sleep

I want to share excerpts from two thank-you notes that I saw recently while at the shelter. They both really sum up why the volunteers and those who provide support financially or with needed items from Christ Church are so devoted to Safe to Sleep. These ladies are representative of the many hundreds of women that Safe to Sleep has served over the past eight years.

From Rebecca: *"During these difficult times when people are losing everything, it's nice to know there's someone on your side, rooting for you to succeed, keeping you safe. I want to thank you for giving all of us a place to sleep, for giving us your time, and for treating us like the humans we are."* And from Leslie: *"I wanted everyone*



there to know how much I appreciate all that you did to help me. That was the lowest point in my life, and you being there was just what I needed. I am now getting to a place where I can 'function' again, thanks to you. I am hoping that soon I'll even be able to pay it forward."

If you are interested in becoming involved with Safe to Sleep, there are many opportunities, including volunteering at the shelter and providing needed items and financial support. I would love to answer any questions you might have, and you can contact me at janem27442@aol.com

Submitted by Jane Mellers

New and Upcoming Videos

We have new videos to share with you at Christ Church. Back in April, we shared a preview of our upcoming Great 50 Days of Easter Video which featured a music performance by the St. Cecilia Children's Choir.

We will soon release a new welcome video for Christ Church. In

it, Father Ken gives a heartfelt message encouraging people to join us for worship in this Easter season.

Coming soon, we will release our Great 50 Days of Easter Festival of Readings & Music video which features full musical performances



and readings by the St. Gregory Adult Choir, St. Cecilia Children's Choir, and several other musical performers.

We also have several other video projects that we are experimenting with and look forward to sharing those with you in the near future. Stay tuned to our email

blasts and social media for our photo and video content. And please be sure to like, share, and subscribe.

*Submitted by Franz Ginsberg
Office and Communications Manager*

Rare Breed



The Elves were at it again this month! I walked into the Christ Church kitchen and found multiple boxes and sacks of donations for Rare Breed. What a delightful surprise! Many thanks to our volunteers including: Carol Nasby, Mary Chiles, Julia Taylor, Penny Gordon-Chumbley, Mary Kay Ross, and our mysterious elves.

We still have open slots on our monthly sign up sheet. Please use this link, bit.ly/3hkSaSX, to fill an open slot, or drop off donations in the church kitchen and mark them for Rare Breed. Thank you for joining and contributing to our ministry. If you would like to learn more about Rare Breed, please email me at mhall5_kpf@sbcglobal.net.

Submitted by Melissa Hall



May 31, 2021

Christ Episcopal Church

601 East Walnut Street
Springfield, Missouri 65806

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Springfield, MO
Permit No. 1193

Change Service Requested

Get Your COVID-19 Vaccine

Anyone over the age of 16 can now receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Missouri. We urge you to get vaccinated for COVID-19 if you are able and have not yet done so.

If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, the Greene Co. Health Department has many useful tools on its website to answer your questions. You can learn more at health.springfieldmo.gov/5068/Coronavirus.

You can sign up to receive a vaccine at any of the following locations:

- Missouri State University students: MyHealth Portal on my.missouristate.edu
- CoxHealth
- HyVee
- Jordan Valley Community Health Center
- Mercy
- Sam's Club
- Walmart

