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our YouTube channel

Christ Episcopal Church Ballston Spa  
NY YouTube

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***Upcoming...***

- ◇ ***Church Picnic July 30***
- ◇ ***Outdoor Worship and Picnic September 10***



CHRIST CHURCH

July/August 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

The older I get the more profoundly touched and challenged I am at the signs of Grace. More and more the Christian message I believe we are called to receive and give, centers on Grace. To that point my wife shared with me this simple but powerful story about grace by Karen Witemeyer that I wish to share with you.

The Face of Grace

*It was graduation morning. My high school had selected me to be a junior escort for the seniors accepting diplomas that day, and I was late. I called out a goodbye to my mom and hustled down the stairs. I turned the key and shifted into reverse while the garage door rumbled open. My mind wandered to the upcoming ceremony as I backed down the drive. Something crunched. Angry with my brother for leaving his skateboard out, I grumbled and pulled forward.*

*When I got out, my eyes widened with horror. I hadn't run over a skateboard. I'd bashed into the side of my mom's car. As I imagined her disappointment and anger, I began to cry and ran into the house where I confessed between sobs.*

*My mom listened, surprisingly unruffled. "Don't worry about it, honey, she said. "Just go on." Stunned by her calm compassion, I did. Twenty years later, I can't remember a thing about that graduation service, but the memory of my mother's grace remains vivid.*

May you know God's Grace and be a distributor of that grace.

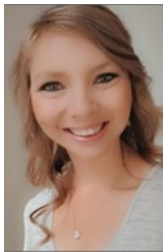
Yours in Christ,

Father Derik Roy

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### KidsFirst News



As most of you already know, Mary Malandrino, our director for the last four and a half years, resigned effective April 10. We are thankful for her service and wish her God's blessing.

After a period of interviewing a number of applicants, we are happy to share that our new director is Danielle Aupselmyer. Danielle worked with us as a lead teacher four years ago and we are excited about the gifts, talents and enthusiasm she will bring. Danielle is also a member of our church and understands that part of the mission of KidsFirst is to be a bridge, a link to children and families who do not have a church community to consider joining us. In fact, that is how Danielle came to join us.

With her as our director, we see a very bright future for KidsFirst and the families and children we serve. Danielle will be officially on board June 20<sup>th</sup> and we will be blessing her in this new ministry at our Sunday Worship, June 25.

We will honor our **High School Graduates** on June 25 at our 10am worship service. Our graduates are:



Ian Bailey, Hannah Cook, Lillian Greenspan, Gage Novak, Marissa Knott.

**Congratulations** to Richard and Joyce Reed who celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 13.

## Shine a light on Jesus' love!



**Vacation Bible School is June 26-30 from 8:30am -11:30am** Registration is open. Please go to our website and, under Kids ministry, you will find the link for VBS.

*Launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar rocket kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun.*

### The Acolytes are back!

For the first time in years, we've had acolytes at the 10am service. They made their debut on Easter Sunday and they did great! We only have three so there's plenty of room for more. Children must be 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up to carry the candles. Older children can carry the cross. We also need adults to help supervise the children and help the clergy at the altar.

If you or your child is interested, please contact Mike Luger at 518-669-8369 or at lugermike@yahoo.com.



### Diocesan News

I have been serving on the Diocesan Standing Committee for two terms of three years each. The last three years have been quite interesting, time consuming and yet very rewarding. About three years ago, Bishop Love resigned. Without a Bishop, the Standing Committee became the ecclesiastical authority until a new Bishop is elected. To administer to a Diocese as a committee has been challenging. I feel blessed that we have had a good team and again, while glad my terms are over, it's been a rewarding time and I pray that I have been a help. – Father Roy

### Bishop Election Update

There are four nominees for Bishop. The Diocese will be putting out information on each candidate with a publication with each candidate responding to the same questions. This will give us some insight as to who we think will serve us best. In August, all four candidates will be traveling together to four different locations in the diocese to give people a chance to meet them and hear their thoughts on different issues. These gatherings will also be live streamed and recorded. September 9 there will be a special election convention held at the Cathedral. Our clergy and lay delegates from Christ Church will then have the opportunity to vote on the person we believe the Holy Spirit is calling to be our next Bishop. Your delegates elected at our annual meeting this past winter are Don and Julie Rohr and Bonnie Hall. Our alternate delegate is Ann Wait. If for some reason one of our delegates can't attend, Ann would step in. Please hold this election in your prayers that as a diocese we elect the best person to serve as our next Bishop.

### Diocesan Convention

A virtual convention was held June 10. The order of business was very limited, only voting for people to serve on various committees and voting on the budget. The reason for the virtual convention this

year was because of a second in person convention in September to elect a new Bishop. Our delegates at this convention were Fr Roy, Deacon Gil, Deacon Lynne, Don and Julie Rohr. Thanks to Jeremy Bailey for his technical support.

### Beaver Cross

Beaver Cross Camp is the centerpiece of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany's ministry to the youth of the region. For decades, BC has been introducing young people to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in a loving, safe, and fun-filled environment. If you are interested in sending your child to camp, registration forms are at the church. You can also go online to <http://www.beavercrossministries.org> for more information. If you have questions, contact Fr. Roy through the office number, 518-885-1031.

**Summer Lunch Program** at The First Baptist Church 202 Milton Ave. Ballston Spa, NY. Volunteers needed Monday– Friday - 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

The Ballston Spa Summer Lunch Program provides free lunches to children of families in need. Volunteers are needed to make, pack, and distribute lunches. It's only a few hours a day, but it is making a difference in these children's lives. Contact the Baptist Church office for assistance 885-5583 or 885-8361

### Food Pantry

Thank you for all the support and the amazing volunteers. The Mother's Day donations were a blessing.

## Weekly Opportunities to Grow our Faith

**Sunday Worship** 8:00am; 10:00am  
**Sunday** 9:00am - Coffee Hour  
 11:15am- Coffee Hour  
**Tuesday** 6:30pm The Chosen  
 - Season 3  
**Wednesday** 9:15am Worship Service  
 10:00am Study Group  
 7:00pm Men's Zoom

## Summer Gatherings

We will begin showing The Chosen, Season 3 on Tuesday evening July 11th in the Fireside Room from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. One episode a week for 8 weeks. If you are interested but have not first seen Seasons 1 & 2, these 2 seasons will be repeated in the fall. It is not recommended to watch seasons out of order! Date and times to be determined for those two.

Also, on Wednesday mornings beginning July 12 at 10am, after 9:15 church service, we will watch Andy Stanley's *Irresistible*, a six week study program. If you haven't experienced this program, don't miss this opportunity to do so. To quote Andy, "Once upon a time there existed a version of our faith that was....*Irresistible*. What made the first century Christians' message so compelling, so defensible, so irresistible? What did they know that we don't?"

## In Memoriam

**Faith King**  
**Mabel Siler**  
**Marion Bergeron**  
**Paul Baker**

## Organ

On Sunday, January 1, we honored two member of Christ Church, Beverly Granger and Ruth Shiebler. Through their love of music and their dedication to Christ Church, and the Lord, they left enough resources in their estates to accomplish the complete restoration of our church organ. During the 10:00am service on January 1, while members of Bev's family worshipped with us, the organ was blessed by Father Roy.

The organ in our sanctuary has been cared for over the past 15 years by Lemieux and Associates Pipe Organ Co. from Argyle, NY. Dan Lemieux, the owner, has been consistent in his efforts to maintain the quality of the organ operation. However, there were many upgrades needed. Christ Church is over 200 years old and it seems likely that the organ was here from the beginning. Due to the generosity of Beverly Granger and Ruth Shiebler, the necessary work was accomplished, the organ has been restored, and a new console installed. The organ is functioning again.

## Sunday School

Our Sunday School program came to a close for summer break on Sunday June 10. Our closing included an amazing youth service. We have some amazing children. If you missed it, please check it out on our YouTube station. *Christ Episcopal Church Ballston Spa NY YouTube*

Many thanks to Katie Skanes, our Sunday School Director and her team of amazing teachers: Don Rohr, Rachel Tremblay, Christine Osgood, Alison Gorton, Linda Buck.

## Church Picnic

Our annual summer picnic will be **July 30 at the Shenantaha Creek Park** in Malta following our 10am service. The church will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. We ask you bring a dish to share.



If you are not familiar with the Shenantaha Park, it is a lovely park with a nice pavilion, playground and plenty of area to take walks and enjoy God's creation.

**Worship Picnic** – September 10 at 10am in Saratoga State Park. **Save the date!**

## Church Directory

Many thanks to Jeremy Bailey for putting together a new church directory program. Once all the data has been entered, we will be printing copies for everyone. If you haven't gotten your picture taken or need to update your information, or be added to our directory, please email your info to Jeanne at [jspeercec@msn.com](mailto:jspeercec@msn.com)

## A Message of Gratitude –JoAnne Niemeyer

As I ponder what is on the schedule today, I am faced with a quilt to bind and tie for the next recipient of the Prayer Quilt Ministry at Christ Church. This creation may not win an award at the local quilt show, but it has far more meaning to the special recipient, expressing God's Love and Compassion for their personal trials. It amazes me how many people support our quilting ministry, from the ever-vigilant staff at Noah's Attic and donations of money to our needs.

God has sent us a special angel who has donated many "Jesus" dollars for our expenses in purchasing batting, quilt backing, and miscellaneous supplies. These dollars are collected in the special envelopes found in the Welcome Center; US dollar bills with a "J" signifying the Federal Reserve that placed the order for the currency, in this case the Kansas City reserve. Yes, they're rare in this part of the country, but I found one when I received change at Stewart's. Our total of Jesus dollars has climbed to almost \$1,000!

From start to finish, whether you donate money, fabric, sew a stitch, or pray over a quilt for God's gift of comfort, please know that we all make a difference in someone's life in a unique way.

## Keep in your Prayers

Janice, Erin, Tim, Gary, Judy, Bert, Deacon Bill, Noel, Curtis, Carla, Brodyn, Dorothy, Terry, John, Deacon Lynne, Elaine, RYanne, Ann, Steve, Joshua, SueEllen, Charlotte, Jayne.



## Agape Dinners

To build community, grow friendships and to be reminded of the mission of our church, *A loving community seeking to know Jesus Christ and make Him known.* The vestry decided to put on a series of Agape (a Greek word for love) dinners. There have been two thus far. Over the next several months, everyone in our church family will be invited. The dinners are free and you will be asked only to enjoy the fellowship and a meal. At each dinner, a few of our vestry will be sharing their own testimonies about how a ministry in our church has impacted them. Each dinner will involve 18 people or less to keep the size small enough to get to know each other.

Below is one of the testimonies given by our Senior Warden Bonnie Hall.

*Twenty years ago, I came to this church. Unbeknownst to me, I was searching. What I found was a community that was very committed to their mission statement. When I heard it, I thought 'well isn't that nice!' However, what I soon found out was that mission statement was talking directly to me! And I would soon learn what that mission statement really meant.*

*I was bringing a friend, Paul, with me and we were attending the Wednesday morning study programs. Loved them. Loved the discussions and wanted more. Paul just happened to be Fr. Roy's fifth grade teacher in the Colonie Village Elementary School. What a nice fit! The student teaching the teacher! Paul had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, especially for scripture and he managed to rub some of that off on me. I was immediately hooked. And the rest is history. Although Paul passed away many years ago, I have not missed too many programs since that first Wednesday 20 years ago.*

*The need to know Jesus and understand why He came has only grown stronger over time. There's so much more to it. Fr. has introduced us/me to some incredible teachers and programs which continue to inspire so many of us. The last several years have brought Jesus to life in ways that I could have never imagined.*

*Along came vestry and my participation in that led me to realize just how committed I am to getting to know Jesus and share this commitment with our parish. And basically anyone else within my circle of life.*

*The end of 2019 and into the pandemic also brought The Chosen, which by the way I've been accused of being obsessed with....Guilty. A huge thank you goes out to Fr. Roy for introducing this program to us. I have grown so much in my relationship with Jesus, my Lord and best buddy! Something I certainly never expected and pray continues.*

*My approach to life has been changed dramatically thanks to a beautiful old church in a village far away with a mission statement that has the power to change and heal lives.*



### July

4 James Bornheim  
6 Brenden Osgood  
7 John Cairns  
9 Max Bruno  
10 Pierce Doud  
    John Mancini  
    Bradley Roy, Jr.  
    Cameron Bongo  
11 Lois Mitchell  
15 Jennifer Drindak  
    John Izzo  
    Gregg Thomas  
    Bryson Skanes  
16 Curtis Rich  
18 Noelle Olszewski  
    Mila Johnson  
19 Reggie Cortese  
20 Avery Kinne  
    Liana Kinne  
21 Nancy Wemple  
23 Maggie Cuddihy  
    Cynthia Koster  
24 Denise Charon  
25 Denise Cudemo  
    Danielle Gardner  
26 Alice Hassell  
27 Ray Nichols  
28 Brandon Russell  
29 Conor Campbell  
    Taitum Wade  
30 Janice Baird  
    Malika Auda

### August

1 Deborah Bush  
Anneliese Sleight  
3 Megan Guilmette



### July Anniversaries

14 Charlie and Karen Kubas  
15 Brian and Charlotte Hanley  
18 Alex and Megan Guilmette  
20 Jay and Shari Dunbar  
23 Nick and Sara Ladopoulos  
    Mark and Katie Skanes  
27 Tom and Eve Lansing

### August—

1 Fred and Elaine Iannon  
2 Christine and Christopher Elliott  
3 Doug and Michelle Mattice  
    Jacob Goertz and Meredith Cuddihy  
4 Peter and Lori Peer  
7 Dennis and Lynne Crimi  
19 Tom and Donna Armer  
22 Bert and Barbara Grandin  
25 Rich and Kristin McCabe  
26 Tim and Diane Iannon  
    Paul and Nancy Cuddihy  
    Andy and Jane Kitzmann  
27 Karl and Suzanne Newton  
    Fred and Betty Cable