



CHRIST CHURCH

September/October 2026

A season of service, fellowship and spiritual growth.

A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Dear Friends in Christ:

It seems to be a tradition in the Church that September is the month of transitions. The new program year begins, we greet new faces in our congregation, and the pace of life accelerates around the parish. This year is no different. The most significant transition this year, however, is not centered in programs, but in leadership.

In the coming months a new Rector will be chosen by your vestry. Certainly, the time between rectors is never an easy time for any church; there is grieving for the loss of a familiar priestly face that has given so much to Christ Church. During this time of uncertainty it is sometimes hard to know who should do what, where and when. But a time of grieving and uncertainty can also be a time of great growth – of people discovering abilities and talents they had never recognized before, of leadership skills emerging through practice, of recognizing that the liturgy is the work of all the people.

As we approach the fall, I ask that you spend some time prayerfully looking at your calendar and set aside time for God in worship, study, prayer and service during the coming academic and program year. What have you participated in the past that you feel your gifts are still needed and your time well spent? What have you put off in the past that you need to do or to learn for your conscience's sake... to aid in the ministries of our church... for your soul's health? Christ Church is very active. God loves each one of us as though there were only one of us to love. God asks each of us to love Him with all our heart and mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourself. What can you do to better love and serve God, neighbor and self? God has generously given us all another opportunity for decision. May your life be blessed in His service.

Peace and love be upon you,
Fr. Richard

FEATURED EVENT

Sunday, September 27 at 10 AM

Church Family Worship and Picnic

We would love for you to join us for our 10 AM worship service at the beautiful Polaris Pavilion and Playground in Saratoga Spa State Park! After the service, we'll be firing up the grill for some hot dogs and hamburgers, and we'd be so grateful if you could bring a favorite dish to share with everyone. Please feel free to invite your family and friends along—the more the merrier in our church community! We truly hope to see you there for a great afternoon together!

Reminder, there will be a \$10 entrance fee into the park. Please speak with Fr. Richard or Katie if you need assistance with this fee. Our 8 AM worship service will be held at the church as usual.

FAITH FORMATION

New Adult Faith Formation • September 9

New this Fall: we will be presenting a video series on caring for the earth. On 4 Wednesday mornings at 10 AM beginning September 9, we will meet in the Fireside Room to build knowledge, have discussions and engage in creation care and climate solutions. We will hear over 30 powerful voices of Christian, Muslim, Indigenous, Baha'i and Jewish faith leaders from 14 states including clergy, youth leaders, and interfaith organizers, who are leading with hope, compassion, and courage. We will hear and discuss their inspiring stories and hopefully build a strong hope for our shared future.

Spirituality 101 • September 24

We know that we are supposed to pray, but have you ever thought about just what prayer does to us? Or have you worried when God doesn't seem to be speaking at all, and his presence seems gone? Have you ever asked yourself, what is God doing in my life, how is it that he is changing me?

This three-part series of classes will discuss our life in Christ, the advancement of our soul in holiness, and how to become the Saint that Jesus calls all of us to be. Topics will include prayer, grace, sin and virtue, the gifts of the Spirit, and holiness of life.

Join Starrla on Thursdays at 6 PM - 7:30 PM, in the fireside room.

Sept. 24: What is Christian Spirituality and how do we participate in the life of the divine?

Oct. 1: Virtue, Sin, and Grace

Oct. 8: Prayer, Recollection, and the Path to Union with God

Sunday School • October 4

We are so excited to welcome our wonderful kids back to Sunday School starting October 4! We have sessions planned for everyone from PreK all the way up to Grade 12.

Our Middle and High School youth will be gathering upstairs in Classroom 6 on Sundays from 9:10 AM to 9:50 AM. Along with Bible study, prayer, and singing, we are looking

forward to meaningful activities to bless our church and community.

For our PreK to Grade 5 little ones, they will be dismissed at the start of the 10 AM Service for a Bible reading, discussion, and activity, and will rejoin their adults before Communion.

As always, this ministry thrives thanks to our amazing team of volunteers! We would love to have you join us. If you feel called to help, please reach out to Fr. Richard or Katie for more information. We truly appreciate your support of this special ministry.

Newcomers Class • Coming November

Our next Newcomer Class will be in November. This five-session class is for those new to the church who are interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church, Christ Church and the Christian Faith. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center bulletin board or call the parish office.

MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP

Quilting Ministry • September 19

Do you have a sewing machine and a few spare hours? If you do, we would love to have you join our quilting ministry. You do not need to have quilting experience. We will be happy to work with you to show you how to make our simple patterned quilts. We meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month in the Parish Hall from 10 AM until noon. Our next meeting will be on September 19. Please come and meet with our happy group and find out how we work.

If you would like to request a quilt for a loved one in need of healing, please fill out a form and place it in the box in the Welcome Center. The forms and box are located on the table by the doorway leading to the parish hall. There is never a charge for a quilt requested. The quilts are our gift to those who will receive comfort from them after they have been blessed and prayed over by our congregation.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

Rector Search Update

We are excited to share that our search for a new rector is officially underway! After months of preparation, prayer, conversation, and hard work, the Rector Search Committee is pleased to announce that our position is now posted and open to interested candidates. This is an important milestone for Christ Episcopal Church as we look toward the next chapter in the life of our parish.

Our Parish Profile and Rector opening are currently available through the following sites:

- Christ Episcopal Church website – A link to the Diocese website posting and the Transition Ministry website posting are available on our church website.
- Episcopal Diocese of Albany – our opening is also listed through the Diocese of Albany's transition ministry resources.
- Transition Ministry Conference – our opening is also posted to the Transition Ministry Conference.

We are continuing to expand our reach. The Search Committee is currently working to create a profile on a third site, Vocation Hub Ministry, and we also plan to advertise the position through a fourth site, Episcopal News Service. These additional postings will help us reach a broader pool of clergy and increase the likelihood of connecting with candidates who may be a strong fit for our parish.

How You Can Help

Every member of our congregation can play a role in helping us spread the word. If you know a priest, clergy colleague, friend, or someone who may know a priest who would be a good fit for Christ Episcopal Church, please share our Rector Search information with them. Finding the right person to serve as our next rector is about more than simply filling a position. We are seeking a priest who can join us in our ministry, build upon the strengths of our parish, and help guide us into the future. The more people who hear about this opportunity, the better chance we have of reaching the right candidates. We will share additional information and links with the congregation once our profiles on the additional sites are complete.

We are grateful for the patience and support of our parish throughout this process. The Search Committee has been working carefully and prayerfully to prepare for this important step, and we are excited to see where God is leading Christ Episcopal Church. Please continue to keep our parish, the Search Committee, and all those who may be considering this call in your prayers.

MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP CONTINUED

Acolyte Training • October 4

On Sunday, October 4 at 11:30 AM there will be a training session for all those who are acolytes or those interested in learning to serve Our Lord in this way at the altar of Christ Church. An acolyte actively assists the priest in the worship of God and does this important ministry with dignity, humility, and care. All children and adults are welcome to attend.

Men's Group • September 20

Please join Jason Constant and other men in our parish for an informational meeting on September 20 at noon in the Fireside Room. This gathering offers an opportunity for fellowship, support, reflection, and study. We will also discuss potential resources, including the book *Peaks and Valleys: A Study on the Life of David*.

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King continue to fulfill our vows through Prayer, Service, and Evangelism. This month I'd like to highlight one of the ministries that we provide to our newly baptized in our congregation. Baptismal gift bags are provided to our youngest, and older, new members. They contain meaningful and age appropriate gifts, including a candleholder for their baptismal candle which can be used to celebrate their special day each year.

We continue to share a special time for our Prayers of Transition in the Chapel on the 1st Sunday of each month between services. Please feel free to join us as we pray for our parish and God's plan for our journey forward.

FHS

JoAnne Niemeyer, DOK President

HYMN NOTES FROM OUR MUSICAL DIRECTOR

As we enter this season of harvest and thankfulness I keep singing this hymn throughout the day. "Now Thank We All Our God" which is found in the 1982 Hymnal #397.

This hymn of thankfulness was written by the Lutheran minister Martin Rinckart around the year 1636 (390 years ago)! Rinckart lived in the walled city of Eilenburg, Saxony during the 30 years war. The walled city became a refuge for political and military fugitives - and though they were in some ways safe there, the overcrowding contributed to deadly pestilence and famine. The Rinckart home became a safe haven for victims, even when he was barely able to provide for his own immediate family. During the height of the severe plague of 1637, Rinckart was the sole surviving pastor in the city. At that time he was conducting as many as 50 funerals a day - in fact, that year he performed over 4,000 funerals, including that of his wife. He wrote the words of this hymn as a prayer of gratitude and it was set to music by Johann Cruger.

JS Bach used this hymn in several cantatas and chorale preludes and the harmonization in our hymnal was set in 1840 by the well known German composer, Felix Mendelssohn and used in his symphony Lobgesang (Hymn of Praise), Opus 52.

*Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
Eternal, Triune God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be, evermore.*

Do you have a hymn that is particularly meaningful to you? I'd love to hear about it!
- Kristin McCabe

Christ Church Choir • October 4

Do you enjoy singing? You are invited to join one of our choirs at Christ Church! The 8 AM Celebration Choir meets weekly directly after the 8 AM service and sings once a month in church during the offertory. The 10 AM Worship Choir meets weekly following coffee hour. All abilities welcome! Both choirs meet in the choir room (next to the kitchen). Choir rehearsals will begin on Sunday, October 4. If you have any questions please reach out to Kristin McCabe!

Tech Team

We are looking for more volunteers to join our tech team for both the 8 AM and 10 AM services to help run the screens. This is an extremely important (but not difficult) ministry! You will be trained by our tech team leadership and put into the rotation schedule! If you are interested, please speak to Jeremy Bailey or Kristin McCabe.

Vacation Bible School

VBS this summer was a lot of fun! We had about 15 kids, 10-12 crew leaders, 13 leaders, and 3 front desk helpers. Thanks to the parents and everyone who helped make VBS happen this summer! I also appreciate and thank the congregation for all their support. Next year's dates are tentatively June 28 to July 2. Put it on your calendar, and we hope to see you then!

Foyers • Kickoff Potluck October 18

Foyer Groups are small, informal gatherings where parishioners share meals, conversation, and friendship throughout the year. They're a simple way to get to know people beyond Sunday mornings and build meaningful connections within our church family.

Sign up in the Welcome Center by October 1 to be placed into a small group made up of a variety of ages, backgrounds, and life stages. Kick Off Potluck on October 18 at 5 PM for all Foyer Group participants to meet everyone before groups begin gathering on their own.

For more information, speak with Eve & Tom Lansing, reach out to the Church Office or call-text Eve at 518-885-4646.

COMMUNITY & DIOCESE

Diocesan Update

Christ the King Center, which is only a 45 minute drive from our church is a fantastic spiritual resource for all within our diocese. Here are just three ongoing or upcoming opportunities for spiritual growth. Christ the King website is ctkcenter.org. CTK phone: 518-692-9550 or call the Diocese and ask to be on their email updates: 518-692-3350.

I. Weekly Benedictine Community

Each week, we gather in community to explore the life-giving rhythm of Benedictine spirituality—a tradition that helps us slow down, listen deeply, and live with greater intention. Whether you're brand new to the Rule of St. Benedict or have been shaped by its wisdom for years, you're invited.

Our weekly gatherings offer a simple, consistent flow:

- *The Rule of St. Benedict* We start by reading the daily Rule of Benedict, reflecting on what this wisdom might mean to us in our modern lives.
- *Lectio Divina* A peaceful, guided practice of sacred reading, where we listen for how God is speaking through Scripture.
- *Group Reflection & Book Discussion* We reflect together— over what we have taken away from the rule, lectio divina, and we reflect on a book we are currently reading.
- *Prayer & Closing Blessing* We lift up prayer requests and close with prayer and encouragement for the week ahead.

Meeting Times:

In-Person - Tuesdays at 2:00 PM at Christ the King Center (575 Burton Rd, Greenwich, NY 12834)

Online (Zoom): Tuesdays at 7:30 PM or Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

II. Healing Service

Tuesdays, 10:00 AM at the Healing Center Chapel

Be sure to join us for lunch after the service. (Lunch is \$16 per person plus tax)

II. Be Still & Know: Online Retreat

October 3, 10, 17, 31 | 9 AM-10 AM | Led by Pat Stone, OSB

The Rule of St. Benedict has guided Christians for over 1,500 years. This online retreat invites you to explore its wisdom through extended Lectio Divina and immersion in the rhythms of prayer and study. Attendees are encouraged to have a Bible, a journal, and a Book of Common Prayer. The cost to attend is \$15 per person.

Retreat Information:

- Platform: Zoom — Participants will receive communication with links and retreat materials prior to first session.
- Four sessions — October 3, 10, 17, 31 | 9 AM-10 AM
- Each session builds on the last, offering continuity of reflection and prayer.

Retreat Leader: Patricia Mackey Stone, OlsB, is a member of the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas, Texas, where she hosts Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina. She holds an M.A. in Counseling, a Certificate in Spiritual Direction, and is working on a Master's in Theological Studies at Nashotah House.

COMMUNITY & DIOCESE

Diocesan Convention

September 10-12 at Christ the King Center in Greenwich.

The 158th Diocesan Convention is a time for representatives throughout the entire Diocese to gather for spiritual growth and development, recreation, fellowship, worship and attend to church business with elections for various offices within the Diocese.

All clergy are delegates at the annual convention and each church has representative laity. Our lay delegates are Bonnie Hall, Wendy Campbell, and Donna Dardaris. Everyone throughout the diocese is invited to register and attend the workshops and worship on Thursday evening and Friday with guest speaker Methodist Bishop Robert Schnase.

News from the Pantry

Our pantry continues to be a busy place, and our work would not be possible without your continued support. Thank you for praying for the pantry, contributing to our monthly collections, making donations, and giving your time. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of our neighbors.

Noah's Attic

Noah's continues to bless our community, and the proceeds are doing amazing things to support our church's many wonderful ministries! We've had such a busy, productive summer together. It has been incredibly overwhelming to give away so much to those in need, and we are beyond grateful that our donations reached their highest summer level ever! Thank you all so much for your incredible support.

Noah's Attic Christmas Sale

We are so excited to invite you to save the date for the wonderful Noah's Attic Christmas Sale! It will be happening from November 12 to 14 in the Roy Parish Hall. Please consider volunteering to help. We hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blessing of the Animals • October 10

Every year in October the church celebrates St. Francis Day. In honor of his life and ministry, his compassion for the poor and marginalized, care for creation, and his love for all God's creatures great and small, we will be having a Blessing of Animals service at Christ Church on Saturday October 10 at 1 PM. It will take place in our parking lot or if inclement weather in the parish hall. Bring any pet you may have such as dogs, cats, llamas, horses, goats, and snakes. This simple service and blessing is a great way to show our love for our beloved pets.

Advent Retreat • December 12

We would love for you to join Deacon Lynne and Kate Van Buren for an Advent retreat on Saturday, December 12 from 9 AM to 2 PM in the Roy Parish Hall. The good news of God is that Jesus is not God's escape plan for humanity; He is God's commitment to it. Feel free to bring a friend—especially anyone who might need a fresh start. This retreat is open to all people, from all denominations to none.

STEWARDSHIP

Fall Stewardship

Although there are many aspects associated with the concept of Stewardship, in the fall we will focus on the notion of time, talent and treasure. We live in a world that tries to convince local churches that we are working with limited resources to accomplish a task that is too big and burdensome. I believe God's dream for our church is more powerful than those realities. I believe we are called to inspire people to live joy-filled, generous lives, compelled by God's vision for our parish family. We are not limited by a "scarcity mindset."

During this year's Fall Stewardship drive you will hear reflections from your church friends as they share their stories of how Christ Church has had a life-changing impact upon them, and giving back to God with joy and generosity is a reality we can develop.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER

1 Elaine Osgood, Elijah Roy-Urmston
2 Al Moser, Donald Kinne
4 Brandon Schmidt, Wendy Perreault
6 Jenna LaRosa, Cameron Rapelje
9 Naomi Roy
11 John Polson, Dylan Whitt, Chris Cuddihy
12 David Guynup
13 Joseph Bruno, Emalyn Smith, Bryan Peck
17 Brittney Koster
18 Ian Bailey, Maddie Roy
19 Nancy Cairns, Jason Constant, Bryan LaRosa
21 Morgan Miller, Richard Reed, Edison Roberts, Brad Roy
22 Emma Popkoski
23 Jeremy Wood
29 Rachel Smith, Chad Thomas, Cody Thomas, Fred Iannon

OCTOBER

1 Danielle Bailey
2 Victoria Perrault, Danielle Auspemyer
3 Derik Roy, Josh Bush
4 Lane Smith, Sloanie Campbell, Austin Hawkins, Elizabeth Odasz, Marylou Sarraf
7 Alexis Guilbault
8 Lois McGee, Joan Moore
9 Nancy Doud
10 Stacia Bonnano
11 Alanis Odasz, Jacob Sleight
14 Debbie Igoe
15 Wendy Campbell, Allyson LaRosa, Ralph Ruiz
16 Shari Thomas, Fr. Richard Visconti
17 Bill Pearson
19 Anne Jensen, Kate VanBuren
21 Ian Lanning, Ryan Odasz
22 Beverly Baker
24 John Boyd, Alexandria Miller, Greg Schmidt
25 Melissa Miller
28 Kelsey Ruiz
28 Kendall Whitt
29 Cathy Hughes, Asa Decker
30 Charles Kubus, Jr
31 Sue Ann Dubois

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

SEPTEMBER

5 Ashley & Josh Bush
8 Mark & Andrea Breslin
11 Robert & Elaine Shaw
13 Cathy & Jeff Hughes
14 Peter & Joanne Champagne
15 Linda & Doug Allen
18 David & Kristin MacDonald
24 Kate & Bob VanBuren
27 John & Nancy Cairns

OCTOBER

7 Rich & Christine Osgood
13 Sarah & Jeremy Wood
16 Tim & Amanda Russell
16 John & Wendy Perreault, Marylou & Todd Sarraf
17 Greg & Kelly Howell, Mike and Ruth Perkins
20 Don & Julie Rohr
23 Garry & Wendy Campbell
24 Ralph & Paula Ruiz
29 Paul & Donna Sausville

The Chosen • Tuesdays & Thursdays

We would love for you to join us for a viewing and discussion of the popular tv series, *The Chosen* - the first multi-season series about the life of Jesus. We gather every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 10 AM in the fireside room. Please feel free to jump in and join us at any time—everyone is welcome!



While we strive for accuracy, there may be unintentional mistakes or omissions in this newsletter. Please reach out to Katie at ChristChurchBSpa@gmail.com if you spot any mistakes, or if you have any feedback or updates for future editions.



A Loving Community Seeking to Know Jesus Christ and Make Him Known.

WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays 8:00 AM • 10:00 AM
Wednesdays 9:15 AM

FOLLOW US ON:

Website: ChristEpiscopalBallstonSpa.com
YouTube: Christ Episcopal Church Ballston Spa NY
Facebook: @cecbspa
Instagram: @christchurchbspa

CONTACT OUR OFFICE:

ChristChurchBSpa@gmail.com
(518) 885-1031

Donate Online:



Simply scan the
QR code or visit
tithe.ly

See you soon!

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