

CHRIST CHURCH

November / December 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

One only has to step outside our front doors, to witness the marvelous changes that are occurring in nature during this time of year. Changes are a part of our lives and for the most part we have grown accustomed and have adapted as best we can. But one thing that should never change for us is our total dependence upon our Lord and Savior.

One man was trying to persuade another to attend church. He said, “Don’t you think you owe the Lord something?” The other man answered, “Yes, I suppose so, but He isn’t pressing me as hard as my other creditors!”

True – and He never will. God will never send you a bill, or send out somebody to collect what you owe Him. He doesn’t keep reminding us how deeply we are in His debt. This is something He would like for us to find out for ourselves.

It is one thing to be told that we have much to be thankful for; it is quite another to make the discovery on our own. We can be told and not be convinced; but what we discover we can be certain. Each of us needs to make the discovery that he or she is a deeply indebted person.

A Christian person is one who has made this discovery; a Christian person is a truly thankful one. There is no way to be a Christian and not be thankful. As Christians, we are indebted for the love which sent Christ into the world, for the love which brought Him to a cross, for the power which brought Him forth alive from death, for the grace by which we have our salvation, for the goodness by which we are blessed all along the way.

When we come together at Christ Episcopal Church on Sunday or any weekday for worship time, whatever else it may be, it surely is a thanksgiving time. My friends, as a grateful people, let us rejoice and be glad, and, as the Psalmist said, “Give to the Lord the glory due His name.”

Joyfully yours in Christ,
Fr. Richard+

Thanksgiving Services

Thanksgiving Day
10 AM



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve (Thursday)
4:30 PM, 8 PM, and 11 PM

Christmas Day (Friday)
9 AM

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

November Dates

Sunday Nov. 1 Transition Prayers | 9:30–9:45 AM in the Chapel
Monday Nov. 2 Vestry Ministry Meetings
- 5:30 PM Outreach
- 6:00PM Pastoral
- 6:30 PM Resource

Monday Nov. 9 Vestry Meeting | 6–8 PM
Wednesday Nov. 11 Happy Veterans Day
Thursday Nov. 12 - Saturday Nov. 14 Noah's Christmas Sale | 9:30 AM - 3 PM
Sunday Nov. 15 Men's Group | 11:30 AM (Chapel)
Sunday Nov. 15 Foyers Potluck | 5 PM (Parish Hall)
Saturday Nov. 21 Prayer Quilting | 10 AM–noon
Thursday Nov. 26 Happy Thanksgiving!
- Thanksgiving Eucharist 10 AM

Ongoing Weekly Gatherings

SUNDAYS
Holy Eucharist | 8 AM & 10 AM
Sunday School Grades 6–12 | 9:10–9:50 AM
Sunday School PreK–5 | 10 AM dismissal
Choirs | 8 AM & 10 AM after services

WEDNESDAYS
Holy Eucharist | 9:15 AM
Book of Acts Study Group | 10:15 AM
Women's Zoom Bible Studies | 7 PM
Men's Zoom Bible Studies | 7 PM

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
The Chosen | 10 AM

December Dates

Sunday Dec. 6 Transition Prayers | 9:30–9:45 AM in the Chapel
Sunday Dec. 6 Lessons & Carols | 6–8 PM
Monday Dec. 7 Vestry Ministry Meetings
- 5:30 PM Outreach
- 6:00PM Pastoral
- 6:30 PM Resource

Saturday Dec. 12 Advent Retreat | 9 AM–2 PM
Monday Dec. 14 Vestry Meeting | 6–8 PM
Saturday Dec. 19 Prayer Quilting | 10 AM–noon

A Special Sunday • December 20

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Holy Eucharist & Christmas Pageant
9 AM - A special combined service!

POTLUCK
Immediately following pageant. Join us in the Roy Parish Hall for lunch and fellowship. Please consider bringing a dish to share!

HANGING OF THE GREENS
Noon - Join the Altar Guild, families and friends as we decorate our Church for Christmas.



Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve - Thursday, Dec. 24
4:30 PM • 8 PM • 11 PM

Christmas Day - Friday, Dec. 25
9 AM

PARISH NEWS

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has been hard at work continuing the search for our next rector. We have completed two initial interviews and one second-round interview with a candidate we felt was a strong match for Christ Church. We were preparing to extend an offer, but unfortunately, the candidate declined before we were able to do so. While this was disappointing, we are grateful for the time spent getting to know each candidate and remain committed to finding the right person to lead our parish into the future.

We are now back to the drawing board and exploring additional ways to broaden our search. We are currently completing our parish's profile on the Vocation Hub, a platform that will help us reach potential candidates nationally and internationally. We anticipate having our position posted by the end of November, opening the door to a wider pool of clergy who may be called to serve at Christ Church.

Thank you for your continued patience, support, and encouragement throughout this process. We know that waiting can be difficult, but we trust that God is guiding us along the way. Please keep the Search Committee, our parish, and all those discerning their next call in your prayers.

-Theresa Polson, Senior Warden



Hymn History: Silent Night

"Sleep in Heavenly Peace"

In 1818, a roving band of actors was performing in towns throughout the Austrian Alps. On December 23, they arrived at Oberndorf, a village near Salzburg, where they were to re-enact the story of Christ's birth in the small Church of St. Nicholas.

Unfortunately, the St. Nicholas' church organ wasn't working and would not be repaired before Christmas. Because the church organ was out of commission, the actors presented their Christmas drama in a private home. That Christmas presentation put the young assistant pastor Josef Mohr in a meditative mood. Instead of walking straight home that night, Mohr took a longer way to his house. The longer path took him up on a hill overlooking the village.

From that hilltop, Mohr looked down on the peaceful snow-covered village. Reveling in the majestic silence of a wintry night, he recalled a poem he had written a couple of years before, in the aftermath of the Napoleonic war, to commemorate the coming of peace. Mohr decided those words might make a good carol for his congregation the following evening at their Christmas Eve service. The problem was he didn't have any music to which that poem could be sung. So, on Christmas Eve, Mohr went to see the church organist, Franz Xaver Gruber. Gruber only had a few hours to compose a melody that could be played on a guitar. The guitar was not an "approved instrument" for the church, so the duo waited for the end of the service to debut their new song - with two voices and guitar. The organ repairman was so taken with the piece that he brought the sheet music home with him and started sharing it with choirs and folk singers in his area. Imagine being in that church as the guitar began to play...

-Kristin McCabe, Music Director

Lessons & Carols



Sunday, December 6 at 6 PM

Our 33rd Annual service of Lessons and Carols is a beautiful way to reflect on the Advent and Christmas season through Word and song. We encourage you to think of a friend or neighbor to invite to attend with you!
Join us for a dessert reception in the Roy Parish Hall immediately following.

PARISH & DIOCESAN UPDATES

Financial Giving

Beginning November 1, Christ Church will launch a four-week Stewardship campaign celebrating the many vibrant ministries that make our church such a special community. Together, we will reflect on our personal relationship with God, the gifts He has entrusted to each of us, and how we are called to share those gifts in service to others. As we look toward an exciting future and a transition to new leadership, this is an opportunity to celebrate where God has led us and prayerfully consider where He is calling us next.

As Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:19–21, our hearts follow what we treasure. May this season inspire us to invest our time, talents, and resources in the life and mission of Christ Church, building a strong foundation of faith for generations to come.



Diocesan Convention

Representing Christ Church at this year's Diocesan Convention was a wonderful opportunity for worship, fellowship, and learning. We shared meals and met people from across the diocese, while workshops offered fresh ideas for serving our Lord and connecting with others. With one of us attending as a new Episcopalian and the other as a first-time delegate, we weren't quite sure what to expect, but we were pleasantly surprised by the spirit of cooperation, with decisions made congenially and all votes passing unanimously.

The weekend culminated in a moving worship service filled with joyous music. The sight of so many clergy in their robes processing together down the aisle was truly impressive and brought a sense of peace and reverence. We left feeling blessed and grateful to be part of the Episcopal Church.

- Donna Dardaris & Wendy Campbell

Daughters of the King

The St. Agnes Chapter of the Daughters of the King continues with our mission of Prayer, Service, and Evangelism.

Prayer remains central to our mission as an Order, through our individual daily prayers, for those of others through the Prayer Chain, along with our dedicated Prayers of Transition held in the Chapel the first Sunday of each month between services. Please join us for the love, hope, and peace that come from God through Prayer.

The coming months will be exciting for our dedicated women as we begin a new outreach to veterans residing at the Veterans and Community Housing Coalition facility in Ballston Spa. Starting in November, we are establishing a "Birthday Cake for a Vet" to observe their special day. Along with a greeting and small gift card, the Daughters want to show that God's Love and Hope are with our vets in transition. The Daughters will also share special greeting cards with the Veterans in residence, remembering their service on Veterans Day. Possibilities for local programs involving veterans in need, and their families are endless.

Mark your calendars for the New Year! The LENTEN DEVOTIONAL will be returning. If you're looking for a way of expanding your skills reflecting on Scripture, and reading the devotional entries of others in our parish family, please join us as we walk with Jesus on his way to the Cross, and His Resurrection.

As I reflect on the year 2026, I give thanks for each of you who take the time to stay connected in a world that seems disconnected at times, praying, giving of yourselves to others, and showing through your love that God is always "connected" to each of us.

The St. Agnes Chapter is always open to women discerning their faith journey of Prayer, Service, and Evangelism. Do you want to explore more? Please let me know. Thanks be to God!

FHS, *JoAnne Niemeyer*

WORSHIP & PARISH LIFE

Prayer Quilt Ministry

Quilts for Sale | November 29 - December 20
The Prayer Quilting Ministry has brought comfort and hope to so many through lovingly made quilts and the prayers offered over them. Quilts will be available for purchase before Christmas, offering a meaningful gift for someone special. All proceeds will go back into the ministry, helping us continue sharing warmth, faith, and God's love with those in need.

Christmas Flowers

Help adorn our sanctuary for Christmas with a flower donation in memory of or in thanksgiving for someone special. Due by December 13; envelopes are available in the Welcome Center, or you may mail your donation and dedication to the church office.

Thank you for helping make our sanctuary beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Christ!

Men's Group

November 15, 11:30 AM | Chapel
All men are invited to connect, grow, and build community through our Men's Group. Jason Constant is currently leading the group through "Peaks + Valleys," an engaging study exploring the triumphs, challenges, and faith found in the life of David. Drop-ins and newcomers are always welcome, feel free to join us at any time!

Worship Ministries

Lectors, Greeters, Ushers,
Lay Ministers, and Acolytes
Looking for a meaningful way to serve during Sunday services? Whether you love greeting familiar faces, reading scripture to the congregation, passing the offering plates, or assisting at the altar as an acolyte, our worship ministries need you. Reach out to Fr. Richard, Kate, or Katie to share your gifts and find the role that fits you best.

Christ Church Choirs

We are looking forward to our Advent and Christmas services! The 8:00 Celebration Choir and 10:00 Worship Choir are both continuing to meet weekly and welcome all who love to sing. If you have any interest in joining us for this special season, please reach out to Kristin McCabe or just show up to a rehearsal! Both choirs meet after their respective services in the choir room next to the fellowship hall!

Maintenance Ministry

We are excited to welcome Naomi Roy as our new Sexton, and she is looking to launch a dedicated maintenance ministry to help care for our facilities. We are seeking handy individuals willing to donate a few hours of their time once in a while for small projects and upkeep. Whether you have professional expertise in a specific trade or just enjoy tackling DIY repairs, your skills can make a big difference. If you would like to lend a hand, please connect with Naomi to get involved.

Foyers



November 15, 5 PM
Come Gather Around the Table
Share a meal. Build friendships. Grow in community.

Foyer Groups bring parishioners together for informal meals, relaxed conversation, and friendship throughout the year. These gatherings are a wonderful way to get to know people beyond Sunday mornings and build meaningful connections within our church family. Sharing a meal gives us time to exchange stories, discover common interests, and enjoy one another's company. Whether you're single or part of a couple, a newcomer or a longtime member, there's a place for you at the table!

Join us for our second Potluck Supper, and bring a dish to share. Bring a friend or two, meet someone new, and enjoy an evening of good food and warm fellowship. Together, we can make our church family even more welcoming and connected.

2027 Giving Envelopes

Envelopes will be available for pickup in the Welcome Center during December and January (no boxes will be mailed this year). If you are new and need envelopes, or if you give online or through your bank and no longer require them, please let Katie know at christchurchbspa@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful support of our church.

Tech Team

We continue to look for volunteers to help run the screens during our Sunday services. It's a great way to support the ministry of the church, and we provide all the training you need. Please speak to Jeremy Bailey or Kristin McCabe if you'd like to join the rotation.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY



Food Pantry

November & December
How is it possible we are nearing the end of 2026? During the first 10 months of 2026 we have provided food assistance to households over 1,600 times. This assistance went to nearly 500 households. This level of support would not be possible without your continued commitment to our Pantry. Thank you for praying for the pantry, for contributing to our monthly collections, for making donations to the pantry, and for giving your time to the pantry. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of our neighbors.

During the month of November, our "Item of the Month" will be non-perishable "side dishes" to supplement a Thanksgiving meal. Please consider donating such an item(s) to help those less fortunate among us. During December we are going to suspend our "Item of the Month" collection as there will be a toy collection taking place during that month. With that said, if you do find yourself in a position to make a monetary or food donation to the Pantry during December, your donations are always welcome. The paper bags you have donated have been a great help and cost-saver. Please continue to bring them in!

Finishing out 2026, I am asking that you keep our pantry, its clients, and its volunteers in your prayers. This mission has provided much needed assistance, improving the quality of life for so many children, adults and seniors in our community.

Shari Thomas

Toy Giveaway

December 15 & 16
This November, we are collecting new toys, gift cards, and monetary donations to bring Christmas joy to local children through our December Toy Giveaway. Sign-ups for families in need will be held in the Food Pantry during regular hours starting November 1st. To donate or volunteer with sorting, setup, and distribution, please contact Katie at cectoys@gmail.com.

Advent Retreat

December 12, 9 AM - 2 PM | Roy Parish Hall
Step away from the holiday bustle and enjoy a gentle day of guided meditations, quiet reflection, and prayer with Deacon Lynne Crimi and Kate Van Buren. Together, we'll rest in God's presence, draw closer to Jesus, and prepare our hearts for Christmas. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome—bring a friend or someone who could use a fresh start. Open to people of all faiths or none. Free to attend, with lunch provided.

Noah's Attic Annual Christmas Sale

November 12 - 14 | Roy Parish Hall
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Noah's Attic will host its annual Christmas sale in the Parish Hall featuring our largest selection of holiday items yet! We need volunteers to help set up Monday through Wednesday (Nov. 9-11) starting at 9:30 AM, as well as for cleanup on Saturday afternoon after the sale closes. Even an hour or two of your time makes a tremendous difference to our team—thank you for your help!

Thanksgiving Meals

LifeWorks Holiday Food Baskets
Includes meal staples and a gift card for protein (no turkey). Designed for households of 2+. Register at lifeworksaction.org. Households of one: Call 518-288-3206 or email intake@lifeworksaction.org to schedule a hot meal delivery.

LifeWorks Community Kitchen
Thanksgiving Day meals served at Presbyterian UCC (24 Circular St, Saratoga Springs).

Ballston Spa Community Thanksgiving Meal
Thanksgiving Day at Milton Community Center (310 Northline Rd, Ballston Spa). Dine-in, takeout, and limited delivery available. Details on their Facebook page.

Birthdays & Anniversaries





Celebrating our parish family!
Wishing you joy, peace, and God's richest blessings in the year ahead.

November Birthdays

1 Sheri Popkoski
2 Luke Demling, Brandon Ruiz
3 Michelle Mattice
4 Marcus Vary
5 Jan Bornheim, Aaron Bogue, Allison Ott
6 Suzanne Newton, Wendy Schmidt
7 Justin Miner
8 Christine Martin
10 Taylor Russell
15 Kristin McCabe
19 Theresa Polson
21 Don Rohr
23 Lynne Crimi, Donna Christensen
24 Donna Travis, Jeff Smith
27 Melayna Robinson
28 Joe King, Christine Osgood, Rich Clark

November Anniversaries

3 Rich & Sue Clark
4 Ryan & Molly Favour
14 Glenn Sheehan & Anne Jensen
15 Rachel & Chris Montalbaro
18 Ryan & Elizabeth Odasz
29 Chip & Sue Ann Dubois
30 Donna & Richard Duffy

December Birthdays

2 Ethan Dumovitz
3 Barbara Wood
4 Cheryl Bloomer
5 Joyce Reed, Daniel D'Amico
8 Madison Schmidt
9 Aiden Campbell
10 Jeanne Speer, Paula Ruiz, Mark Skanes, Donna Dardaris
11 Garry Campbell, Amelia D'Amico
12 Molly Favour, Lori Peer, Jake Baker
16 Tim Russell
17 Charlotte Skanes, Jan Visconti, Mariella D'Amico
19 Pete Champagne
20 Dominic Garrant
21 Kaleigh Izzo
22 Oliver McCabe
23 Donna Sausville
24 Hannah Cook
26 Mina MacDonald
29 Susan Olszewski
30 Todd Sarraf
31 Adam Bonanno, Elaine Iannon

December Anniversaries

18 Mike & Desiree Drindak
21 Jean & Randy Shelton
23 Sheri & Ted Popkoski
31 Fr. Richard & Jan Visconti

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.

Christ Episcopal Church
15 West High Street
Ballston Spa, New York 12020

STAMP

CHRIST CHURCH

Worship With Us
Sundays • 8 AM & 10 AM
Wednesdays • 9:15 AM

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

Contact Our Office

Monday – Thursday | 9 AM – 1:30 PM
ChristChurchBSpa@gmail.com
(518) 885-1031

Find Us Online

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

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Scan to give, or visit tithe.ly.
Thank you for supporting our parish!