

THE COMMUNICANT

Christ Church Episcopal

A ministry of the Diocese of Ohio

*Seeking to be a welcoming community of faith, grounded
in the gospel of Jesus Christ, serving Hudson and beyond.*

December



2025

Christmas Eve Services



4:00 p.m.

*Family Service with music by the Young Choristers
and instrumental prelude from Christ Church Youth*

8:00 p.m.

*Festive Service and Candlelight Vigil with the Adult Choir
Choral prelude begins at 7:30 p.m.*

Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. in the Laurel Lake Community Room
All are welcome!

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Vector of the Rector – Pointing somewhere vaguely spiritual

“We are Already Ready. For Real.”



Friends,

Advent is often described as the season of *waiting*. And it is that—deeply and truly. Yet Advent is also a season of *knowing*, because we already know where this road leads. We know that at the end of these four weeks, a child is born, hope arrives, and God steps into the world in flesh and vulnerability. Advent invites us to hold both realities together: The honest waiting and the confident knowing.

Few capture this so clearly as my favorite preacher: Fleming Rutledge. In *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*, she argues that Advent may be “the most honest season of the Christian year,” precisely because it refuses to gloss over the world’s pain. Advent, she writes, is “immediately relevant to our concrete lives... and to the concrete headlines in the newspaper.” It is the season in which the church squarely acknowledges that things are not as they should be—and then boldly proclaims that God will intervene.

Rutledge insists that Advent is not primarily about preparing for Christmas; it is about preparing for the *second* coming of Christ, the “once and future” arrival of the One who will put all things right. She speaks of Advent as the season of “divine invasion,” when the church looks directly at injustice, grief, conflict, and weariness and says: *God sees; God knows; God will come*. Advent is not sentimental. It is fiercely hopeful. It names the darkness in order to announce the light that no darkness can overcome.

This is why my least favorite Advent sermons are the ones that begin by scolding people (usually women!) for baking, decorating, shopping, or preparing too much too early—as though a plate of cookies or a well-wrapped gift could obstruct the coming of Christ. Advent is not a moral improvement project, nor a four-week performance review. It is the season when God interrupts us, when our carefully made plans shift, and when we remember that the Messiah does not wait for us to be ready in any conventional sense.

And so we stand again at the threshold of this season. It may feel unreasonable to claim readiness—given our long task lists, travel commitments, and December responsibilities—but the deeper truth of Advent is that we are already ready, because Jesus is ready for us. The readiness does not begin with us; it begins with him.

I take enormous comfort in Paul’s words to the church in Corinth:

“You do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.”

Here at the beginning of Advent, we lack nothing. Not because our hearts are perfectly ordered, but because Christ is faithful. Not because we are spiritually polished, but because he comes regardless.

This frees us from the pressure to manufacture what we often call “the Christmas spirit.” Advent offers instead a quieter, steadier invitation: To relinquish the illusion of control, and to trust the One whose arrival changes everything. Nothing we accomplish—or fail to accomplish—will improve upon the child who comes to save us.

As we begin this sacred season, my hope is simple:

That we would notice grace when it interrupts us,

that we would welcome mercy in unexpected places,

and that we would rest in the knowledge that Christ has already done the work on our behalf.

A blessed Advent to you all.

We lack nothing.

Christ is coming.

And He is ready for us.

- Fr. Charlie+

Staying in Touch with Fr. Charlie

If you'd like to get in touch, you can reach me by email at Charlie.knuth@christchurchudson.org or by cell at 801-635-5162. My days off are Monday and Saturday, but if something needs immediate attention, please send a text. For pastoral emergencies (things like a medical crisis, a death in the family, or when you just really need a priest to show up), please call my cell any time, day or night.



Photo credit: Andrew Le

Notes from the Director of Music

Mario Buchanan
Director of Music and Organist
mario.buchanan@christchurchudson.org

Dear Friends,

I so look forward to Advent every year. Technically there are only twelve days of Christmas, and as you might have guessed, none of them happen before Christmas Day. In our church calendar, we have four Sundays of Advent (in Roman times, there were six weeks of Advent) and only a couple Sundays of Christmas. You may think, "That's it?" but yes that IS it. History lesson: The word "advent" comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning "coming". It symbolizes the Second Coming of Christ. For a thousand years, Christians have spoken of three comings of Christ: at Bethlehem, in our hearts and minds, and in the glory of the end times. Advent is a time of anticipation and waiting for the coming of Christ. We mark this time by singing some favorite Advent hymns, changing the liturgy and service music, and giving ourselves time for space in our lives.

So I ask: what does Advent mean for you? Maybe, like Lent, we examine our own lives and see what we can do to be better followers of Christ. I ask myself each year: do I really need that new [insert electronic device here]?

Is Christmas really about giving expensive presents to my friends who are already financially stable? What if I gave that money to someone less fortunate than me or is there a local soup kitchen that needs volunteers? When I go to the store and see that 1,000th reindeer on the shelf and that blow-up elf for my front lawn, I am reminded that Jesus had none of these. Jesus didn't have a comfy bed, an electric space heater, or a cashmere coat. Instead, he had the love of others to welcome him into this world. May you all have a blessed Advent season. I look forward to the journey together with all of you.

Mario

COMPLINE

No Compline in December





THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF OHIO

Report on the 209th Diocesan Convention

On November 14-15, representatives from Christ Church—Fr. Daniel, Fr. Charlie, Theresa Edwards, RuthAnne Belton, Tina Monreal, and Jacob Philips—joined delegates from across the Diocese of Ohio for the 209th Annual Convention, at the Greystone Event Center in Wooster. The Convention opened with Friday evening’s Eucharist and continued Saturday with the full business session of elections, reports, the Bishop’s Address, and legislative action.

Highlights for Christ Church Hudson

- Mario Buchanan was elected as a Lay Deputy to the 82nd General Convention, which will meet in Phoenix in July 2027. Average temperature: 106°. Recommended liturgical color: Sunscreen.
- Mario was also appointed to the Commission on Ministry, which advises and assists the Bishop in the work of discernment, formation, and support for those preparing for Holy Orders and lay professional ministries.
- Tina Monreal was recognized and applauded for completing her second term on the Board of Diocesan Trustees, offering faithful leadership in the stewardship of diocesan resources.

Resolutions and Legislation Passed

The Convention approved the following measures:

- **R-1: Clergy Compensation** — updating minimum compensation and benefits for clergy in 2026.
- **R-2: Anti-Racism Training** — reaffirming and strengthening the diocesan commitment to “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other.”
- **R-3: Dignity, Not Hate, Not Mass Deportation, Not Silence** — calling the Church to a renewed witness of justice, hospitality, and advocacy for vulnerable populations.
- **R-4: Declaring St. Luke’s, Niles, Extinct** — formally concluding the parish’s status, with care for its remaining members.
- **R-5: Declaring Holy Trinity, Lisbon, Extinct** — finalizing the parish’s closure with appropriate pastoral provisions.
- **Four Constitutional and Canonical Amendments** — all passed as presented.
- **The 2026 Diocesan Operating Budget** — adopted as recommended by Diocesan Council.

Year-End Financial Gifts to Christ Church

Just a reminder that all gifts to Christ Church are due in the office by December 31 in order to claim them on your 2025 taxes. When planning your financial gift of stock or bonds to Christ Church, please contact the office so that we may assist you with proper procedures and documentation needed to ensure you are credited for your gift and to direct your gift to the appropriate account.



Advent Sunday Morning
Adult Forum
The Birth Stories of Jesus

Sundays at 9:00 am
November 30-December 28
in the Parish Hall



When the candles and saints give way to Advent wreaths, we'll turn to the nativity stories in Matthew and Luke—the angels and shepherds, Joseph's dreams, Mary's "yes," the magi, and even a detour through Egypt. These aren't just Christmas-card scenes; they're stories about ordinary people caught up in something extraordinary. Seasonal, scriptural, and surprisingly modern—it's a good way to begin the waiting. On December 14 we'll have a special session on the *Book of Maccabees* in honor of Hanukkah.



Thursday, December 4 at 9:30 a.m.

Once a month, a healing service is offered at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel for all who would like to ask prayers for themselves or others. The service lasts about 30 minutes and includes Holy Eucharist. Join us for this quiet, yet powerful service.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2026 Annual Meeting: January 11

Immediately following the 10:30 service, the congregation will remain in the church for a brief meeting to elect vestry members, approve the 2026 budget, and hear a few short reports. Child care will be provided. A hearty coffee hour will follow the meeting.

Christmas

BABY FOOD AND FORMULA COLLECTION

TO BENEFIT THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOOD BANK



You are invited to bring jars of baby food and baby formula to be offered at the Creche on Christmas Eve to be given to The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank for hungry babies in need in Summit County.



Children's Corner



BUILDING FAITH

family worship

LEGO CHURCH & SUPPER

Sunday, December 7 at 4:30 PM



Bring your creativity and your appetite! On December 7, we'll gather for a short, family-friendly worship service where LEGOs help us tell the stories of our faith in new and imaginative ways. It's hands-on, colorful, and open to all ages. After worship, stay for supper and enjoy time together as a church family. Please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/CCELEgoChurch> so we know how many to expect for dinner.



December Youth Group Christmas Movie Night Sunday, December 14th: 4:00—6:00 PM

Our next youth gathering will be a special movie night featuring *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!* We'll meet at church at 4pm and walk together to the Bixbys' home. The movie runs about 1 hour and 40 minutes — we'll pause for an intermission to fix plates for dinner and then finish the film together. We'll be back to church by 6:15 p.m.



Sunday School Teachers Needed

If you enjoy being with kids, love sharing God's story, or simply want to support our young families, we would be incredibly grateful for your help teaching Sunday School.

You don't need teaching experience — just a willingness to show up and be present. We'll provide everything you need. Whether you can serve once a month or once in a while, your presence would make a real difference.

We offer two age groups — PreK–2nd and 3rd–5th — though they often combine depending on numbers. They meet at 10:15am and join the service just before Communion. Our curriculum requires very little prep and leaves plenty of room for creativity. This year we're using *Illustrated Ministry's Mini Revolutions*, which follows the scriptures we hear on any given Sunday.

If you're interested or have questions, please reach out to Fr. Charlie.

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21st

10:30 a.m.



It's the most wonderful time of the year—time to prepare for our annual Christ Church Christmas Pageant! We have a joyful and creative pageant planned, and we hope your kids will join us as we share the blessed story of Jesus' birth with our parish.

This year, our very own Max Rees will be directing the pageant, with assistance from Mario, Lindsay and Conor O'Sullivan, and Courtney Bixby. As we get closer to Pageant Sunday, we may put out a call for help with set pieces, costumes, and other small projects—many hands make light work!

Please take a moment to let us know your child(ren) will be participating by signing up at or reach out to Max Rees (maxwell.robert.rees@gmail.com) or Courtney Bixby (cbixby@hotmail.com). We want as many children and young people involved as possible. If your child has a scheduling conflict, just let us know—we'll work around it and figure things out together.

Rehearsal Schedule

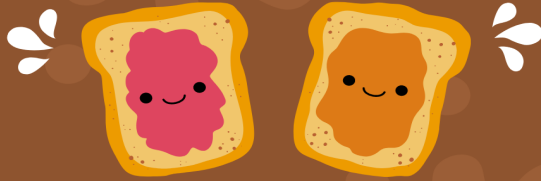
- Sun, Nov 30 – 10:00 (through Sunday School)
- Sun, Dec 7 – 10:00 (through Sunday School)
- Sun, Dec 14 – 10:00 (through Sunday School) and following the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist until 1:00 p.m. (Bring lunch to eat before rehearsal)
- Thurs, Dec 18 – 6:00–6:45 p.m. (Music rehearsal with Mario)
- Sat, Dec 20 – 10:00–11:30 a.m. ("Dress Rehearsal")
- Sun, Dec 21 – Pageant Sunday!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Max, Courtney, or Fr. Charlie. We're really looking forward to this time with our Christ Church kids and youth—always a highlight of the year.



OUTREACH MINISTRY

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY BRIGADE



PB & J WITH A PURPOSE

Please join the Outreach Committee in the Parish Hall at 10:00 AM on December 20 as we come together to make 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the unhoused ministry out of St. Bernard's Church in Akron. We urge anyone and everyone to volunteer at some point, for every month we will put out the call to get to know each other, get sticky, and do good! For more information, contact Judy Brookhart at judyots@gmail.com.

Ring the Bell for The Salvation Army Saturday, December 6th



For many years, parishioners of Christ Church have volunteered to ring the Red Kettle Bell in Hudson for the Salvation Army. This year, Christ Church will be ringing the bell on Saturday, December 6 from 10am-6pm inside Acme supermarket. This is a wonderful way to give back to the Hudson community, as all the funds raised in Hudson stay in Hudson for those in need with utility assistance and food. Thanks for giving your time for this need. Please sign up to volunteer at <https://tinyurl.com/CCEHBellRinging>. Contact Jim Lang at jglang00@gmail.com with any questions.

Hudson Food Pantry Laundry Detergent Collection



Christ Church continues to provide laundry detergent for the Hudson Food Pantry each month. The Food Pantry is requesting **50** jugs of detergent, or packs of pods/sheets by December 11 for the next distribution. If you are grocery shopping or making a Costco run and you think of it, please pick some of these items up and deposit them in the coat room or at the back door of the church. We will get them where they need to go.



Blessing Cards for Open M

Please consider making "blessing cards" to be given out with meals at Open M. Your card can be a simple index card or piece of paper with a few words of encouragement, a bible verse, a picture, stickers, or whatever you imagine will share some love and support. You can drop your cards in the basket inside the coat room. This will be an on-going opportunity and cards will be taken to Open M monthly. To learn more about the work that Open M does, visit www.openm.org.

Expanding Our Partnership with the Hudson Food Pantry

Christ Church has long supported the Hudson Food Pantry, housed at Rejoice Lutheran. Each month—neighbors who qualify through the Emergency Food Assistance Program—and it does so with grace and dignity. Rather than handing out pre-packed boxes, the Pantry lets people shop for what they actually need, from cereal and coffee to shampoo and soap. Beginning in January, the Outreach Committee will help us grow that partnership. Each month, we'll collect one or two specific items that aren't covered by food assistance but make everyday life a little easier. We'll begin with can openers, of all things—because it's hard to use a can of food if you can't open it! Donated items can be placed in the white wood box in the coat room.



With rising costs and reduced benefits, more of our neighbors are turning to the Pantry for help. This simple, steady effort is one small way for us to love our community well.

Important Parking Update



A new shop in the lower southwest lot (near Foil Salon and Denim & Design) is now open on Sundays, and their customers need access to those spaces. Until we can work out some shared-use signage with the landlord, we're asking Christ Church folks to avoid parking in that lower lot on Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping us be good neighbors. Feel free to park in the main lot, along Aurora Street, or in the library/City Hall areas.

Chalice Bearers and Crucifers Needed



We're looking for a few more people to join our rotation of chalice bearers and crucifers at the 10:30 a.m. service. These are wonderful ways to serve, participate more fully in worship, and support our shared ministry on Sunday mornings.

And don't worry—this isn't a life sentence! If you try it and decide it's not for you, you can always come off the rota. Training will be provided, and we'll make sure you feel comfortable before you serve. If you're interested or curious, please reach out to Fr. Charlie or Kathy in the parish office.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT

NO MEN'S NIGHT OUT IN DECEMBER

The men are taking the month of December off and will meet up again beginning in January. We hope you will join us then!

Ladies' Night Out

NO LADIES' NIGHT OUT IN DECEMBER

The ladies are taking the month of December off and will meet up again beginning in January. We will see you in the new year!

2025 CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS



Christmas flower donations for the church are welcome from all
in celebration, as a memorial, or in thanksgiving.

Your gift will be noted in the Christmas Eve bulletins provided the necessary information is received in the church office by **Friday, December 18th.** Please return this form to the office with your dedication (please print) and check payable to Christ Church with “Christmas Flowers” on the memo line. Flower dedications can also be made online by scanning the QR code below.

NAME(S): _____ AMOUNT: _____

As a memorial to...

In celebration of...

In thanksgiving for...

(please circle one of the above and provide the details below)





- Suzanne Lund ~ 12/1
- Julie Ridgway ~ 12/2
- Peter Ryerson ~ 12/3
- Mario Buchanan ~ 12/4
- Pam McCallops ~ 12/11
- Olivia Robinson ~ 12/13
- Jim Gray ~ 12/14
- Julie Merritt ~ 12/16
- James Dalton ~ 12/17
- Cindy Frisby ~ 12/17
- Rebecca Rogers ~ 12/22
- John Longenecker ~ 12/22
- Karen Myers ~ 12/24
- Silas Anglewicz ~ 12/26
- Jay Bixby ~ 12/28
- Jacob Phillips ~ 12/28
- Marcie Harvey ~ 12/29
- Betsy Redmond ~ 12/29
- Tom Harvey ~ 12/31



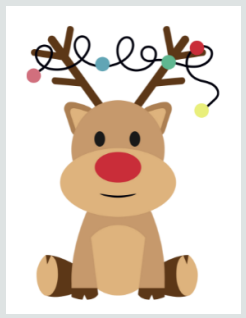
- Alan & Loni Lorenz ~ 12/9
- Ted & Susan Mailey ~ 12/10
- Fern & John MacMillan ~ 12/26

Christ Church, you did it! Thanks to your generosity (and good humor), we didn't just meet our goal of 200 cans of yams for OPEN M—we soared past it.

Together we collected 208 cans, totaling 520 pounds of tubers for our neighbors in need. Your generosity will bless many households this Holiday Season.



Thank you to....



-Midge Karam and The Western Reserve Academy for the use of their timpani for All Saints' Sunday, and to Malcolm Robbie for helping to transport it.
-All who donated gifts for the Giving Tree
-Our wonderful Giving Tree Elves who helped organize, collect, and deliver the gifts: Sallie Bear, Judy Brookhart, Ellen Turner, and Cathy Agnor
-Ellen Turner and Jim Sullivan for providing dinner for our Youth Group in November
-Guy Wylie and Malcolm Robbie for replacing the toilet seats in the undercroft bathrooms
-Judy Brookhart, Mary Apicella, and our church sponsored Cub Scout Pack 3322 for taking on the PB & J Brigade in November
-Courtney Bixby, Malcolm Robbie, Jessi Martin, Lisa Cioccia, and Maria Metoki for helping to cover Youth Group, Sunday School, and the nursery
-All who donated yams for Open M and to Greg Schumacher for delivering all those cans

November Vestry Meeting Highlights

At its November 18 meeting, your vestry gave thanks for clear signs of growth and continued churchmanship at Christ Church. Average attendance at the 10:30 a.m. service in October/November topped 150, with a high of 162. Vestry heard encouraging updates on children and youth: a well-attended listening session with families, plans for a Christmas pageant led by Max Rees with support from Courtney Bixby, the O'Sullivans, and the Carpenters, and the hiring of Jada Chapman to staff the nursery (with a second worker still to be hired).

Financially, October was a strong month, with \$48,000 received in pledges.

Stewardship for 2026 continues steadily: 100 pledge cards have been returned, totaling \$451,086—still short of our \$550,000 goal and compared to the \$482,285 pledged for the 2025 budget. Vestry is considering several options to address the gap while also planning for major sanctuary A/C work. The diocese has approved our grant/loan application for the church building's A/C system, offering a \$35,000 grant and a \$105,000 loan toward the \$200,000 project, though not at the level originally requested.

The vestry also approved Fr. Charlie's 2026 housing allowance designation and set the Annual Meeting for Sunday, January 11, 2026, following the 10:30 a.m. service.

The vestry entered executive session at the close of the meeting.

The next vestry meeting will be held on December 16, at 6:00 p.m.




Christ Church Episcopal

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On the Web:

www.christchurchhudson.com

 Find us on Facebook!

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ChristChurchHudson](https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchHudson)

Rector

The Rev. Charles Knuth
Charlie.knuth@christchurchhudson.org
801-635-5162

Affiliated Clergy

The Rev. Allan Belton, Priest
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Grossoehme, Priest
The Rev. Gretchen Green, Deacon

Staff

Kathy Garber, Parish Administrator
Kathy.garber@christchurchhudson.org
Mario Buchanan, Director of Music/Organist
Mario.buchanan@christchurchhudson.org

Susie Vanaman, Parish Accountant
Svanaman@christchurchhudson.org

Russ Gaippe, Sexton
Norma Harbison, Housekeeping
Marcena Brown, Housekeeping
Matt Baker, A/V Technician
Jada Chapman, Nursery Attendant

Vestry

Greg Daniels, Sr. Warden:
gk_daniels@hotmail.com

Theresa Edwards, Jr. Warden:
theresacedwards1@hotmail.com

Cathy Agnor
Sallie Bear
Courtney Bixby
Andrew Le
Lori Metoki
Malcolm Robbie
Rich Wilson

**Christ Church Hudson
is a Parish of the
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
www.dohio.org**



Holiday Office Closures

**The church office will close at
Noon on Wednesday, December 24th
and Wednesday, December 31st**

**And will be closed on
Thursday, December 25th
Friday, December 26th
Thursday, January 1st
Friday, January 2nd**