

# 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.*

May



2025

# YOUTH



## YOUTH SUNDAY

MAY 11  
10:30 AM

Join us for a special Sunday morning led by the youth of Christ Church! On May 11, our wonderful youth will manage most of the responsibilities during our 10:30 service – they will serve as ushers, lead us in prayers and readings, and share their own sermon with us. Music will also feature our youth with a string ensemble. This will be a fabulous morning celebrating the amazing faith and talents of our youth as they lead us in worship together. You won't want to miss it!



# YOUTH

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## “Vector of the Rector” – Pointing somewhere vaguely spiritual

*“Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus... When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea.” (John 21:4,7)*

This Sunday’s Gospel reading (“May the 4th be with you!”) brings us one of my favorite Easter stories. Seven disciples, restless and bored, have gone out to the Sea of Tiberias for a night of fishing—with no luck. They drift under the stars, waiting, frustrated, and (for reasons best left unexamined) fishing in the nude. As the first light of dawn creeps over the water, they hear a voice calling from the shoreline. The stranger tells them to cast their net one more time. When they do, two things happen almost at once:

1. Their net fills to bursting with fish.
2. They realize the man on the beach is Jesus.

The others begin to row back toward shore, dragging the miraculous catch. But Peter—Peter can’t wait. Overcome with joy, he throws on some clothes (because, well, modesty) and dives into the sea, swimming frantically toward his Lord. He abandons the fish. He abandons the boat. He has lost all practical reasoning faculties. At that moment, nothing matters to Peter except getting to Jesus.

There’s a [classic YouTube video](#) where a little girl’s parents surprise her with a trip to Disneyland. It’s her lifelong dream—and the second she hears the news, she completely falls apart. She sobs uncontrollably, loses track of time and place, and, through her tears, gasps, “Is it my birthday?” That’s the kind of overwhelming, heart-bursting joy I imagine Peter feeling that morning on the beach.

Have you ever felt that way? So full of love, so filled with hope, that you just *had* to act—rashly, foolishly, gloriously?

One week into my time as your rector, I have to tell you: that’s exactly how I feel.

Maybe you know the feeling too. Maybe it wasn’t starting a new call in a new city. Maybe it was falling in love. Maybe it was the knock on the door of someone you thought you’d never see again. Maybe it was a childhood trip to Disneyland. Whatever it was, hold onto that memory. Treasure it. Because even that fleeting human joy is just a glimpse—a faint glimmer—of the “fullness of joy” God promises us in Jesus Christ (Psalm 16:11).

And until we stand in that fullness forever, let’s keep practicing joy here and now. Easter isn’t over yet. We’ve got 40 more days to celebrate resurrection, to eat chocolate, and to throw ourselves wholeheartedly toward the love of God.

See you Sunday—clothes on, hearts wide open!

-Charlie+



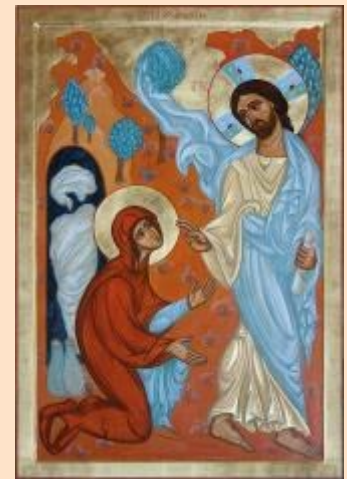
**Thursday, May 1 at 9:30 a.m.**

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.

## **Summer Sunday Morning Adult Forum with The Rev. Charlie Knuth** Begins May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Please join Fr. Charlie for a summer-long lecture series on “Women of the Bible,” beginning on May 4 at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. By then, it will be the Third Sunday of Easter, reminding us that it was “Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women” who first announced the resurrection to the apostles. Yet we’re told “these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.”

These women are essential to the story of our salvation, though their stories often go untold—or are told reductively or unfairly. There is no homework, though you can always bring questions.



## **Cottage Meetings With the Rev. Charlie Knuth**



Christ Church parishioners will host several cottage meetings in their homes over the next month to allow for conversation and an opportunity to get to know Rev. Charlie Knuth. If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/CottageMeetings2025> or call the office.

**May 8 at 6:30 p.m.** - Linda Irving’s home in Hudson

**May 14 at 6:30 p.m.** – Gordon & Theresa Edwards’ home in Hudson

**May 18 after the 10:30 service** - Christ Church upper room

**May 28 at 7:00 p.m.** – Eileen Gaston’s home in Aurora



## **Education for Ministry Graduate Recognition**

On Sunday, May 18, we will recognize Susie Spearman and Mary Reinhardt who are completing the Education for Ministry program. There will be a brief liturgy during the announcements. All current EFM members and EFM graduates are invited to attend to support Susie and Mary. Everyone is invited to an informal reception during the coffee hour.

# Children's Corner

Our Christian Education Program year is coming to a close this month. We have had a great year with lots of fun! This summer is going to be a blast with Vacation Bible School in August! Children's Chapel will continue throughout the summer months, so be sure to come to church so your children can engage with the Bible in new and hands-on ways.



## MAY Faith Formation at CCE

### MAY 4th

Children's Chapel during the 10:30 Service  
Drew Le Youth Room Fundraiser Concert 3:00 p.m.  
Youth Group and Supper at 4:30 p.m.  
Lego Church and Supper at 4:30 p.m.

### MAY 11th YOUTH SUNDAY

**No Sunday School** – all children invited to enjoy  
the 10:30 service

### MAY 18th– Summer Education Schedule Begins

Children's Chapel during the 10:30 Service  
Youth Group Celebration Party at 4:30 p.m.

### MAY 25th

Children's Chapel during the 10:30 Service  
for ages 3 to rising 5th grade



## Children's Chapel

For children 3-years old through 5th grade

SUNDAY MORNINGS THIS SUMMER  
DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE.



### May Youth Group

May 4th and 18th at 4:30 p.m.  
For students in 6th-12th grades



**BUILDING FAITH**  
**family worship**  
**LEGO CHURCH & SUPPER**  
**Sunday, May 4th at 4:30 p.m.**



Calling all parishioners of all ages, young and young at heart! Join us for a fun, interactive worship experience at Christ Church. Using LEGOS, we will explore Biblical themes and stories in a short, imaginative service that allows for people of all ages to engage with our faith in new and creative ways. Following worship, we will enjoy a meal together. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/LegoChurch2425> so we know how much food to provide. This will be our last meeting for the 2024-2025 program year!

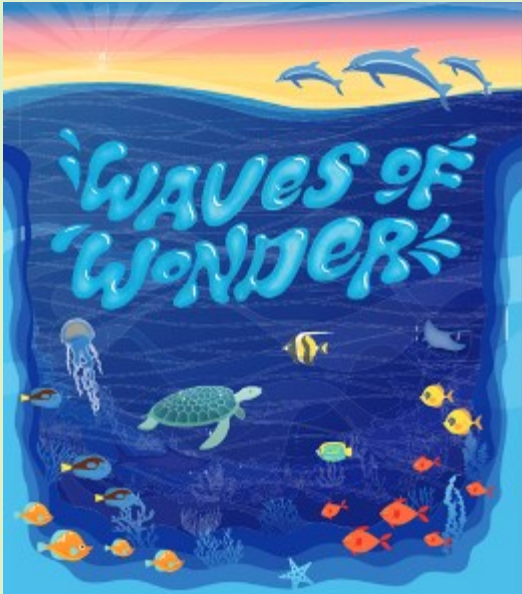
# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1st!

**When: August 4-8; 9:00am-12:00pm**

Registration forms can be found on the church website at [christchurchudson.com/bible-school.html](http://christchurchudson.com/bible-school.html)

**Who: Ages 4 (as of July 31, 2025 and fully potty-trained) through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (Fall 2025)**

*PreK will meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday only. Nursery will be available for younger children.*



Make Vacation Bible School the highlight of your summer with **Waves of Wonder**. This VBS program invites children to explore scriptures in which God provides water for plants, animals, and people. They will visit the wilderness and miraculously receive water from a rock. They will take a boat ride with Jesus and weather a wavy storm, and even imagine a new heaven and a new earth where all are invited to receive God's life-giving water.

Through worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, and active games, children will deepen their understanding of the importance of water and be invited to join God in caring for this precious natural resource!

Mark your calendars now and plan to have your children join us on this adventure through faith that will equip them and empower them for a life-long journey with God. Friends and neighbors are welcomed!

Questions? Contact Sarah Bhatia at [sbhatia@christchurchudson.org](mailto:sbhatia@christchurchudson.org)

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Does crafting make your heart roar? Do you love feeding the herd with snacks? Do science experiments make you go wild? Is story telling your passion? Do the singing voices of children bring tears to your eyes? If so, ready your skills to make a wonderful week for our community at Vacation Bible School. Contact Sarah for a volunteer registration form and let your wild side shine this summer!

- Registration/Check in (1-2 people): Make sure payment and registration info is in and correct. Pass out name tags. Greet parents and children daily
- Check out (1): greeting parents at the door and checking out children at the end of each day
- Drama (2-3): perform little skits during opening and closing gatherings—can be teens
- Service Learning (1): teach lessons and activities about the mission project for the week
- Arts (1): lead easy arts and crafts that help to build connections with the day's theme
- Science and Nature (1): lead easy science experiments and nature lessons
- Shepherds (12 total): lead group to each rotation station. Lead reflection time at the start of each day
- PreK/K Leader (3-4): lead the PreK/K classes in all activities

### Support roles:

- Shopping: food for snacks, supplies for rotations, etc.
- Administrative work: making copies, cutting out materials, prepping materials for rotations
- Set up (3-4): Setting up chairs and rooms each morning (by 8:30)
- Tear down (3-4): putting chairs and supplies away at the end of each day.
- Prepping crafts: getting crafts supplies ready to go for each day

# ANDREW LE PIANO CONCERT

SUNDAY, MAY 4TH, 3PM

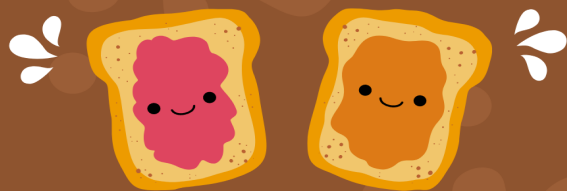


Our own Drew Le will perform a free piano concert here at Christ Church! The event is open to all. A free-will offering will be taken to support our youth program. Following the concert, there will be a reception in Parish Hall featuring delectables baked by our very own talented youth. All proceeds from the free will offering will be used to enhance the Youth Room to be a place of welcome, comfort, and fun for our middle and high school students.



## OUTREACH MINISTRY

### PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY BRIGADE



#### **PB & J DAY: May 17th**

Please join the Outreach Committee in the Parish Hall at 10:00 AM on May 17 as we come together to make 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless 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. Get to know each other, get sticky, and do good! For more information, contact Judy Brookhart at [judyots@gmail.com](mailto:judyots@gmail.com).

### **Hudson Food Pantry Laundry Detergent Collection**



Christ Church continues its monthly collection of **40 jugs, packs of pods, or sheets** of laundry detergent, which cannot be purchased with government assistance (SNAP), for the Hudson Food Pantry. Detergent can be left on the bench inside the back door, or outside the door if it is locked. Thank you for helping support the Hudson Food Pantry!



Photo credit: Andrew Le



**Mario Buchanan**  
**Director of Music and Organist**  
[mario.buchanan@christchurchhudson.org](mailto:mario.buchanan@christchurchhudson.org)

Friends,

I want to first congratulate the Christ Church choirs on a splendid Holy Week and Easter. As many of you know, music doesn't just shoot down from God. It takes many hours of practice, hard work, and dedication for the glory of God. We are so blessed with such a wonderful group of human beings that make up the choirs. Their singing helps to perfect our praises. Hug a choir member next time you see them and thank them. It can be easy for us to take them for granted. We were also so blessed to have a cellist on Good Friday and brass/timpani on Easter.

This month we have two events I want to highlight. Andrew's Le's concert is coming up on May 4th at 3pm. Drew is such a fantastic pianist, so this is not one to be missed! The proceeds of the concert go to the youth of our congregation and cookies will be baked by our youth for a festive post-concert reception. Coming up a few weeks later is another event not to be missed, our own Lydia Nall in concert. Lydia, our soprano Choral Scholar, will be attending a summer music festival in Vienna and is presenting a concert on Saturday, May 17th at 4pm to raise funds for her travel expenses. All are invited, I hope to see you there and a friend!

The choirs continue their singing in May, with the end of the choir season being on Trinity Sunday, June 15th. We will have two Choral Scholars graduating this year, James Hassan and Kaitlyn Tiemens. They will be going off to graduate programs in music. Both have enriched our worship at Christ Church, so we will recognize them on a Sunday morning in May, details forthcoming. As we look forward to summer plans, I am also glad we will have some pick-up choir opportunities! Details will be forthcoming.

I am so excited that we will be sending two choristers to Duke this summer for the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Summer Residency. This choir camp allows choristers from across the country to sing in the beautiful Duke Chapel at Duke University. The director this year is Tansy Castledine, Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral in the UK. This is a wonderful opportunity for young people and I hope to make a tradition of sending choristers to RSCM Summer Residencies.

We are so blessed at Christ Church not only with a thriving music program but also calling our new Rector, The Rev. Charlie Knuth. I look forward to us going from strength to strength!

All my best,

*Mario*

## **FEATURED HYMN OF THE MONTH**

Every month, we will have a featured hymn text. These hymns might be ones we don't sing regularly but still stand as great texts of the church. I hope you enjoy reading them.

## **Before the Fruit is Ripened by the Sun**

Thomas H. Troeger

Before the fruit is ripened by the sun, before the petals or the leaves uncoil,  
Before the first fine silken root is spun, a seed is dropped and buried in the soil.  
Before the Easter Alleluias ring, before the massive rock is rolled aside,  
before the fear of death has lost its sting, a just and loving man is crucified.

Before we gain the grace that come through loss,  
Before we live by more than bread and breath, before we lift in joy an empty cross,  
we face with Christ the seed's renewing death.

# Choral Compline

Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm  
Last Compline of the Season!

Join us for dinner beforehand at 5:30pm, quiet time with candles at 6pm, and service at 6:30pm. Compline gives us an opportunity to tune out the busyness of the world. The service is chanted by the Adult Choir.



May 17<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 PM

at Christ Church

## *A Fundraising Voice Recital*

featuring

*Lydia Mall, soprano*  
*Julie Lehman, piano*

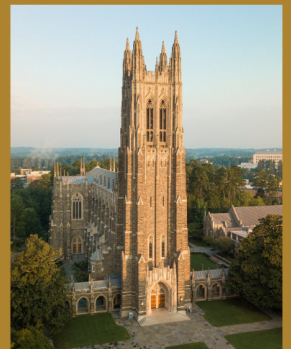


Donations are gratefully accepted to help with Lydia's tuition and travel to the Vienna Summer Music Festival in Austria

R S M  
THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC  
AMERICA

"Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants who minister in Thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."  
— Choristers' Prayer

We are very excited that we will be sending Ella Harvey and Anna Barger this year to the RSCM Carolina Summer Residency! This course, housed at Duke University, features opportunities to sing the finest sacred SATB repertoire with the highest standards of musical performance, conducted by internationally recognized musicians, balanced with a full complement of structured recreational and social activities. All of the choristers spend the week at Duke and conclude singing final services in the historic Duke Chapel. In total there will be around 100 singers in the course.



# CALLING ALL GRADUATES!



If you or a family member are graduating from High School, College, or Professional School this year, we would like to feature you in the June issue of the Communicant. Please send an email to Kathy Garber at [Kathy.garber@christchurchudson.org](mailto:Kathy.garber@christchurchudson.org) by May 15 and include a photo, the school from which you graduate, and your plans for the future.

The Metokis would love for you to stop by to celebrate Luke's graduation from high school! Let Lori know, or just stop by Cascade Park.



## GRADUATION PARTY

IN HONOR OF

*Luke Metoki*

HUDSON HIGH SCHOOL - Class of 2025

May 24th, 2025 from 3pm to 6pm

Cascade Park, 130 Lynn Dr., Hudson, Ohio

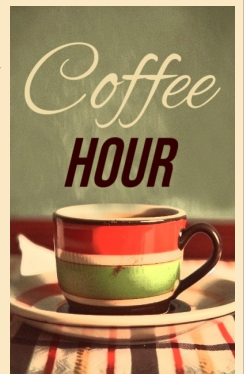
TUESDAY, MAY 13 AT 5:30 P.M.

*Ladies  
Night Out!*

JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP!

Join us for another evening of good food, sparkling conversation, and lots of laughter! We will gather at The Brew Kettle in Hudson on May 13 at 5:30. Please sign up through the office at 330-650-4359 or at <https://tinyurl.com/CCEHLadiesnight> by May 9. Contact Emily Longenecker with questions at [jelongenecker@gmail.com](mailto:jelongenecker@gmail.com).

Coffee hour is a much-enjoyed part of our Sunday mornings together and we are looking for hosts to provide a simple snack and beverage after the 10:30 service. This is a great ministry for families or Christ Church friends to do together. Training can be provided if needed and reimbursement is available through the office. Sign up to host by calling the office or at <https://tinyurl.com/CCCoffeeHour>.



*Thank  
You*

Thank you to all who helped lead our children and youth this year! Our kids learned so much from you this year. It has been a joy to work with each of you. Our Christian Education programs could not have happened without your dedication and service.

*Marcie Harvey  
Courtney Bixby  
Malcom Robbie*

## *Thank You to...*

.... Jane Harrison and all who helped make palm crosses for Palm Sunday  
.... Cathy Agnor for providing supper for Lego Church and Youth Group in April  
.... All who helped with coffee hour and the receptions for the Rev. Peter Faass and the Rev. Charlie Knuth  
.... Our wonderful Choirs, Altar Guild, and Flower Guild, and all who worked to make our Holy Week and Easter services so meaningful  
.... Jay and Courtney Bixby for allowing the church to meet at their home for the Palm Sunday procession to the church  
.... Midge Karam and the Western Reserve Academy for the use of their timpani on Easter Sunday, and Doug Swift and Malcolm Robbie for helping to transport it.



April 28, 2025

Dear Christ Church Hudson friends,

As I told the wardens and vestry, my eight months as your extended supply priest plus were among the best eight months of my twenty-six years of ordained ministry! I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve you in this manner.

Thank you for the generous out-pouring of cards, gift cards, gifts and gracious comments that you gave me as I concluded my time with you. As I read each card and heard each comment I was filled with gratitude. Greg's kind comments at the 10:30 Easter service was very meaningful, and your standing ovation moved me deeply. And, of course, there was the very generous gift from the wardens and vestry, as well. Thank you for all of it, and so much more!

The people of Christ Church are a loving, warm, and welcoming congregation. Anthony and I fell in love with you, which made ending our "official time" with you a bitter-sweet occasion. I will admit that I'm ready to return more fully to retired life again. I have that memoir about my family's immigration experience in 1957 that I am eager to finish, and then there's a novel in me somewhere, I think. It will be nice to turn my attention to that writing, and a few other things as well, like getting our house ready to put on the market so we can move into a one level condo or apartment. As we age, steps are becoming more challenging!

As we explained before we ended our time at Christ Church, travel, vacation, another supply gig in June, and an annual retreat with my two BFFs from General Theological Seminary in early July, means we are engaged for the next three months, or so. We do plan on worshipping at Christ Church on Sundays when I'm not supplying once these commitments are fulfilled. We will look forward to being with you again with great anticipation and reconnecting with so many wonderful friends.

Anthony and I pray you Godspeed as you embark on this new leg of your journey with Charlie. I know God has good things in store for you as you proclaim the Good News!

Faithfully and fondly,

Peter + and Anthony



- Cathy Agnor ~ 5/1
- Irene Gillette ~ 5/2
- Gordon Edwards ~ 5/3
- Timothy Jackson ~ 5/3
- Denise McNaughton ~ 5/4
- Beverly Grant ~ 5/4
- Bob Comben ~ 5/8
- Anna Longenecker ~ 5/8
- Cathy Antholine ~ 5/9
- James Gilliland ~ 5/10
- Maryanne Buchanan ~ 5/11
- Maureen Edwards ~ 5/12
- Richard Fulytar ~ 5/14
- Midge Karam ~ 5/16
- Al Lorenz ~ 5/16
- Rose Fulytar ~ 5/21
- Sophie Fulytar ~ 5/21
- Rich Wilson ~ 5/22
- Janet Adams ~ 5/22
- Laura Haake ~ 5/24
- Susan Mailey ~ 5/25
- Marilyn Marks ~ 5/26
- Fern MacMillan ~ 5/27
- Emily Fulytar ~ 5/29
- Janet Daniels ~ 5/30
- Ross Agnor ~ 5/31



- Kaye & Ken Lowe ~ 5/2
- Tom & Paula Harvey ~ 5/5
- Doug & Marcie Harvey ~ 5/13
- Colin & Megan Repko ~ 5/18
- Daniel & Henny Grosseohme ~ 5/23
- Richard & Sarah Fulytar ~ 5/26

**FOR THE RECORD...**

Baptism: Isabel Jane Longenecker  
Deaths: Paul Frank



A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR  
**Paul Frank**  
Saturday, May 24th at 11:00 a.m.

**April Vestry Meeting Highlights**



- The vestry met on April 22 at 6:00pm,
- Senior Warden, Greg Daniels, reported that 255 people attended Easter services.
- Guy Wylie presented multiple options for building repairs in the sanctuary, including new carpet and hardwood floor refinishing. Vestry will make recommendations during the May meeting.
- Due to a building scheduling conflict, Vacation Bible School has been moved to August 4-8, 2025 from 9am-Noon.
- Five cottage meetings have been scheduled in the month of May as an opportunity for Rev. Charlie Knuth to meet us in smaller group settings. Online sign-ups will begin at the end of April.
- Ann Kirk reported that about half of the 2025 pledges have been received.
- Cathy Agnor reported her research into local training programs for the use of the new AED, as well as first aid training. Kathy Garber has also spoken with the salesperson of the AED and he is available to provide a free evening session as well. It is recommended that staff and ushers be trained. More information and possible training dates are to follow.
- It was decided that the times of services will remain the same during the summer. This will allow Rev. Charlie the opportunity to offer adult formation classes between the 8am and 10:30am services.
- The next vestry meeting is Tuesday, May 27 at 6:00 p.m.



Big sister, Anna, helps the Rev. Peter Faass fill the baptismal font in preparation of the baptism of Isabel Longenecker on Easter Sunday.




**Christ Church Episcopal**

**21 Aurora Street  
Hudson, OH**

**Phone:** 330-650-4359

**On the Web:**

[www.christchurchhudson.com](http://www.christchurchhudson.com)

 Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchHudson>

**Rector**

The Rev. Charles Knuth

**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](mailto:Kathy.garber@christchurchhudson.org)  
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[Mario.buchanan@christchurchhudson.org](mailto:Mario.buchanan@christchurchhudson.org)  
Sarah Bhatia, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry,  
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Susie Vanaman, Parish Accountant  
[Svanaman@christchurchhudson.org](mailto:Svanaman@christchurchhudson.org)

Russ Gaippe, Sexton  
Norma Harbison, Housekeeping  
Marcena Brown, Housekeeping  
Matt Baker, A/V Technician  
Amber Lambing, Nursery Attendant  
Loralei Scott, Nursery Attendant

**Vestry**

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[gk\\_daniels@hotmail.com](mailto:gk_daniels@hotmail.com)  
  
Theresa Edwards, Jr. Warden:  
[theresacedwards1@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.dohio.org)**

**SUMMER WORSHIP**



***Adult Forum to Continue through the Summer Months***

Historically, Christ Church has suspended the Adult Forum from Memorial Day through Labor Day and the start time to the Sunday worship service in the Church has been moved from 10:30 am to 10 am. However, Rev. Charlie Knuth with Vestry support wants to continue the Adult Forum through the Summer 2025. Therefore, the start time for Summer Sunday worship service in the Church will remain at 10:30 am.