

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.*

November



2025

Grateful
*hearts, joyful
praise*

*O give thanks
unto the Lord,
for he is good:
for his mercy
endureth for ever.*

Psalm 107:1

Vector of the Rector
Page 2

Stewardship Update
Music Director Notes
Page 3

All Saints' Sunday
Healing Service
Adult Formation
Page 4

Ladies Night Out
Men's Night Out
Advent Lessons & Carols
Family Night Out
Music from the Western
Reserve
Page 5

Outreach Ministry
Yams for Open M
The Giving Tree
PB & J Brigade
Habitat for Humanity
Laundry Detergent Collec-
tion
Pages 6-7

Getting to Know You
Page 8-9

Children's Corner
Page 10

November Birthdays
& Anniversaries
Thank You Notes
Thanksgiving Office Hours
Vestry Highlights
Page 11

Diocesan Convention
Contact Information
Page 12



“Vector of the Rector” – Pointing somewhere vaguely spiritual

The Gospel for people who outsmart themselves

The internet is full of “life hacks”—clever little shortcuts that promise to get us around life’s obstacles. *Use a clothespin to hold a nail while hammering. Use Doritos as kindling when building a fire. Turn on your seat warmer to keep your pizza hot on the drive home.* Every time I try one of these, I feel like I’ve outsmarted life itself.

At a deeper level, though, we all develop our own kinds of “life hacks”—defense mechanisms we invent to survive in a world that can feel stacked against us. Some people turn everything into a joke. Some learn to stay invisible. Some become experts at control. These habits help us get by; they keep us safe. But they also distance us—from others, and from God.

Luke tells us about a man who had mastered the art of the life hack. Zacchaeus was short, but he was clever. He wanted to see Jesus, so he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a tree—a strategic workaround. I imagine he used similar tricks throughout his life to protect himself from the anger of those he’d cheated as a tax collector. Zacchaeus had learned how to rise above the crowd. But in doing so, he distanced himself from God.

Then Jesus stops, looks up, and says, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” The “friend of sinners” skips the lecture and goes straight to lunch. He breaks through every defense Zacchaeus has ever built and invites himself over for dinner.

John Donne once wrote:

*Batter my heart, three-person’d God, for you
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;
That I may rise and stand, o’erthrow me, and bend
Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new.*

That’s what happens to Zacchaeus—and to us. God overthrows, bends, breaks, blows, and burns through our defenses. The same walls that once kept us safe can also keep love out.

It’s terrifying, because those defenses have been with us since childhood. But God loves us too much to leave them standing. God blasts through our cleverness, our emotional armor, our life hacks—to reach the vulnerable heart underneath.

And that’s the gospel in miniature: Not that we climb up to see God, but that God looks up and calls us down.

Stewardship Update: Nearing the Finish Line

Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge for 2026. Your generosity and faithfulness are what make the ministry of Christ Church possible week after week.

At the time of this publication, 71 households have pledged a total of \$390,670 toward our 2026 operating budget goal of \$550,000 from 120 households. That's about 71% of our financial goal and 59% of our household goal—a strong position heading into Ingathering Sunday on November 2.

Nearly half of all pledgers (49%) have increased their giving, and another 11% are new to pledging this year. We're also ahead of last year's pace: at this time in 2024, we had 54 pledges totaling \$307,587. That means giving is up \$83,000 and participation is ahead by 17 households.

Every additional pledge, no matter the size, moves us closer to goal and strengthens the shared ministry of Christ Church Hudson. If you have questions or concerns about pledging, or just need a little extra time, please reach out to Fr. Charlie. If you are in need of a pledge card, please contact Kathy Garber at Kathy.garber@christchurchhudson.org.

Staying in Touch with Fr. Charlie

If you'd like to get in touch, you can reach me by email at Charlie.knuth@christchurchhudson.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@christchurchhudson.org

Dear Friends,

I have always been a fan of Fall. The change of the leaves, the apple cider, and most importantly: sweater weather. This also means All Saints. It is a time we gather to remember those who have gone before us. We will have brass and timpani for the service in addition to our fantastic choirs. As we look forward in the liturgical calendar, Advent is coming up next month, which means our annual Advent Lessons and Carols Service. This year it will be on Advent I, November 30th at 4pm. I do hope you will join us for this service and bring a friend. The Adult Choir works hard on the music for the service, so it is not one to be missed!

Blessings,
Mario

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

November 2nd at 8:00 and 10:30 am



Join us as we celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us, sing fabulous hymns, and light the All Saints' candles in memory of our loved ones. We will have brass and timpani at the 10:30 in addition to our wonderful choirs.

Sunday Morning Adult Forum

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Lives that Preach

Five Saints for Allhallowtide

November 2nd—November 23rd



This fall at Adult Sunday School, we're spending Allhallowtide with a few saints whose lives still preach—some ancient, some modern, all beautifully human. Their stories are equal parts messy, brave, and full of grace. These are people who show what faith actually looks like in real life: not perfect piety, but love showing up anyway. Think of it as coffee, conversation, and a reminder that you're not the only one trying to make sense of faith in a complicated world.



Thursday, November 6 at 9:30 a.m.

Our Thursday Healing Prayer service will be a special one as we celebrate the Holy Baptism of Lilly Solano. In baptism, we glimpse the deepest kind of healing—the new life God gives in Christ. Alongside prayers for those in need of comfort and restoration, we'll rejoice as Lilly is washed in grace and welcomed into the household of faith. All who are able are warmly encouraged to come, pray, and bear witness to this joyful and healing moment in our parish life.

Coming in Advent: Sunday Morning Adult Forum The Birth Stories of Jesus



Begins December 1 | Same time, same coffee

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.

Ladies' Night Out

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH AT 5:30 P.M.

Join us for another evening of fun, food, and fellowship. We will gather at Pad Thai in Hudson on November 18 at 5:30 pm. Please sign up through the office at 330-650-4359 or at <https://tinyurl.com/CCEHLadiesnight> by November 14. Contact Allison Courtney with any questions at allison.d.courtney@gmail.com.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT

NO MEN'S NIGHT OUT IN NOVEMBER

The men are taking the busy months of November and December off and will meet up again beginning in January.

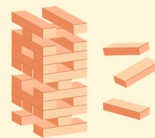
COMPLINE

No Compline this month

Advent Lessons and Carols

AND

Family Night



11 • 30 • 2025

LESSONS & CAROLS - 4:00 PM

FAMILY NIGHT - 5:00 PM

Join us for our annual Advent service led by our Adult Choir. Afterwards, we will enjoy a casual evening of board games, Thanksgiving leftovers, & connection with others. All are welcome!



MUSIC FROM THE WESTERN RESERVE

November 23rd | 5pm
LES DÉLICES PRESENTS
WILD THINGS

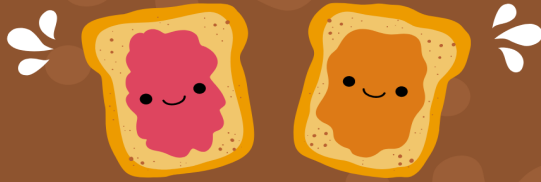
at Christ Church Episcopal

Les Délices brings long-forgotten music alive for contemporary audiences. Founded by baroque oboist Debra Nagy in 2009, Les Délices has established a reputation for unique programs that “can’t help but get one listening and thinking in fresh ways”. Inspired by animals and the natural world, *Wild Things* features delightful musical settings of Aesop’s Fables (in English, featuring soprano Elena Mullins Bailey) plus instrumental music depicting birds, cats, frogs, insects, and more by Heinrich Biber (his fabulous “Sonata Representativa”), François Couperin, Jean-Philippe Rameau, and others. Purchase tickets online at www.musicfromthewestern.com or at the door the night of the concert. A pre-concert talk begins at 4:30 pm with a reception following the concert.



OUTREACH MINISTRY

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY BRIGADE



PB & J WITH A PURPOSE

Our church sponsored Cub Scout Pack 3322 will take on the responsibility of making the sandwiches for November's PB & J Brigade. Not only do the boys and their parents prepare sandwiches, but they also contribute to our yam pyramid and make blessing cards for Open M. We are grateful for their contributions, and are also grateful for our own sandwich volunteers who will return on Saturday, December 20th at 10 am to resume our commitment of making 300 sandwiches each month for the homeless ministry out of St. Bernard's in Akron.

Hudson Food Pantry Laundry Detergent Collection



Laundry is a ritual that comes with having a body, and as an act of Christian charity, Christ Church continues to provide laundry detergent for the Hudson Food Pantry. They are requesting **40** jugs of detergent, or packs of pods/sheets by November 19 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. Thank you!



HELP BUILD IT SATURDAY, NOV 22ND

Volunteers are needed to help with our final build day in Akron for our Habitat partner family, Charmaine Jenkins and her two children. As an active member of the Hudson Coalition of churches, Christ Church Episcopal shares in the cost of sponsorship of a house and provides volunteers who work with the partner family on construction. A Habitat Supervisor provides the materials and tools needed for construction, directs the work of volunteers, and maintains a safe work environment. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, and construction experience is appreciated, but not required. The supervisor provides training on the tasks for the workday, which begins at 9 AM and concludes by 3:30 PM. Contact Len Harrison at (615)720-7674 or harrison13n@gmail.com for more information or if you can help.



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.

A Season of Giving

The Giving Tree

As we look forward to the Advent and Christmas Season, Christ Church parishioners have a wonderful opportunity to help Hudson families who are in need. The Christ Church Giving Tree will be on display in the Parish Hall **beginning November 9** and will bear tags for gift cards and items that these families would like or are in need of. Please take a tag (or two), sign it out, and return the wrapped gift(s) to a spot under the Giving Tree by **Sunday, November 23**.

Yams for Open M

It's time to build our annual **YAM PYRAMID** for OPEN M! We will collect **200 large cans of YAMS (40 oz. size)** for Open M Christmas food baskets for families in need of a holiday meal this year. You can add your cans to the Yam Pyramid inside the parking lot entrance door, or in the bin outside, through November 30. 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 on Stow Road. It serves about 70 Hudson families 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—together with parishioners Kathie Balcerzak and Lisa Ciocia—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. Thank you for being part of it.



Each month we feature a little “getting to know you” vignette of a Christ Church parishioner or family in the Communicant. If you would like to be featured in an issue of The Communicant or know someone who would, please let us know. This month, Eileen Gaston helps us to get to know a little bit more about The Harvey Family. We look forward to getting to know you better, too!

Get to Know Doug, Marcie, Ella, Calvin, Violet (and Lucy) Harvey

If gold crowns were awarded for worship participation, the Harvey family would be in the first line. On any given Sunday, you can see Doug as crucifer and Ella, Calvin, and Violet as youth choristers, perhaps also serving as acolytes and lectors. Marcie might be sitting in the second pew with Doug’s father and stepmother, (Tom and Paula Harvey) or teaching Sunday school . Whew! Who ARE these Super Episcopalians?

Doug and Marcie met in college at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, NY. He grew up in Chagrin Falls, attending St. Martin’s Episcopal Church. Marcie’s family moved from Texas to Chicago to Cleveland and back again. Her high school was in Denton, TX; her church - ELCA Lutheran.

Marcie earned a BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering at RPI. Her first job was with Lockheed Martin in NY. She’s also worked at NASA and at Goodyear, as a Test Development Engineer. Doug’s degrees are BS in Math (RPI), MS in Statistics (Illinois), and MBA (Ohio State). He’s been with Goodyear since 2002, now as Director of Global Sales and Operations Planning.



They were married in 2000 at a Lutheran church in Houston, TX; Marcie’s uncle was the celebrant. Goodyear brought them to Ohio. In 2005 they came to Hudson. They found a big house, planning to “fill it with children.”

Lucy was born in 2006. From birth, she had multiple developmental disabilities. Doctors warned Doug and Marcie that her life would be measured in months, not years. They accepted this devastating diagnosis by celebrating each MONTHLY birthday, throughout her life. Many of us remember Lucy in her wheelchair, in the back pew, as she grew to be a big girl, then a teenager.

The family continued to grow, with Ella being born in 2009, Calvin in 2011, and Violet in 2017. Their house WAS filled with children. Marcie worked part-time at Goodyear after Lucy was born and retired after Violet was born. Doug’s mother Nancy, now deceased, was a particularly great support during Lucy’s lifetime, spending many days in the hospital with Lucy to give Doug and Marcie a break.

Continued on next page...

The Harvey Family, continued....

Over the years, Lucy experienced numerous medical emergencies, but the family kept coming to church. Lucy and Ella were angels in several Christmas pageants, with Lucy being wheeled by a senior angel. In 2021, after a month of remote school and work in Florida post Covid, Lucy had her final crisis on their drive home to Ohio and passed away in a hospital in North Carolina. She was 14 or, as Marcie quickly says, "171 months." Her health issues were neurological, so her organs were available as a donor. Four persons benefited from her heart, liver, and both kidneys. Her kidney recipient returned to school and was promptly chosen as prom queen!

Doug and Marcie have been members of Christ Church since 2006. They have many roles here. Doug is a frequent crucifer; he organizes the quarterly schedule for worship assistants (acolytes, lectors, chalice bearers). He serves as an AV technician to stream our service on Facebook and YouTube. He was on the vestry twice, and has been on the Finance and Fellowship committees. Marcie has volunteered with Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Children's Chapel, nursery, Christmas pageant, church gardens, search committee, and Altar Guild. She also maintains the complicated family schedule. See below.

Ella and Calvin both attend Western Reserve Academy, as a Junior and a Freshman. They are faithful Youth Choristers, for seven years, and also serve as lectors and acolytes. Ella has attended the Royal School Church Music (RSCM) program at Duke University for two summers. Violet (3rd grade at East Woods School) has just joined the choir and looks forward to being an acolyte next year. She also likes Sunday School and VBS.

When not serving in church, Ella plays violin in the WRA orchestra, has a singing role in "Seussical - the Musical," leads the French Club and the Gender Sexuality Alliance, and helps coach youth soccer. Calvin plays violin, and also trombone in the WRA jazz band. He and the middle school Science Olympiad team advanced to the national tournament in June. Violet plays violin (of course) and guitar. She takes ballet lessons and is active in sports and Girl Scouts.

What does Doug do in his spare time? Runs marathons - many of them - including Boston 7 or 8 times (he's lost count). He is about to complete his goal of a marathon in all fifty states. It will be in Houston TX, on January 1, with many of Marcie's Texas family attending. Over the years, since 2017, his marathons have been part of a family vacation. So the three kids have visited all fifty states, often cheering Dad from the sidelines. He also coaches their sports teams - soccer, baseball, and softball. Marcie likes to read, bake, run, and garden. The family enjoys visiting National Parks, especially our own CVNP and the Sunday evening pops concerts at Blossom.

Their goals for Christ Church? Doug - more volunteers to serve during worship. Marcie - more people of all ages and stages. Ella - continue the strong chorister program. Calvin - continue the renovation of the Youth Group area and "everything is really good as it is."

Thanks, Harveys, for your amazing service!

Children's Corner



BUILDING FAITH

Family worship

LEGO CHURCH & SUPPER

NO LEGO CHURCH IN NOVEMBER



Children's Chapel

For children 3-years old through 2nd grade
**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE.**

No Children's Chapel in November

1st Sunday of the Month

During the 10:30 service, our 3-year-olds through 2nd Graders will join a volunteer during the Gloria at the front of the church and return to their families at the Peace. We use the Godly Play curriculum, which is a Montessori-based program, to explore Bible stories and wonder together as we explore and build our faith.

Faith Explorers

2nd-5th Sundays of the Month

Faith Explorers Sunday School meets at 10:15 on the Lower Level. We have two age groups: PreK-2nd and 3rd-5th. This year, we will be using Illustrated Ministry's *Mini Revolutions* curriculum. This lectionary-based curriculum uses scripture, activities, micro-practices, and prayer to help each person embrace their own mini revolutions each week.



Youth Group

1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month

After another amazing year, Youth Group is back on September 15. It is an opportunity for students in grades 6-12 to explore faith formation topics, build close relationships with their peers, and discover how to navigate their world in the light and love of Christ. We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays for fellowship, faith formation, and food! Keep an eye out for outreach and service events throughout the year as well.



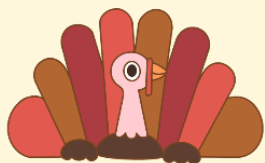
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Heather Swift ~ 11/3
 Owen Cronkey ~ 11/3
 Heather Swift ~ 11/3
 Jane Harrison ~ 11/4
 Matthew Bailey ~ 11/6
 Madeline Bailey ~ 11/8
 Anthony Kastellic ~ 11/8
 Len Harrison ~ 11/11
 Doris Lefebvre ~ 11/11
 Evelyn Pitz ~ 11/12
 Diane DeWall ~ 11/12
 Jessica Kosanovich ~ 11/13
 Beth Boazzo ~ 11/15
 Richard Shirey ~ 11/16
 Bob Zuhl ~ 11/22
 Micheal Haren ~ 11/24
 Suzanne Kim ~ 11/25



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Lee & Deborah Carpenter ~ 11/2
 Len & Jan Harrison ~ 11/13
 James & Beth Boazzo ~ 11/29
 Ann & Pat Kirk ~ 11/29



Thanksgiving Week Office Hours

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, November 26 through Friday, November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving. Please contact Fr. Charlie at 801-635-5162 in the event of a pastoral emergency.

Thank you to...



- ... all who helped with the Memorial Service for Mary Ann Switz
- ... Linda Irving for providing supper for Youth Group and Compline in October
- ... RuthAnne Belton and Sallie Bear for helping out in the office in October
- ... all who donated candy for the Hudson Merchant-Trick-or-Treating event
- ... our wonderful worship assistants who help lead our services every Sunday
- ... Bob Zuhl, Tina Monreal, Guy Wylie, and Greg Daniels for their work on the Diocesan loan application to help with the cost of a new air conditioning unit for the church

October Vestry Meeting Highlights

- The vestry met on October 28, opening with an introduction and practice of the Jesus Prayer.
- Fr. Charlie shared encouraging attendance trends: our average Sunday attendance has risen each year since the pandemic and is on track to return to pre-2020 levels by next year.
- The vestry expressed gratitude to all who helped make Mary Ann Switz's funeral a comfort to her family and friends.
- There will be a baptism during the November healing service.
- Mikayla Knuth's Celebration of New Ministry is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, and Fr. Charlie's will take place on April 21, 2026.
- Financially, things remain stable. The roof over the library and the Hand Room chimney repairs have been completed, and the sanctuary air conditioner replacement is moving forward. The parish's application for the diocesan grant and loan assistance is in its final stage of approval and will go before Diocesan Council in early November. Vestry also approved up to \$4,180 to repair water damage in the library ceiling and wall.
- Christ Church will become a sponsoring parish of the United Christian Ministry at Kent State, a campus ministry that provides leadership, fellowship, and faith opportunities for students. Members also discussed ideas from the recent Invite-Welcome-Connect workshop, looking for new ways to strengthen our hospitality and community connections.
- The Vestry nominating committee, made up of Fr. Charlie, Drew Le, Courtney Bixby, and Greg Daniels, is beginning work to prepare the slate for the Annual Meeting, including the possible addition of a youth vestry member.
- The next vestry meetings will be held on November 18 and December 16, both at 6:00 p.m. Steady growth, faithful service, and good energy continue to mark our common life together at Christ Church.




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

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

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Norma Harbison, Housekeeping
Marcena Brown, Housekeeping
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Amber Lambing, Nursery Attendant

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Courtney Bixby
Andrew Le
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Malcolm Robbie
Rich Wilson

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



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF OHIO

Diocesan Convention 2025

The 209th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Ohio will take place November 14–15, 2025, at the Greystone Event Center in Wooster. Each year, clergy and lay delegates from every congregation gather to make decisions for our shared life, elect diocesan leaders, and celebrate the work of the Church across northern Ohio.

Christ Church will be represented by Tina Monreal, Fr. Charlie, Fr. Daniel, Jake Phillips, Theresa Edwards, and RuthAnne Belton. Together they'll join Episcopalians from across the diocese to vote on the diocesan budget, elect leaders, and hear updates on ministries and mission throughout our region. Please keep our delegates and all who attend in your prayers as they take part in this important work on behalf of our parish and the wider Church.