

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.*

February



2026



February 18th

12:00 pm

Ash Wednesday liturgy with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist.

7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday liturgy with Imposition of Ashes, Holy Eucharist,
and music from the Christ Church Adult Choir.

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Vector of the Rector – Pointing somewhere vaguely spiritual



Photo credit: Andrew Le

He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:8–9

As we begin hearing 1 Corinthians read in church, Paul’s opening words reveal both his deep affection for the church and his theological precision. In just a few sentences, Paul touches nearly every major “-ology” we’ve got in the Christian faith—who the church is, who Christ is, how salvation works, and where history is headed. From the very beginning, Paul wants the Corinthians to get their theology correct.

That emphasis is striking, because to any outside observer the Corinthians’ real problem seems to be their behavior! Later in the letter, Paul addresses deep divisions (“pastor wars”), sexual immorality, and spiritual arrogance. By any measure, the community has gone off the rails. Yet Paul does not begin with their behavior. He begins with theology.

Two truths stand out.

First is Paul’s use of the word “*blameless*.” Christians, Paul insists, are blameless before God—not because they have earned it, but because of Christ’s life and death on their behalf. This is bracing good news in a world that is constantly keeping score. Think of Wes Anderson’s *The Royal Tenenbaums*. The Tenenbaum children are defined by early promise followed by long failure, trapped in shame, regret, and mutual resentment. Each character lives as though their worst moment is their truest identity. But Paul says otherwise. In Jesus, God does not define us by our failures. God chooses to see us through the lens of love. God removes the stain and declares us blameless.

The grammar matters here. God is the subject; we are the object. God acts, we receive. God makes us blameless, sustains us in that blamelessness, and will finally judge us blameless “on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” In short, God does the work.

The second key word is “*partnership*”. Paul names here the heart of the Christian faith: God has called us into partnership with Jesus Christ. Christianity is not, at its core, about what we do for God, but about the relationship God establishes with us. Partnership is not a performance or a checklist. It is communion—life shared, sustained by love rather than effort.

Paul begins with theology because theology tells the truth about who God is and who we are. Before anything is said about fixing behavior, Paul anchors the Corinthians—and us—in grace.

Perfect peace,

Charlie+

The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple, aka “Candlemas”

Monday, February 2nd marks forty days after Christmas Day. On this day Mary was required by Jewish law to present herself at the Jerusalem Temple for purification, as well as presenting Jesus, the first-born male in the family, before the priests. (*Lev. 12:2-8*)

According to the account of Luke 2:22-39, the presentation of Jesus was also the occasion of the meeting of Jesus with Simeon and Anna. Simeon's prayer of blessing is the basis for the canticle *Nunc dimittis*, which were the words Simeon proclaimed when he beheld Jesus.

The Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis*

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.



The Celebration of the feast dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem. It was introduced in Rome in the seventh century, where it included a procession with candles and the singing of the *Nunc dimittis*. The celebration came to include the lighting and blessing of candles which were carried in procession. This feast is also known as “Candlemas.” Join us on Sunday, February 1st, when we will celebrate the Vigil of Candlemas at the 10:30 a.m. service by blessing candles and a special procession to honor this feast of our Lord.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 17th from 6-7:30 pm

Join us on this last day before Lent for a delicious dinner of pancakes, sausage, fruit, and beverages. Admission is free with an offering to support Habitat for Humanity (checks can be made out to Christ Church with “Habitat” on the memo line.) Sign up to attend at <https://tinyurl.com/ShroveTuesday26> by February 14 so we know how much food to prepare.



COMPLINE Sunday, February 15th

Dinner - 5:30pm
Candle Lighting - 6pm
Quiet Time - 6:15pm
Service Starts - 6:30pm



Join us for a time to unwind after a long week. This brief, candle filled, and fully chanted service is led by the Adult Choir. Compline allows us to tune out the busy world and sit quietly in a holy space, surrounded by candlelight.



Thursday, February 5th at 9:30 a.m.

Once a month, a healing service is offered at 9:30 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.

*Ladies
Night Out!*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH AT 5:30 P.M.

Join us for another evening of food, fun, and fellowship! We will gather at D'Angelo's Italian Restaurant in Twinsburg on Tuesday, February 10th at 5:30. Please sign up through the office or at <https://tinyurl.com/CCEHLadiesnight> by February 6. Contact Susan Arnold with questions at susanarnold907@gmail.com.



LEARN TO KNIT!

Do you have a “yarning” to learn how to knit? If so, join Jenny Walvoord, Pam Zuhl, and Janet Daniels in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service on February 1 and February 8. Each session is about an hour long and is open to anyone, and all ages. Bring smooth worsted weight yarn (no black or super dark blue), knitting needles size 7 or 8. We'll get you started on a scarf and provide patterns for hats and mitts as well. Questions? Contact Janet Daniels at janetsdaniels@gmail.com.

BOOK STUDY & CONVERSATION

Beginning later this month and into the spring, a small group at Christ Church will gather in the Parish Hall for a guided conversation around *Decolonizing Palestine* by the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, a Palestinian Christian theologian in the Lutheran tradition. Rather than approaching the Israel–Palestine conflict as a simple two-sided debate, the study introduces participants to the perspective of a Palestinian Christian theologian, reflecting a minority Christian experience that is often overlooked in broader public discourse.

Participants will engage Raheb's work as one theological lens among many, exploring how history, scripture, identity, and power shape biblical interpretation and contemporary Christian thought. The emphasis will be on careful listening, critical reflection, and respectful conversation, without the expectation of agreement or consensus. Discussion will follow a structured, circle-based format that invites active listening, brief reflections from each participant, and encourages thoughtful engagement rather than debate.

- Saturday afternoons: Feb 28 and Mar 14 (2–4 p.m.)
- Wednesday evenings: Mar 25 and Apr 8 (7–9 p.m.)

For more information or to register, please contact Rowan Wehrmann @ 440-263-7362 or rowansattva@aol.com. Virtual participation will also be available.

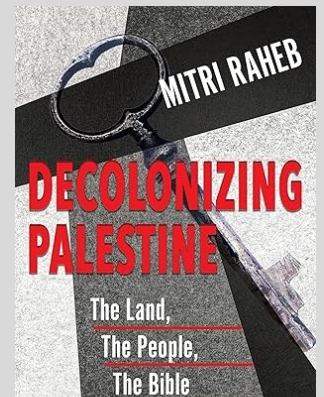




Photo credit: Andrew Le

Notes from the Director of Music

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

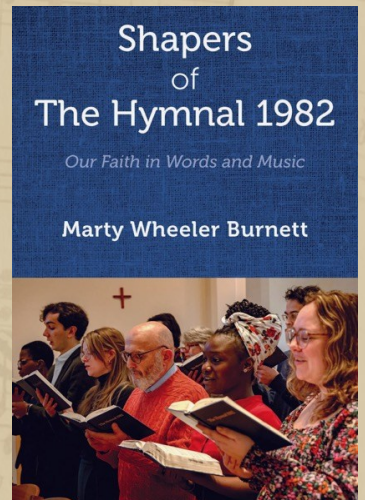
Friends,

Recently our hymnal, *The Hymnal 1982*, celebrated 40 years since its publication. To mark this milestone, Dr. Marty Wheeler Burnett, the Associate Professor of Church Music and Director of Chapel Music at Virginia Theological Seminary, wrote a book called *Shapers of The Hymnal 1982*. The book came out of a COVID project where Dr. Burnett interviewed living members of the Hymnal Committee that put together *The Hymnal 1982*. Dr. Burnett paints for us a picture of what was going on in the lives of these men and women who forever shaped the trajectory of the Episcopal Church. Not only was this a groundbreaking hymnal for the Episcopal Church, but it also shaped many other hymnals in other denominations. For example, many of the tunes of Dr. David Hurd started in this hymnal and have since been picked up by various other Christian denominations.

The book can be purchased on Church Publishing’s website, Amazon, or your favorite local bookstore. I encourage all of you to find a copy and read this short book. It is a wonderful resource to understand not only our hymnal but also understand why it has lasted for 40 years.

All my best,

Mario



MUSIC FROM THE WESTERN RESERVE



February 22nd | 5pm
BRENDON PHELPS & ALEXANDRE MARR
PLAY RACHMANINOFF
at Christ Church Episcopal

Cellist Brendon Phelps and pianist Alexandre Marr come together for a powerful and emotionally rich duo recital. Known for their intense musicality and deep collaborative chemistry, Phelps and Marr will present a program centered around Sergei Rachmaninoff’s virtuosic Sonata for Cello and Piano in G minor, Op. 19. Purchase tickets 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.

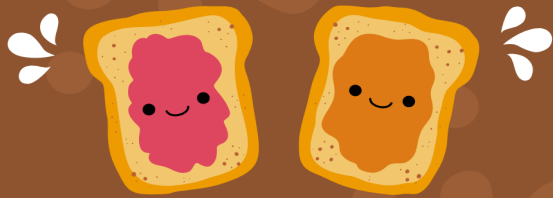


OUTREACH MINISTRY

Outreach Ministry Meeting: February 22nd after the 10:30 Service

Have ideas for outreach at Christ Church? The Outreach Ministry Team will meet in the Upper Room after the 10:30 service on February 22 to discuss plans for the coming year and they would love for YOU to join them. Not able to make the meeting but interested in more information on outreach? Contact Judy Brookhart at judyots@gmail.com.

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY BRIGADE



PB & J WITH A PURPOSE

Please join the Outreach Committee in the Parish Hall at 10:00 AM on February 21 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.

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 **45** jugs of detergent, or packs of pods/sheets by February 26 for the next distribution. Please place your donations on the metal cart in the coatroom or outside the back door if it is locked. Thank you!

Expanding our Monthly Food Bank Collection

The Hudson Community Service Association Food Pantry, located at Rejoice Lutheran Church on Stow Road, is unique in that it is an open pantry where our neighbors can shop and choose what they want and need, instead of getting prepackaged items. We currently contribute laundry soap, which is much appreciated. However, the requests for food assistance from this pantry have steadily increased, and they will be adding a second distribution day each month on a trial basis. Given this fact, we would like to increase our monthly donations, beginning this month. We will be coordinating with the Food Bank to contribute what is needed most each month. Currently, the Food Bank is in need of canned tuna, salmon, and chicken. Please place your donations in the white wooden box located in the coat room, and we will deliver them to the Food Pantry on February 14. Thank you!





Save the Date!
Celebration of New Ministry
Tuesday, April 21st at 6pm

Bishop Anne Jolly will join us on April 21 to install Fr. Charlie as our rector and celebrate our ministry together. More details will be forthcoming in next month, but please save the date and plan to attend this special service!

Anglicanism 101 and the Rites of Initiation

This spring, Christ Church will be welcoming our bishop twice in the span of two months—something that usually happens only once every two years. On Tuesday, April 21 at 6pm, the bishop will be with us to install Fr. Charlie as Rector and to celebrate our new pastoral relationship together. Then, on Saturday, May 30 at 3pm, Christ Church will serve as a host site for regional confirmations, welcoming candidates from across the area.

These episcopal visits allow us to celebrate the Church's rites of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Reception into the Anglican Communion. If you—or someone in your family—are curious about baptism, confirmation, or formally joining the Episcopal Church, this is a wonderful opportunity.

In preparation for these rites, Fr. Charlie will offer a four-part Adult Sunday School series covering the basics of the Gospel and Anglican identity. We will meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall:

- March 1 – Features of the Anglican Church
- March 8 – Pre-Reformation History of the English Church
- March 15 – Episcopal Church Identity
- March 22 – The Gospel

For those who cannot easily make Sunday mornings—or who may miss a session—repeat classes will be offered on a weekday evening via Zoom. Participation is by no means required for the rites of initiation; this series is simply an opportunity for learning, conversation, and discernment. If you'd like to be baptized, confirmed, or received, please reach out to Fr. Charlie at Charlie.knuth@christchurchudson.org.



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 Midge Karam and Ed Wiles. We look forward to getting to know you better, too!

Get to Know Midge Karam and Ed Wiles

Midge Karam is well known to Christ Church members as a frequent lector and chalice bearer, EFM mentor, and WRA music teacher, but do you know that Midge’s husband, Ed Wiles, is also a church musician? Meet Midge and Ed, a very talented musical couple.

Midge grew up in Stow and entered Western Reserve Academy as a sophomore. She was raised Catholic, but when she experienced the Christ Church Chapel with Academy friends (acolytes and choristers), “It felt like a holy place.” She attended University of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music, earning degrees in English at UR and Vocal Music Education at Eastman.

Ed was raised in Columbus, in a family deeply dedicated to their Church of Christ. He attended Columbus Alternative High School, focusing on arts and academics. Coincidentally, his principal visited WRA and used it as a model. He received a Bachelor of Education from The Ohio State University.

In 1990, Midge was teaching at Middletown High School and Ed at Westerville South (Columbus). They met at Ohio State in a graduate course in Music Theory. Ed was assigned a challenging project that required knowledge of calculus. Midge volunteered to assist and they agreed to meet at his house for lunch. Pizza? Sandwiches? He prepared lasagna! Midge says, “He was cute and he could cook!”

They visited each other on weekends and Midge was selected for a music position at the Academy. She was also a dormitory advisor and lived in a girls’ residence. They were married at Hudson Methodist Church in 1993. Why Methodist - for a couple raised Catholic and Church of Christ? Over the years, they each had experience playing, singing, and directing choirs at various churches, including Hudson Methodist and St Mary. A friend invited them, recognizing their deep spirituality, to be godparents at Christ Church. Midge was impressed by the preaching. “You didn’t need to leave your brain at the door.” She also liked the liturgy and rituals. Ed appreciated the connection with his Church of Christ roots - made Christ Church was “The seriousness, the celebratory atmosphere with the candles and vestments surrounding Communion and the Gospel.”

Midge is now in her 33rd year at the Academy. As Director of Music, she wears many hats: teaching, directing vocal groups, orchestra, and musical theater. Ed takes a number of musical roles in the community as a music director and pianist. He teaches piano and trumpet. He presents “Moments in Music” for our resident SAGE program. He directs the Cuyahoga Valley Community Band, which is busy concertizing locally. One of his joys is playing keyboard with the North Coast Big Band. But where is he on Sunday mornings? For eleven years, Ed has been Organist/Choirmaster for St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church, Historically Black congregation in Columbus where he visits his mother who resides there at Worthington Christian Village.

Their goals for our parish? Continued growth - in young families, in outreach, and in intellectual opportunities, “to feed our minds as well as our souls.”





FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- Natalie Cronkey ~ 2/2
- Mary Ann Forrester ~ 2/5
- Pierce Guglielmi ~ 2/5
- Carrie Cronkey ~ 2/6
- Nathaniel Haake ~ 2/6
- Eileen Gaston ~ 2/7
- Jones Foster ~ 2/8
- Zachary Haake ~ 2/8
- Shirley Eells ~ 2/9
- Vera Perin ~ 2/9
- Sam Boazzo ~ 2/11
- Mary Reinhardt ~ 2/11
- Shannon Bailey ~ 2/13
- Carmella Jackson ~ 2/13
- Allison Courtney ~ 2/14
- Thomas Bowen ~ 2/16
- Emily Westlake ~ 2/17
- Joan Walden Barnhardt ~ 2/20
- Simon Phillips ~ 2/20
- David Pitz ~ 2/20
- Joyce Comben ~ 2/24
- Linda Irving ~ 2/24
- Steve Barger ~ 2/26

FEBRUARY

ANNIVERSARIES

- Allan & Ruth Anne Belton ~ 2/12
- Rich & Mary Ellen Wilson ~ 2/29

FOR THE RECORD...

- Births**
Cora Josefina Knuth
- Deaths**
Jack Brookhart

Thank you to...

- ...Rev. Allan Belton for leading the January Healing Service
- ...John and Emily Longenecker for making supper for Compline in January
- ...Our January Sunday School Teachers: Courtney Bixby, Linda Pitz, Marcie Harvey, Megan Repko, and Carmella Jackson
- ...Sallie Bear, Pam Zuhl, Janet Daniels, Doug Swift, Ellen Turner, Lis Hugh, Malcolm Robbie, Gretchen Green, Theresa Edwards, Rich and Mary Ellen Wilson, Greg Daniels, Doug, Marcie, and Violet Harvey—and to all who helped prepare and lead worship (and made it to church) during the snowstorm on January 25th



January Vestry Meeting Highlights

The vestry met on January 27 and welcomed new members, including Lee Carpenter, Susan Arnold, and Tom Wise. The vestry reviewed shared norms and expectations and approved recent meeting minutes. Fr. Charlie reported on winter attendance trends, recent pastoral losses within the congregation, and upcoming diocesan visits, including Bishop Anne’s visitation for rites of initiation on May 30 and the Celebration of New Ministry on April 21.

The vestry reviewed year-end finances and noted that 2025 closed close to budget. Careful use of reserves and endowment income is supporting major capital needs, including the new sanctuary A/C system. Most ministries remain within budget, while building and maintenance needs continue to require attention.

The vestry appointed officers for the coming year: Theresa Edwards as Senior Warden, Sallie Bear as Junior Warden, Linda Irving as Clerk, and Ann Kirk as Treasurer. Work continues on hiring a part-time Sunday School Coordinator and Youth Minister, with one candidate interviewed and additional applicants sought. Sunday School is thriving under volunteer leadership, and sustaining momentum in youth ministry remains a priority.

The vestry also voted to engage a professional web designer to begin much-needed improvements to the church website. The vestry also turned its attention to questions of how Christ Church lives out its public witness. In that context, the vestry reviewed Bishop Anne’s January 20 video, “A Message of Sanctuary,” along with proposed signage for declaring the parish a sanctuary site. The vestry noted that additional guidance from the diocese would be helpful in understanding the practical and legal implications of such a declaration, and agreed to continue the conversation as more clarity becomes available.

The next vestry meeting will be held on February 24 at 6:00 pm.




Christ Church Episcopal

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On the Web:

www.christchurchhudson.com

 Find us on Facebook!

<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

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

Sallie Bear, Jr. Warden:
sallie101244@gmail.com

Cathy Agnor
Susan Arnold
Lee Carpenter
Lori Metoki
Malcolm Robbie
Rich Wilson
Thomas Wise

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



Ohio-Montana Youth Group Gathering – Summer 2026

We're excited to share an opportunity for our middle and high school youth this summer. St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lakewood is hosting a youth group exchange with the Diocese of Montana, and since I know the Montana group well (some of them are former youth from my time in Whitefish!), I asked whether Christ Church youth might join in their programming. The response was an enthusiastic yes.

The exchange is planned for August 9–16, 2026, and would include a week of service, learning, and fun. Youth would be welcome to participate for all or part of the week. Highlights are expected to include service at a large men's homeless shelter, exploration of Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faith traditions, learning about the industrial history of the Midwest, and visits to places like the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and Cedar Point.

The goal of the exchange is to deepen faith, build friendships, and foster understanding across cultural, religious, and geographic lines. Through fundraising and grant support, we expect to defray most of the cost— we don't want finances to be a barrier. Friends of our youth would also be welcome.

Please mark your calendars, and let Fr. Charlie know if you have questions or if your youth would like to participate. More details will be shared as planning continues.