

# 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.*

**January**



**2026**



OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

## ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2026

Following the 10:30 service on January 11, we will gather as a parish to elect new vestry members, hear a few brief reports, thank out-going vestry members, and adopt the 2026 Christ Church budget. Fifty members in good standing are required for a quorum, so please plan to join us. Your presence matters! Childcare will be available during the meeting.

**The Vestry Candidates are:**

*Susan Arnold, Lee Carpenter, & Tom Wise*

**The Diocesan Convention Delegates are:**

*RuthAnne Belton, Courtney Bixby, & Jacob Phillips*

Information about the vestry candidates can be found inside  
this issue of The Communicant.

**Diocese Canon: Title II, Canon 1, Section 3(a):** In every Parish of the Diocese, there shall be held an Annual Meeting, for the election of members of the Vestry and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before such meeting.

**Diocese Canon: Title II, Canon 1, Section 5(a):** All members of the Parish who are communicants in good standing as defined by the Canons of the Episcopal Church and not being under sixteen years of age shall be qualified to vote in its meetings.

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## Vector of the Rector – Pointing somewhere vaguely spiritual



Photo credit: Andrew Le

### A New Year, Already Made New

*“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”*  
—2 Corinthians 5:17

The Italian novelist Cesare Pavese once said, *“The only joy in the world is to begin.”* A newborn baby embodies that joy. So does New Year’s Day, when we wake up convinced that this time, finally, we’re going to get it right. We’re keenly aware of our shortcomings and already halfway into a mental list of self-improvement projects.

Experience, of course, tells a different story. The feeling of newness often lasts about as long as it takes to drive a new car off the lot. Babies grow up. January turns into February. Most resolutions quietly fade by Valentine’s Day.

Christian joy is different. It is not fragile or short-lived. It is the only joy that allows us to say—without denial or wishful thinking—that the old really is gone and the new truly has come... and come to stay.

That’s because God is not in the business of self-betterment, but of death and resurrection. Christianity is not a lifelong program of “try harder,” dressed up in religious language. It is the proclamation that Jesus entered into the ultimate ending—death itself—in order to give us the ultimate beginning: eternal life. Your fresh start did not begin with a resolution. It began in a manger, was established on a cross, and was fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Of course, we experience this truth in rhythms and cycles. Life brings real endings and real beginnings, real griefs and real joys. But every joy that “comes in the morning” is an echo of that Easter morning, when God did something entirely new, once and for all.

So as we step into these days together—into a new year with all its hopes, worries, plans, and unknowns—may you know this: you are not starting from scratch. Whatever this year brings for you, for those you love, and for our life together as a parish, the truest thing about you remains unchanged.

In Christ, the old is gone. The new has come. And it is not going anywhere.

Perfect peace,

Charlie+

## A Note About Parental Leave

Dear Christ Church,

I wanted to share a quick update about the weeks ahead.

Our baby is arriving a bit earlier than expected. Mikayla will be induced on January 8—which happens to be the birthday of both Elvis and David Bowie, so clearly the bar has been set. We're grateful for your prayers and good wishes as we get ready to welcome this new life in the new year.

Because we'll have family in town, I'll still be here to lead worship and preside at our Annual Meeting on January 11. There will almost certainly be baby pictures, so please come to the meeting.

After that Sunday, I'll be laying low for a few weeks to be at home with Mikayla and the kids, settling into this new rhythm as a family.

On Sunday mornings during that time, you'll be in very good hands. Fr. Daniel Grossoehme and Fr. Peter Faass—both familiar faces and trusted voices—will be preaching and presiding, and I'm deeply grateful for their generosity in stepping in.

I'm planning to be back on Sundays in late February or early March, easing back into weekly duties as we find our footing at home.

I'm genuinely thankful for this time—especially for the space it gives me to care for Mikayla—and for the support and steadiness of this parish.

One quick word of reassurance: this season is not like the interim period before my arrival. I remain the rector of Christ Church and will stay closely connected with the vestry and staff to make sure things continue to run smoothly. If any pastoral need comes up, please don't hesitate to reach out by email or through the church office.

Thank you, as always, for your prayers, your kindness, and your trust. We're deeply grateful to be part of this community.

Perfect peace,

Charlie+

[Charlie.knuth@christchurchudson.org](mailto:Charlie.knuth@christchurchudson.org)



## Notes from the Director of Music

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

Photo credit: Andrew Le

Greetings!

I want to take a moment to wholeheartedly thank everyone involved in the music program at Christ Church.

The Young Choristers continue to be a joy to our church community. With an influx of new choristers, it means not only a lot of new things to learn but also new energy. With older, more seasoned choristers helping to teach the new choristers, it is a wonderful testament to generations training generations for new ministry. One rehearsal when the choristers and I were talking about the joy of tackling difficult music, one said “What would we learn if we did easy music?” I continue to be proud of the work these kids accomplish from when we started the program seven years ago.

The Adult Choir continues to work hard to enliven our worship every Sunday. This isn’t just magic; it takes many hours of individual practice and our regular weekly rehearsals. This was seen at our annual Advent Lessons and Carols Service. The choir did a spectacular job with what was a very demanding but very rewarding service. For that one-hour service, there were countless hours of practicing. I am so proud of their hard work and dedication. As your Director of Music, being at Christ Church is a blessing every day. Christ Church can be proud of their music program. If you are looking for a New Years resolution, thank a choir member. Their hard work enlivens our worship every week and that is something we can beam with pride!

Finally, while the rest of the world has packed up their stocking with care, we know that the Christmas season is just starting. Enjoy this season of Christmas while it lasts then onto the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Baptism of our Lord on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and Candlemas on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Like I said last month about Advent being a journey, it is only one part of the journey. Our liturgy not only marks this holy season, but it reminds us that through the changes and chances of life we are grounded in love for a child who was freely given to us, who was born of one of our own, and who is always with us in our journey through life.

All my best,

Mario

## COMPLINE

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

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.

# A New Mass is Created!

I am thrilled to announce that starting this month, we will be singing a new congregational mass written especially for us. A couple years ago while I was choosing new mass parts for the change of liturgical season, I was struck by how few congregational masses exist by female composers. This made me think of parishes that want to program diverse music by under-represented composers but don't have the musical resources we are blessed with here at Christ Church. The seed was planted and I went to work. I emailed my friend, Sarah MacDonald, a well-respected composer living in England, inquiring if she would accept a commission to write a new mass. She graciously accepted.

Fast forward to this last summer. I was at a conference talking with my friend, Beckie Davy, who is Director of Music at Bruton Parish in Colonial Williamsburg, about this very topic. Beckie said Bruton would be happy to co-commission this mass. With many emails back and forth since then, *The Aurora and Gloucester Street Mass* was delivered to us on December 17th.

The *Aurora and Gloucester Street Mass* is a full congregational mass, with nine different settings for the various the liturgical seasons. This also means we get to sing it for multiple Sundays, not just a one and done scenario. Both us and Bruton Parish will start singing this mass on January 18th. While the mass is unpublished at the moment, it will be published at a later date.

Friends, this is a gift to the entire church, not just us. The *Aurora and Gloucester Street Mass* is a way for us to keep the church her music alive. I hope you enjoy the mass while beaming with pride knowing your church commissioned this piece.

Woohoo!

Mario Buchanan

## The Aurora and Gloucester Street Mass

*for unison congregational singing with organ (or piano)  
and optional choir descant*

MUSIC BY SARAH MACDONALD



SARAH MACDONALD is a Canadian-born conductor, organist, pianist, and composer, living in the UK, and she holds the positions of Fellow and Director of Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge and Director of the Girl Choristers at Ely Cathedral. She has been at Selwyn since 1999, and was the first woman to hold such a post in an Oxbridge Chapel. Sarah has played numerous recitals and conducted choirs throughout the UK, North America, the Middle East, New Zealand, and much of mainland Europe. She has had over 50 choral and organ compositions published in the UK, Canada, and the States, and she is series editor for The Sarah MacDonald Choral Series with Selah Publishing in Pittsburgh. Her liturgical music is performed regularly throughout the world, and recent commissions include pieces for RSCM and Oxford University Press anthologies.

She is a Patron of the Society of Women Organists, an Honorary Patron of the Herbert Howells Society, and President of the School Organists' Association. In 2018 Sarah received the honorary ARSCM in recognition of her contribution to choral music in the UK and Canada, and the citation made particular mention of her support of contemporary British composers. She was recently appointed University Organist at Cambridge, and is the first woman to hold that prestigious ceremonial role, which dates back to 1670. In her spare time Sarah is a keen amateur photographer.

## 2026 Budget Presentation | Sunday, January 4 after the 10:30 service



The vestry has approved Christ Church's 2026 operating budget, and we invite the parish to a brief budget presentation and conversation on Sunday, January 4 following the 10:30 service in the Parish Hall. This will be an opportunity to hear a clear, honest overview of our financial picture, including how we are addressing near-term challenges, planning responsibly for the year ahead, and continuing to invest in worship, staff, and ministry. We'll also share updates on major projects—like next steps toward the sanctuary A/C replacement—and how stewardship, reserves, and careful planning are helping us move forward together. All are welcome, and questions are encouraged.



Thursday, January 8 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.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH AT 5:30 P.M.

Join us for another evening of food, fun, and fellowship! We will gather at Three Palms in Hudson on Tuesday, January 20th at 5:30. Please sign up through the office or at <https://tinyurl.com/CCEHLadiesnight> by January 16. Contact Pam Zuhl with questions at [zuhlfamily@aol.com](mailto:zuhlfamily@aol.com).

## Christian Unity Prayer Service and Luncheon Thursday, January 22nd at 10am

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated each January. A worldwide observance, this week is also an important expression of ecumenical events at the local level. Hudson churches will gather in for the 2026 Christian Unity Prayer service on January 22, at 10:00 AM with a prayer service at Laurel Lake, following the theme *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling"* (Ephesians 4:4)

After the service, a buffet lunch will be served in the Laurel Lake dining room for ticket holders. The featured speaker after the luncheon is Phil Herman of The Impact Group and co-author of *Appreciology: The Art & Science of Appreciation*. The ticket price is \$20.00 per person for the luncheon and speaker and may be obtained from Gretchen Green at (330) 603-1411. Make checks payable to Christ Church Episcopal with CUPS in the memo line. The **Reservation deadline is January 18**. The prayer service is open to all and does not require a ticket to attend. This year's offering will be divided between the HCSA Food Pantry and The Hudson Ministerial Association.



## Christ Church 2026 Vestry Candidates

Get to know this year's Vestry Candidates:

*Susan Arnold, Lee Carpenter, Tom Wise*



**Susan Arnold**

I feel very blessed to have been part of the Christ Church community for the past 2-1/2 years. As a former Catholic, I was drawn to the Episcopal faith for the meaningful liturgy and the opportunity to celebrate Eucharist on a weekly basis, and drawn to Christ Church Hudson, specifically, as a vibrant and inclusive parish. I appreciate the beautiful facilities, magnificent music program, outreach programs, and the hospitable nature of our devoted community. I am currently on the Altar Guild, serve as a lector, counter, and help with Sunday flower delivery, funeral receptions, coffee hour, and outreach programs. I look forward to lending my efforts as a member of Vestry, supporting the continued growth of the church and its varied ministries.

Lee Carpenter and his family joined the parish in June 2024 after moving to Hudson from The Woodlands, TX. Born and raised in Fort Worth, TX; Lee is a graduate of Texas A&M University and avid Aggie sports fan. Currently at home with their children while his wife, Deb, travels in her global role with Swagelok, Lee brings a background in regional sales leadership and a natural gift for building community. He is active in children's ministries and was a key volunteer during VBS, and he enjoys helping coordinate gatherings such as men's night. Wanting to give back to the church that embraced his family, Lee hopes to help ensure families feel seen, supported, and connected. He, Deb, Chip, and Harriet are grateful for the warmth they received and love extending that same spirit of welcome to others.



**Lee Carpenter**



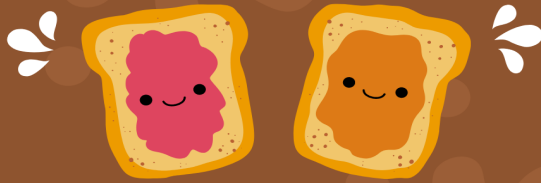
**Tom Wise**

Tom Wise has been part of the Christ Church community for just over a year and regularly serves as an usher and member of the AV Tech Team. Professionally, he spent many years in General Counsel at KeyBank. Originally from Youngstown, Tom has lived in many parts of the country. His early faith was shaped at St. Mark's in New Canaan, Connecticut, and he later raised his family in Shaker Heights, where he and his wife, Monika, were longtime members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights. Tom and Monika met while he was serving in the Peace Corps in Hungary and are the parents of two adult sons, Patrick and Daniel. Now empty nesters living in Streetsboro, where Monika teaches AP Biology at Streetsboro High School, Tom also brings extensive nonprofit leadership experience, including more than a decade on the Shaker Schools Board—several years as its president—and is grateful to offer that experience in service to Christ Church .



# 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 January 17 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](mailto: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 **50** jugs of detergent, or packs of pods/sheets by January 21 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.



### Christ Church Knitters & Crocheters

December was a busy month for the Yarn Ladies of Christ Church. On Sunday, December 14, Fr. Charlie blessed items made by the Knitting Group, which were then donated to support refugees at the International Institute of Akron (IIA). The donated items included 17 washcloths, 27 hats, 6 baby blankets, 6 shawls, 1 warm headband, 6 scarves, and 2 lap robes. If you would like more information about joining the knitting group, contact Eileen Gaston at [eileengaston@yahoo.com](mailto:eileengaston@yahoo.com)



### 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](http://www.openm.org).

## Rise Against Hunger Update

This past fall, more than 90 volunteers from Christ Church, Western Reserve Academy, and the Kent State Kappa Phi community came together to package 12,000 meals in just over an hour with Rise Against Hunger. We've since learned that those meals are headed to Burundi.



In Burundi, ongoing instability and limited access to farmland have made food insecurity a daily reality for many families. Through local partners, Rise Against Hunger provides these meals in schools and early childhood centers—often the most reliable food children receive all day—helping them stay healthy and continue their education.

From our parish hall to classrooms half a world away, thank you for making that connection possible.

## December Vestry Meeting Highlights

At its December 16 meeting, the vestry gathered around the Advent wreath to reflect on where we are as a parish and to plan thoughtfully for the year ahead. There was good news to share. Worship attendance continues to trend upward, helped along by pageant rehearsals and a strong season of adult formation.

Plans were finalized for pastoral coverage during Fr. Charlie's parental leave, which may begin earlier than anticipated, and we shared gratitude for the Rev. Peter Faass and the Rev. Dr. Daniel Grossoehme, who will be helping on Sundays during that time.

The new carpet for the church has been ordered and will be installed in the spring, along with several other memorial gifts that many of you have helped make possible.

A significant portion of the meeting focused on finances and planning for 2026. The vestry approved a revised 2026 operating budget, knowing that despite careful reductions it still reflects a gap because we did not reach our pledge goal. The vestry agreed on a two-part approach to addressing this: first, reaching out personally to parishioners who have not yet pledged for 2026, and second, using funds from a certificate of deposit that matures in January, if needed, as a temporary way to bridge any remaining gap while the parish has time to respond.

The vestry also took an important step, in consultation with the finance committee, toward replacing our 30-year-old sanctuary air-conditioning system. We approved using earnings from the parish endowment, not the corpus, to make the \$87,000 down payment required to move the project forward. This allows us to address a major, long-term building need without putting additional pressure on the day-to-day operating budget, and it strengthens our position as we continue working with the diocese on grant and loan support.

Finally, the vestry took time to express deep gratitude to those rotating off vestry at the end of the year: Drew Le, Courtney Bixby, and Greg Daniels. Each has given generously of their time, leadership, and care for this parish, and we are thankful for the ways they have helped guide Christ Church through a season of transition and growth.

We invite the parish to continue this conversation at the Budget Forum on Sunday, January 4, at 12:15 p.m., and at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 11, following the 10:30 a.m. service.



This year's Christmas Pageant was pure grace. Over 35 kids, a packed church, a few lovingly ignored rubrics, and a whole lot of joy as the story was told with courage, laughter, and heart.

Many hands were involved—from directing and music preparation, to stage set-up, and even making a new church mouse for the set (thank you, Heather). A special shout out to Max Rees; Courtney Bixby; Mario Buchanan; Lindsay and Conor O'Sullivan; Deb and Lee Carpenter; Milan Kosanovich; Heather and Doug Swift; our amazing Altar Guild; all the parents who got us through costumes, cues, nerves, and logistics; and, of course, our fabulous children and youth for all their hard work!



And thanks to Drew Le for some beautiful shots of the occasion!



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lindsay O'Sullivan ~ 1/2  
 Galianna Jackson ~ 1/3  
 Mae Kosanovich ~ 1/3  
 Liz Guglielmi ~ 1/7  
 Maddie Nicholas ~ 1/8  
 Damon Cronkey ~ 1/10  
 Jill Phipps ~ 1/10  
 Nan Ryerson ~ 1/15  
 Walter Edwards ~ 1/17  
 Milan Kosanovich ~ 1/19  
 Ted Mailey ~ 1/19  
 Jenny Walvoord ~ 1/19  
 Malachi Forrester ~ 1-21  
 Ed Gibson ~ 1/23  
 Allan Belton ~ 1/24  
 Jan Hill ~ 1/26  
 Ken Lowe ~ 1/27  
 Christopher Haake ~ 1/28  
 George Van Buren ~ 1/30

### FOR THE RECORD...

#### Deaths

*Paula Harvey*  
*Peter Hendrickson*  
*Cathy Antholine*

### Thank you to....

....Our wonderful December office assistants: RuthAnne Belton, Bob Zuhl, Tina Monreal, & Pam Zuhl  
 ....All who helped with the memorial service for Paula Harvey  
 ....All who participated in and helped with the Children's Christmas Pageant  
 ....Our talented Altar and Flower Guild members for beautifying our worship space for Christmas Eve  
 ....Our amazing Choir and Young Choristers for their glorious music on Christmas Eve and every Sunday  
 ....Bob Zuhl for putting up the Christmas banner  
 ....all who donated baby food and formula on Christmas Eve for the Akron-Canton Food Bank



### Sign Up Now for 2026 Altar Flowers

The flower guild depends solely on donations from parishioners to defray the cost of the flowers placed on the altar each Sunday. The cost of altar flowers each week is \$40 for the 8:00 Chapel service, \$75 for the 10:30 Church service, or \$115 for both. The sign-up sheet for flowers is located on the wall in the coat room, or you can call the office to sign up if you have a specific date in mind.






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**On the Web:**

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

 Find us on Facebook!

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

**Rector**

The Rev. Charles Knuth  
[Charlie.knuth@christchurchhudson.org](mailto: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](mailto:Kathy.garber@christchurchhudson.org)  
Mario Buchanan, Director of Music/Organist  
[Mario.buchanan@christchurchhudson.org](mailto:Mario.buchanan@christchurchhudson.org)

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  
Jada Chapman, Nursery Attendant

**Vestry**

Greg Daniels, Sr. Warden:  
[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

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is a Parish of the  
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio  
[www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org)

