



CHRIST CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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from the desk of Senior Warden Chris Nelson

Welcome to this, our 2nd newsletter! It was a slow, difficult start to our new year what with uncooperative weather, high Covid numbers, staff vacations, illnesses, and last-minute cancellations. But we've put on our big-people britches and muddled through, and here we are, about to enter Lent and the glorious Easter season!

We are eagerly planning our **Shrove Tuesday pancake and sausage dinner**, complete with the popular pancake races like those held two (2!!!) years ago just before Covid shut everything down. **Each participant must bring an apron to wear and a (light weight) frying pan to carry during the race.** Start practicing! Donations requested.

Shrove Tuesday will be followed by **Ash Wednesday with two services: 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm.**

We will not have Stations of the Cross Friday this Lent; stay tuned for news on Friday evening services. New this year for Lent, parishioners can have fun learning about the saints as they play along with **Lent Madness.** And the **Book Club will be reading The Church Cracked Open by Canon Stephanie Spellers.** Contact Mother Sidnie for details.

We will have a full and busy Holy Week beginning with **Palm Sunday** and continuing with **Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great**

Vigil, and Easter morning services. The **Cross Walk is back!!** and Christ Episcopal Church will once again participate.

If you see members of the **Search Committee**, please thank them and give them a word of encouragement. The search is taking longer than expected – there are more openings in our diocese alone than there are priests nationwide looking for a new Church. We have total faith that we will find the right rector for our parish – and the search will continue until we find that person.

There are **three new members on Vestry: Jihan Taylor, Myra Bailey and Kevin Casey.** Welcome aboard! Many, many thanks to Cheryl McPherson, who finished her two terms and must step down, and to Loretta Nwosu, who stepped down due to her work load not allowing her the time she needed to devote to Vestry.

Let's pray that this time Covid numbers will continue to wane and the pandemic recedes into memory so that we can return to our full complement of activities. I for one cannot wait to hear children's voices in our Church again!

Blessings!

Chris

Priest Post

Dear Christ Church family,

As Covid counts recede again in Monroe County, we are planning to return to many of our usual Lenten and Holy Week services. Here is the schedule for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Some of these services will also be livestreamed.

- **Ash Wednesday, March 1**, services at 12:00 and 7:00 p.m., with imposition of ashes.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 14**, service at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion and foot washing. There will be a vigil in the chapel following the service; a sign up sheet will be circulated.
- **Good Friday, April 15**. The Stroudsburg churches will once again be holding the Cross Walk beginning at 12:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church. Christ Church is one of the stops along the route; I will need two readers and a strong Cross Bearer for that service. We will also hold a Good Friday liturgy in the church at 7:00 p.m.
- **Holy Saturday, April 16**. The Holy Saturday liturgy will be held over Zoom at 9:00 a.m.
- **Easter Vigil, April 16**, at 10:30 p.m. We will welcome Easter with the most holy service of the year, with the lighting of the Holy Fire, incense and the renewal of baptismal vows. If anyone would like to be baptized at this service, please speak to me soon.
- **Easter Sunday, April 17**, service at 10:00 a.m., followed by a festive coffee hour.

In addition to our services, we will offer the following Lenten activities:

- **Shrove Tuesday, March 1**. We are bringing back our Pancake Supper with Pancake races and fellowship in the Parish Hall! Time TBD.
- **Lent Madness**: Join in the fun as we follow the bracket of saints to see who will win the coveted Golden Halo! Sign up at www.lentmadness.org, and see me for your own score book!

Christ Church book group returns! We will be reading together *The Church Cracked Open* by Stephanie Spellers. We will meet as a group the afternoon or evening of Palm Sunday to discuss the book. If anyone would like to host the group, please speak to me.

I wish you a holy and blessed Lent,
Mo. Sidnie+



Rector Search Update

The search committee has been working diligently since last August on calling Christ Church's next rector. So far, we've interviewed four potential candidates.

The Christ Church Search Committee was formed in June 2021 following Father Doug's retirement. Since then, the committee members have been meeting regularly, sometimes twice a week. To gather information about what our church members seek in a rector, we held small group forums, evaluated church questionnaire results, and had conversations with parishioners to understand where God is calling our church. The search committee then worked in conjunction with the diocese to write a new church profile and a church portfolio and recorded a church video. Holly Wells also updated the Christ Church website, reintroduced the newsletter by email, and created an online church merchandise shop. We have advertised our full-time rector position online regionally and nationally in Episcopal publications and we participated in a diocesan live stream ministry fair.

So far, we have interviewed 4 candidates. We will review additional resumes as they come in and plan to conduct interviews with any qualified candidates to ensure we have the best fit for rector of our very special parish. We are excited to continue this journey and appreciate the congregation's continued support and prayers. The search committee members are Myra C. Bailey, Rob Ceci, Kevin Furst, Sharon Moorer, Cassi Shands, Tom VanWort (liaison to the Vestry), and Mary Ellen Whiteley (chairperson).



[Parish Profile](#)



[Video Profile](#)



[Website](#)

Thank you,
Mary Ellen Whiteley

Coffee Hour

Updates from Kevin Casey & Connie Campanella



We are very happy to be part of the “getting back to normal” trend at Christ Church.

Don't drink coffee? There's juice, iced and hot teas.

Not hungry? While there is an array of baked goods and other nibbles – it is entirely your choice to resist...if you can!

Feeling the need to reconnect with your fellow Christ Church members? Great! That's exactly why Coffee Hour takes place every Sunday in the Parish Hall after the 10:15 am service.

After so much time apart, Coffee Hour is a special time to simply enjoy one another's company. Some folks stay for a while. Others drop in and go. Each week Coffee Hour seems to grow and we love knowing that we helped make that possible. We've even started adding some “Coffee Hour Themes” to make it even more fun and interesting.

Thanks to Ed Muller for getting the ball rolling again and giving us and the Daughters of the King the opportunity to Co-Host Coffee Hour.

Mother Sidnie has told us about the various Ministries of the Church. Hospitality is one of them. So, if you would like to share this Ministry with us – once a month or otherwise – please send us an email at: Ccampanella88@gmail.com or text 703-623-2408. Just a plate of cookies, or some fruit and cheese or replenishing the cold beverages, would be great contributions. And, if you'd like to reserve a particular Sunday for a “Coffee Hour Theme,” that would be great too.

Thank you,
Kevin Casey & Connie Campanella

What's your group up to?

There's a lot going on behind the scenes at CEC.

The Christ Church newsletter may include updates from the following groups and more:

- Prayer Chain
- Food Pantry
- Book Club
- Usher Committee
- Coffee Hour
- Altar Guild
- Counters
- Flower Power

If you're a member or leader of one of these groups, please help us get your news out!



In Other News...

- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** returns! On March 1, we will share a Pancake Supper starting at 6:30 in the Parish Hall.
- We will also have a **Pancake Race** that evening. If you plan to participate, please bring your own frying pan!
- **Ash Wednesday services** will take place at noon and at 7:00 PM on March 2.
- Do you need **envelopes** for your tithes and offerings? Check the narthex! If you don't see yours there, please email or call the church.
- **Daughters of the King** are still collecting pet food for Meals on Wheels recipients.
- Looking for something different to do during Lent? **How about joining Lent Madness?** You'll receive a Sainly Scorecard and vote for saints in a bid to crown the next Golden Halo winner. It's just like March Madness! ...except without the basketball ...and the gambling ...and the —you know what, it's not all that much like March Madness. But it's fun, and you'll learn stuff.

Do you have news?
Let Holly know at wellshollym@gmail.com.

Deadline for March contributions is March 15 (the Ides of March!).

Spiffing Up for Easter

We are planning a Church and grounds clean-up for the week before Palm Sunday. Can you help out?



Christ Church is planning a Church and grounds clean up for the week before Palm Sunday (probably Saturday, April 2). Everyone in the congregation will be invited to participate in cleaning our Church and grounds so we look extra spiffy for Easter! More details to come.

Services Schedule

Tuesdays

8:00 AM: Zoom morning prayer
[Email Mo. Sidnie](#) for the Zoom link.

Wednesdays

8:00 AM: Zoom morning prayer
[Email Patti Alleger](#) for link.
12:00 PM: Holy Eucharist & Healing Service at the Church with Mo. Sidnie

Thursdays

8:00 AM: Zoom morning prayer
[Email Cynthia Leenerts](#) for link.

Fridays

8:00 AM: Zoom morning prayer
[Email Mo. Sidnie](#) for link.
8:00 PM: Compline prayer via Livestream with Lorelei Whitlock. Click [here](#).

Sundays

8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 AM: Adult Forum with Mo. Sidnie (in person and via Zoom)
10:15 AM: Live Stream Holy Eucharist, Rite II



Lent Schedule:

March 1: Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Dinner and Pancake Race (Time TBD)

March 2: Ash Wednesday services: 12:00 & 7:00 PM

Friday evening services: Stay tuned for more information

This Is Your Newsletter!

If you have content that you want us to include in one of our monthly issues or on our website, please get in touch with us by emailing the church at christchurchsburg@gmail.com, Mo. Sidnie at sidniewhitecrawford@gmail.com, or Holly Wells at wellshollym@gmail.com.

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