



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

TAIZÉ VESPERS  
6:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 15, 2026 | Fourth Sunday in Lent



## WELCOME TO SUNDAY TAIZE VESPERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

For centuries, people have asked God for guidance and care as day turns to night. This night, we ask God to refresh, inspire, and call us into a deeper relationship with the Divine Spark that is in this world. Enter into God's presence through prayers, readings, songs, silence and poetry. And as you feel so moved: breathe deeply, be still, and know that you are loved.

May God bless you in this time of reflection and meditation.

Taizé (named for the ecumenical Christian community formed in Taizé, France, in 1940) is a quiet, sung, meditative prayer. The songs are short phrases that we sing repeatedly so that the words may enter our hearts. The songs may be sung in many different languages, reminding us that the Gospel is for all the world and we are all God's people.

### THE PATTERN OF VESPERS

**GATHERING:** God beckons us to gather, to reflect on life where we live it, and to be engaged as fully as possible in the world around us. We light candles and sing a song of thanksgiving for God's bringing light into the darkness of our lives.

**WORD:** God continues to communicate through words of wisdom, encouragement, hope, and challenge spoken throughout the ages by God's beloved children.

**PSALMS:** Psalms are the Bible's language of prayer and praise. They provide us language to speak about all of life, including our joys, disappointments, confusion and anger, sadness, and concern for ourselves, others, and this world.

**MEDITATION:** When we listen and pray while gathered in community, we are reminded that we are not alone. We also affirm that life is not about "just me," but about participating in a larger movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

**PRAYERS:** Prayer is honest, holy conversation with God and those who gather. God invites our honesty, joys, sorrows, confusion, anger, and wonder. Prayer practices can open us up to deeper understanding and meaningful spiritual connections with God, others, and ourselves.

**GOING OUT:** As we leave the Vesper service, we are reminded of Christ's peace, presence and purpose in all of life.



OPENING SONG | Adoramus te II

The image shows a musical score for the opening song 'Adoramus te II'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, starting with a whole note chord (F#4, A4, C5) followed by a half note (F#4), then a whole note (A4), and finally a whole note (C5). The lyrics '(hum)' are written below the first three notes. The melody then continues with a series of eighth notes: A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F#1, E1, D1, C1, B0, A0, G0, F#0, E0, D0, C0, B-1, A-1, G-1, F#-1, E-1, D-1, C-1, B-2, A-2, G-2, F#-2, E-2, D-2, C-2, B-3, A-3, G-3, F#-3, E-3, D-3, C-3, B-4, A-4, G-4, F#-4, E-4, D-4, C-4, B-5, A-5, G-5, F#-5, E-5, D-5, C-5, B-6, A-6, G-6, F#-6, E-6, D-6, C-6, B-7, A-7, G-7, F#-7, E-7, D-7, C-7, B-8, A-8, G-8, F#-8, E-8, D-8, C-8, B-9, A-9, G-9, F#-9, E-9, D-9, C-9, B-10, A-10, G-10, F#-10, E-10, D-10, C-10, B-11, A-11, G-11, F#-11, E-11, D-11, C-11, B-12, A-12, G-12, F#-12, E-12, D-12, C-12, B-13, A-13, G-13, F#-13, E-13, D-13, C-13, B-14, A-14, G-14, F#-14, E-14, D-14, C-14, B-15, A-15, G-15, F#-15, E-15, D-15, C-15, B-16, A-16, G-16, F#-16, E-16, D-16, C-16, B-17, A-17, G-17, F#-17, E-17, D-17, C-17, B-18, A-18, G-18, F#-18, E-18, D-18, C-18, B-19, A-19, G-19, F#-19, E-19, D-19, C-19, B-20, A-20, G-20, F#-20, E-20, D-20, C-20, B-21, 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A-252, G-252, F#-252, E-252, D-252, C-252, B-253, A-253, G-253, F#-253, E-253, D-253, C-253, B-254, A-254, G-254, F#-254, E-254, D-254, C-254, B-255, A-255, G-255, F#-255, E-255, D-255, C-255, B-256, A-256, G-256, F#-256, E-256, D-256, C-256, B-257, A-257, G-257, F#-257, E-257, D-257, C-257, B-258, A-258, G-258, F#-258, E-258, D-258, C-258, B-259, A-259, G-259, F#-259, E-259, D-259, C-259, B-260, A-260, G-260, F#-260, E-260, D-260, C-260, B-261, A-261, G-261, F#-261, E-261, D-261, C-261, B-262, A-262, G-262, F#-262, E-262, D-262, C-262, B-263, A-263, G-263, F#-263, E-263, D-263, C-263, B-264, A-264, G-264, F#-264, E-264, D-264, C-264, B-265, A-265, G-265, F#-265, E-265, D-265, C-265, B-266, A-266, G-266, F#-266, E-266, D-266, C-266, B-267, A-267, G-267, F#-267, E-267, D-267, C-267, B-268, A-268, G-268, F#-268, E-268, D-268, C-268, B-269, A-269, G-269, F#-269, E-269, D-269, C-269, B-270, A-270, G-270, F#-270, E-270, D-270, C-270, B-271, A-271, G-271, F#-271, E-271, D-271, C-271, B-272, A-272, G-272, F#-272, E-272, D-272, C-272, B-273, A-273, G-273, F#-273, E-273, D-273, C-273, B-274, A-274, G-274, F#-274, E-274, D-274, C-274, B-275, A-275, G-275, F#-275, E-275, D-275, C-275, B-276, A-276, G-276, F#-276, E-276, D-276, C-276, B-277, A-277, G-277, F#-277, E-277, D-277, C-277, B-278, A-278, G-278, F#-278, E-278, D-278, C-278, B-279, A-279, G-279, F#-279, E-279, D-279, C-279, B-280, A-280, G-280, F#-280, E-280, D-280, C-280, B-281, A-281, G-281, F#-281, E-281, D-281, C-281, B-282, A-282, G-282, F#-282, E-282, D-282, C-282, B-283, A-283, G-283, F#-283, E-283, D-283, C-283, B-284, A-284, G-284, F#-284, E-284, D-284, C-284, B-285, A-285, G-285, F#-285, E-285, D-285, C-285, B-286, A-286, G-286, F#-286, E-286, D-286, C-286, B-287, A-287, G-287, F#-287, E-287, D-287, C-287, B-288, A-288, G-288, F#-288, E-288, D-288, C-288, B-289, A-289, G-289, F#-289, E-289, D-289, C-289, B-290, A-290, G-290, F#-290, E-290, D-290, C-290, B-291, A-291, G-291, F#-291, E-291, D-291, C-291, B-292, A-292, G-292, F#-292, E-292, D-292, C-292, B-293, A-293, G-293, F#-293, E-293, D-293, C-293, B-294, A-294, G-294, F#-294, E-294, D-294, C-294, B-295, A-295, G-295, F#-295, E-295, D-295, C-295, B-296, A-296, G-296, F#-296, E-296, D-296, C-296, B-297, A-297, G-297, F#-297, E-297, D-297, C-297, B-298, A-298, G-298, F#-298, E-298, D-298, C

SONG | Within our darkest night

♩ = 63

*p* B Em D

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a -  
 Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés al - lu - me le feu qui ne s'é - teint ja -

*p*

G *mf* C G D *f* *p* G Em C Am

way, nev - er dies a - way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the  
 mais, ne s'é - teint ja - mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le

*mf* *f* *p*

B Em Am B *pp* Em Am B *fine*

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way. With - in our dark - est  
 feu qui ne s'é - teint ja - mais, ne s'é - teint ja - mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri -

*pp* *fine*

CONSOLATIONS | ROME

is eternal only in the sense that disappearance is eternal - the sun roasted city on an August afternoon, a living testament to the way nothing lasts in the form it is first constructed or understood. In the shaded, shimmering light that is the first invitation to evening, the ruins of the Forum or the Coliseum stand as silhouettes, one behind the other, whilst on the horizon behind, the dome of St Peter's is lit by the last gold of a sun that sets on a city that forever lives in the last light of what has gone before. In Rome the present is accessible only through what is about to disappear.

(continued)

Rome is a series of interpretations of the past attempted by each fleeting present. In the city of splendor, pomp, power and empire, the spiritual materialism of the Vatican or the Coliseum find their temporary specifics, have their moment and then are gone or will be gone. Here, human ideas and human endeavor find their fullest form only as a beautiful ruin. Standing on the hot stone streets, the statue of Caesar Augustus stands against the sky; the marble hand beckoning to a future which will never come to pass and never could come to pass, the city of the eternal is actually the city that most celebrates the in-substantiality of human striving. What is imagined now, or what is dreamt of now, will never happen exactly as we wish, and things find their full beauty only in the wear and tear of weather, the patina of oxidation and the actuality of human appearance and disappearance; what is abiding in human life is the actual daily conversation that occurs in the very shadow of the monuments we raise to our abstract desires.

looking down over the darkening, thankfully un-eternal city, the discourse about our pre-sent and our possible future is made strangely beautiful by the privilege of walking amidst the decay and disappearance of so many past futures, as if we are being forgiven already for our too specific hopes when the general beautifying hand of time puts every-thing into such a multi-layered and satisfyingly unspecific perspective. Everything saying, sotto voce, that though we have our moment in the sun, we might be best understood, might even be most ourselves, as a beautiful ruin, most real when we are on our way out, or even gone altogether.

Only in maturity do we begin to understand that whatever citadel of thought or identity we have built and proudly displayed to others, whatever monuments to our achievements we attempt to leave behind, none of us know the true perspective with which we will be viewed or the way in which our memory will be enjoyed, whether we are happy visitors to Italy or no, whether we walk the actual cooling streets or not, all of us will surely, if we live long enough to gain the perspective, see Rome before we die.

**SONG** | My soul is at rest

The image shows a musical score for the song "My soul is at rest". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). Above the treble staff, the following chords are indicated: A, Dm, A SUS A, Dm, C, F, C, Dm, A, Dm *fine*, and A. The lyrics are written below the treble staff: "My soul is at rest in God a - lone, my sal - va - tion comes from God. My". The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The piece concludes with a *fine* marking.

*The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.*

**THE PSALM |**

Psalm 23 | *Dominus regit me*

The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
**I shall not be in want.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
**and leads me beside still waters.**

He revives my soul \*  
**and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
**for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
**you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**SCRIPTURE READING | Ephesians 5:8-14**

Reader: *A reading from Ephesians.*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**THE HOMILY/REFLECTION | Natalie Bedard**

## THE SILENT MEDITATION | THREADS

Go in search of more. When you are unraveling into severed threads, new stories are waiting to be woven, and you can hope for new beginnings.

This does not mean your journey will be easy, but moving forward is an act of faith, step by step, even when you cannot imagine the tapestry on the other side of this.

And no one can take your faith away.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERTORY SONG | Stay with me

*During the singing, you are invited to come forward to light a candle in prayer.*

*Please scan to give*



Stay with me, re-main here with me, watch and pray,— watch and pray.—

## ART |

*Pamela Pruitt*

God's  
Artistic  
Brush strokes  
On the awakening  
Sky  
Are different  
Every morning,  
Reflecting  
The variety  
Of His  
Dominion  
And His joy  
In providing  
It.

May their light  
And grace  
Always  
Remind me  
That His art  
Will never  
Need  
Restoration.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

*Intercessor:* Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world. Almighty and ever living God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially our President, Governor; and County Executive; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Carol, Greg, Kimberley, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Nancy, Patrick, Winifred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those who care for them.

*The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.*

*Intercessor:* And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear especially Priscilla Pitts and those you now name, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **AMEN**

*The Confession is omitted today due to the chanting of the Great Litany.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER |

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

***All:* Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Officiant:* The coming night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives be dispelled in this hour. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

*Officiant:* The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace. **Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG | Nunc Dimittis

*1st time in Latin, all following repetitions in English.*

Ostinato Refrain

Nunc di - mīt - tis ser - vum tu - um, Dó - mi - ne,  
Let your ser - vant now go in peace, O

ne, Lord, se - cún - dum ver - bum ac -  
ne, Lord, Dó - mi - ne, O Lord, pa - ce.  
word.

tu - um in pa - ce, Dó - mi - ne. Nunc di -  
cord - ing to your word, to your word. Let your

*Thank you for joining us today!*

## Assisting in Worship Today

**6:00 p.m. Service**

**Choir:** Caitlin Gompf (soprano), Catherine Hinton (soprano), Maureen Monk (flute),  
YaShauna Swan (viola), Larissa Sanders (piano)

**Homily:** Natalie Bedard

**Lectors/Readers:** Various

**Ushers:** Betty Dagne, Yetti Lipede

# PARISH CALENDAR

MARCH 15 –21, 2026

## Monday, March 16

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
6:00 – 8:30 pm Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL  
7:00 – 8:00 pm Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

## Tuesday, March 17

All Day St. Patrick's Day  
7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
11:00 am– 12:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting  
7:00 – 9:00 pm MS Support Group – New Brick, LL  
7:30 – 9:00 pm CEC Book Club – Zoom  
7:30 – 9:30 pm 300 Yr Communications Committee Meeting – Zoom

## Wednesday, March 18

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
6:00 – 9:00 pm Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series – New Brick, LL

## Thursday, March 19

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
12:00 – 1:00 pm Lenten Healing Eucharist – Old Brick  
6:30 – 9:30 pm Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 – 9:00 pm Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom  
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

## Friday, March 20

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream

## Saturday, March 21

9:00 am – 11:30 am MOCC Breakfast – Silver Diner, Elkridge  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm Calendar Meeting – New Brick, Narthex  
2:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL  
3:30 – 4:30 pm Altar Guild prep



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



If you have an announcement to share with the church,  
Please send to [communications@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org) by Tuesday evening.

*SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS*

### **Sunday Circle: *Unmasking Your False Self***

How well do you know yourself? What stories do you tell yourself *about* yourself? This Lenten discussion series will help us uncover the mask that so often hides our true selves, even from ourselves. The gift of being yourself is a spiritual movement towards self-discovery. The gift of our self-discovery blesses us with the grace to be our true, authentic selves. Gather with us in Old Brick or online at 9:30 a.m. for this important series, led by Father Manny.

**The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **894 6507 7361**, and the Passcode is **SC**

### **Coffee Hour Returns This Sunday!**

Starting this Sunday in the Narthex of New Brick, we will have Coffee Hour for everyone. Gather with us after the 10:30 worship, catch up with fellow parishioners, and then head home after enjoying a warm beverage and pastry. This Sunday, the Vestry of Christ Church supplies Coffee Hour, followed by the MOCC next Sunday, March 22; other ministries will follow. In the spring, we'll ask a few parishioners to sign up for each Sunday, and provide a sign-up link soon. For now, please join us in a new place to share in fellowship as we conclude a morning of worship together.

### **Holy Week at Christ Church**

Holy Week is when the foundational story of Christianity – Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection – is remembered and retold, both in words and in ritual actions, at services throughout the week. We gather together as a community of faith to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, to stand with him before his accusers, to walk to Golgotha, and to stand at the foot of his cross. Finally, on Easter Sunday, we will joyously celebrate the resurrection of Christ, lifting our voices in praise of the hope that is ours and the world's. Visit our website for the details - [www.christchurchcolumbia.org/holyweek](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/holyweek) - and join us for all of it, if you can, remembering that without the journey of Holy Week, Easter loses its deep meaning.

### **Easter Altar Flowers, Music, and Offerings**

Easter Sunday is a special time when we honor, remember, or give thanks for someone or a blessing in our lives by donating flowers or requesting hymns to adorn our worship spaces as we celebrate our risen Lord. **You can present gifts to support our Easter flowers and music here**; be sure to place the dedication name(s) in the *MEMO* line. If you wish to give a general Easter Offering, **you can do so here**. For those wishing to submit a check, you can drop your donation in the plate on Sunday or at the Church Office during the week; please include the same dedication information on the memo line of your check. Whichever way you choose, we thank you for helping support the beautiful Easter services at Christ Church.

## **WOCC at Toby's Dinner Theatre - Deadline is Sunday**

Everyone is welcome to join us for *The Wizard of Oz* on Friday, April 17th, at 6:00 p.m., a night of food and fun. The cost is \$85. for adults and \$81. for children, and **you can pay via Realm** (choose "Women of Christ Church" in the *FUND* box, and write "Toby's" in the *MEMO* line). You can sign up in the Narthex, and must do so by **THIS SUNDAY, March 15.**

## **Centering Prayer - Mondays**

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **817 6254 3177**, and the Passcode is **CP**. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing **centering@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

## **Christ Church Book Club - Tuesdays**

The Christ Church Book Club is an informal online conversation that decides on a book and discusses it as a group, offering different perspectives and experiences. We've just begun a new book for Lent, called **God's Joyful Surprise: Finding Yourself Loved by Sue Monk Kidd**, so how about you experience it with us? We read a chapter or two each week and discuss on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Email **bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org** and let us know that you're interested, or just log on next Tuesday. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **853 4359 7339**, and the Passcode is **CECBC**.

## **Father Manny Leads the Next WELS - March 18**

Each year, the Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series is one of the most enriching experiences of the season. Next Wednesday, we are pleased to have Father Manny present his perspective on our 2026 Spiritual Life Theme, ***Building Relationships through LOVE***, with the meal being provided by the Christ Church Vestry. We begin at 6:30 p.m. with a communal supper in the Great Hall, followed by our guest presenter. The evening then concludes with a brief, informal Eucharist. There's no other series like this at Christ Church throughout the year, and we highly encourage you to gather with us for this unique discussion and fellowship.

## **Lenten Healing Eucharist - Thursdays**

Each Thursday during Lent, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick. Our clergy leads this service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and community members are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God, and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

## **Christ Church Choir - Thursdays**

C'mon, all you singers and music lovers! Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in New Brick, and everyone is welcome to take part. Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our Vocal or Handbell Choirs. Go from "singing in the shower" to "singing in the sanctuary!" If you're interested or want to learn more, please speak with Larissa or any choir member, or send an email to **music@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

## **MOCC Monthly Breakfast - Saturday, March 21**

The MOCC Breakfast is a monthly tradition, so join us for French toast and fellowship. This month, it will take place on Saturday, March 21 at Silver Diner - **8250 Gateway Overlook Dr, Elkridge, MD 20175**. We'll gather at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome.

## **Ministry Calendar Meeting - Saturday Morning, March 21**

It's time for Christ Church's next calendar planning meeting. We'd like to ask one representative from each ministry to attend; a Zoom link will be sent from the office for those who cannot attend. Breakfast will be served to those meeting on-site. Gather with us in the New Brick Narthex or on Zoom on Saturday, March 21, at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please email the **Church Office**.

## **WOCC Upcoming Events - Begin March 21**

The WOCC has a ton of upcoming events and gatherings, so be sure to join us for as many as you wish!

- **March 21 at 1:00 p.m.** – Women's History Month event: Maryland Day at Clara Barton Historic House, 5801 Oxford Rd., Glen Echo, MD, Free; carpool meets at the church at noon.
- **March 28 at 11:00 a.m.** – Labyrinth Walk at St. John's Episcopal Church & lunch at Touche Touchet Café
- **March 29 at 6:00 p.m.** – Lumen Christi at the Meditations on the Passion service, Palm Sunday
- **April 1** – Springfield Bingo; time TBD
- **April 6 at 6:30 p.m.** – WOCC dinner meeting at the Corner Stable restaurant

If you have any questions, please speak with Shahra, Jan, Emily, Amanda, Carol, or any WOCC member. You can also email **WOCC@ChristChurchColumbia.org**, and they will get back to you.

## **Beautify Our Campus for Easter - Next Sunday, March 22**

This is a callout to all who love our campus and have expressed interest or involvement with Building & Grounds. Next Sunday, March 22, we'll gather a half hour after the close of the Sunday service and begin beautifying the campus for the spring. We'll be picking up trash, branches, and other sundries, cleaning windows, doors, and sidewalks, and readying the inside of both "Bricks" for the Passion Week and Easter celebrations. Snacks and drinks will be served to keep you refreshed. This is a great time to get kids involved and teach them that the important items we love also need to be cared for. We hope that you'll help us spread the message. Thank you!

## **Family Night Out! - Friday, March 27**

Gather the crew and lace up those bowling shoes - it's time for a night of fellowship, strikes, and spares! Whether you're a pro or just here for the snacks, we want to see you there on Friday, March 27, at 7:00 p.m. Bring your family! Bring your friends! Just bring yourself! Everyone is welcome. Meet us at Lucky Strike Columbia - 7100 Carved Stone Rd. Columbia, MD 21045. Let us know by emailing **MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org**, or speak with Duane at church, so he can reserve the right amount of bowling space.

## **Palm Sunday and Meditations on the Passion - March 29**

Palm Sunday has three worship services - the 8:00 worship takes place in Old Brick. Then, the 9:00 service will begin by gathering in the Great Hall (lower level) of New Brick and process up to the Sanctuary from there. Our final morning service at 10:30 a.m. will meet and begin worship in Old Brick, then collectively process across the campus

during the service (if the weather is inclement, we will begin in the Great Hall).

And on that Sunday evening, Christ Church will host Meditations on the Passion, a special service of poems, readings, dance (with our **Lumen Christi liturgical dance ministry**), song, and prayer. Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary as we contemplate the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ in a way that makes us realize the immense love He has for each of us, a love capable of suffering and death to free us from our sins.

### **Find a Ministry that's Right for You**

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the vibrant, active, dedicated parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others. None of these requires weekly assistance - they only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those interested in the Altar Guild, please email [altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org). For Inreach, please email [inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org) (or [visit their website page](#)). If you're interested in assisting elsewhere, please call the Church Office at [office@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:office@christchurchcolumbia.org). Thanks!

### **Runners Will Raise Awareness of Suicide Prevention and Support Grassroots at 'Light the Night' 5K and Community Event on March 27**

Put on your running shoes or turn out to cheer the athletes who enter the fifth annual **"Light the Night" 5K**, a public awareness event to be held Friday, March 27. It is intended as a "county-wide acknowledgement that we support and care for those impacted by suicide."

Sponsors are the Howard County Department of Health, the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, and Bullseye Running. Proceeds go to the **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center** and the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Maryland** (AFSP Maryland).

Christ Church is a long-time supporter of Grassroots, which in addition to helping the homeless, provides 24-hour crisis intervention that includes a **supportive counseling hotline**.

"Light the Night" takes place at Oakland Mills High School, 9410 Kilimanjaro Rd., in Columbia, where speakers active in suicide prevention will deliver remarks at 6:30 p.m. The race begins at 7 p.m. There will be activities for non-runners, fun take-home items such as bracelets and keychains, and resource packets on suicide prevention.

In addition to raising awareness to save lives, the organizers will accept donations that will go to Grassroots and AFSP Maryland. AFSP is the largest private funder of suicide prevention research; it also creates and hosts education programs, leads public policy efforts on mental health, and supports suicide-loss survivors.

Runners are encouraged to sign up **here**. Registration is \$36 plus online processing fees. Runners' regular packet and shirt pickup is on Thursday, March 26, from 5:45 to 7 p.m. at Feet First, 5305 Village Center Drive, #110, Columbia, MD 21044. On race day, runners' late packet and shirt pickup begins at 6 p.m.

### **Christ Church Supports Eye Care at Future Somos Amigos' Clinics**

For the first time in its nearly 30-year history of delivering basic health care in the Dominican Republic, **Somos Amigos Medical Missions** has begun providing eye care. At its clinic in January, a Dominican optometrist evaluated 28 patients. They received prescriptions for glasses and were screened for conditions such as cataracts and glaucoma.

The plan is to continue offering optometry on-site in addition to the medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services that people have come to depend upon in this rural, mountainous area. Previously, a supply of reading glasses or referrals

to more distant care were the only options.

To support Somos Amigos' new vision component, the Outreach Commission at its March meeting approved a donation of \$750. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. In addition, we are conveying a parishioner's designated donation to Somos Amigos for the same cause. Thank you!

When Founder and Executive Director Frank Brightwell made his annual visit to Christ Church on March 1, he thanked the congregation while delivering **the sermon** during worship services. At Sunday Circle, his remarks included a recap of the January clinic, one of four held in Naranjito each year. For its residents, the nearest health care is more than two hours away.

Volunteers in January included Dione and Jim Mahoney and Dione's sister and brother-in-law, Desiree and Jorge Arce, as well as the Arce's nephew, Ivan. All are in a video about Somos Amigos' plans for the future. You can view the video, "Opening New Doors," on **the Somos Amigos portion** of the church website.

Dates of future clinics are April 11-18, July 11-18, and Oct. 10-17, 2026. Go **here** for volunteer information. Or ask parishioners who have volunteered, including Outreach member Shahra Toth and physicians Ellen Boudreau and Preethi Jackson.

### **A Kindness Pantry Update, and Words of Thanks**

First, I want to thank Jenny Cecil, Jan DeBoissiere, Sara Kirkpatrick, and all of you who supplied our Kindness Pantry in February. I am so grateful for a team of such dedicated parishioners who know the importance of fulfilling our partnership with Lake Elkhorn.

Yesterday was a very special yearly event at LEMS - the Black History Month Celebration (*see photo*). This year the theme was "Celebrating 100 Years of Black History: Because of Them We Can." One hundred years ago, Carter G. Woodson put forth the concept of Negro History Week and it has become a whole month of celebrations that emphasize the fact that Black history is American history.

As attendees entered they were greeted by the flavorful aroma of collard greens cooked by Harlem's Sylvia Woods, the Queen of Soul Food. Students invited everyone to taste this classic dish. On the way out, we were given tickets for an ice cream treat since Augustus Jackson, a White House chef and businessperson in Philadelphia, developed the modern way of manufacturing ice cream.

We walked to the Learning Center through the hallways past student statues of some of the many influential figures of Black American history: Huey Newton, Judge Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Barak Obama, Michelle Obama, Mae Jemison, Louis Armstrong and Madame C. J. Walker. These were impressive tableaus of culturally and historically important people and events that the students studied during February. In addition, each classroom door was decorated to reflect the content area connection to Black Americans and their contributions to our country.

During the program the LEMS Chorus, Band, Chamber Orchestra, Invisible Changemakers Dance Group, and individual student poets shared their impressive talents with the audience. These performances were interspersed with explanations of important historical events and trends such as the history of Black dance, the Harlem Renaissance and the development of the Latino Black community.

The students were extraordinarily proud of all that they had learned and with good reason. This is a not to be missed event at LEMS. I hope you will come and experience it for yourself next year.



**Christ Episcopal Church**

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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*  
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

**Vestry**

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*)
- Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran
- George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick • Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James
- Katie Adams • Jim Berkson