



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

TAIZÉ VESPERS
6:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 1, 2026 | Second 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 I



Officiant: God dwells in you.
People: **And also in you.**

Officiant: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lampstand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:14-16*

Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

SONG | Nada te turbe

1.
Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te. Quien a Dios tie - ne
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en. Those who seek God shall

2.
na - da le fal - ta. So - lo Dios bas - ta.
nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us.

CONSOLATIONS | CONFESSION

is a stripping away of protection, the telling of a truth which might once have seemed like a humiliation, become suddenly a gateway, an entrance to solid ground; even a first step home. To confess is to free oneself, not only by admitting a sin or an omission but to pro-fess a deeper allegiance, a greater dedication to something beyond the mere threat of im-mediate punishment or the desolation of being shunned. To confess is to declare oneself ready for a more courageous road, one in which a previously defended identity might not only be shorn away, but be seen to be irrelevant, a distraction, a working delusion that kept us busy over the years and held us unaccountable to the real question.

Freedom from deception may be the goal but no confession is without consequences. Our fears about the result of confessing are well grounded; the old identity the secret was protecting almost never survives the revelation. We begin the new life in isolation; perhaps in-deed shunned by those we have wronged or even by those unable to understand our need to tell. Confession implicitly calls for carrying on the journey newly alone, unaccompanied by the familiar company we have kept until now.

Deathbed confessions happen so frequently because in the light of our imminent demise and disappearance, preserving the old fearful identity that kept the secret is seen to be ab-surd, almost laughable, we are suddenly not the thing we have been defending all along. In the shadow of our disappearance we come to understand that the preservation of our name and our identity have taken enormous effort and willpower to sustain for a mere temporary and provisional sense of personhood. In leaving the stasis of secrecy we must commit to a new fidelity - and fluidity - a river flow of arrival - and not just on a temporary basis while the revelation is new, but shaped around a different life that calls for a deeper discipline.

Confession, therefore, is not passive; is not the simple ability to face up to past wrongs - an active dynamic is foundational to the original meaning. In the early Christian tradition Confession meant the avowal and declaration of one's religion, to confess was to discover what one believed to be true by speaking it out loud before witnesses - often unsympathetic - to confess, was to enter an axis of vulnerability and visibility and sometimes to place oneself at the mercy of those who did not fully understand us in our struggle.

Declaring a new dispensation by confession we see our trespasses against others in a new light, initiated by something we were hiding, not only from the world but from ourselves. Holding the secret was not only a defense against punishment but also a holding back from a next courageous step. To separate the confusion of punishment with revelation we first of all confess to ourselves, step onto solid ground in the privacy and spaciousness of our own hearts and minds and then translate it into the best speech we have to represent it in the world, and by doing so attempt to meld two previously irreconcilable worlds. To con-fess is to integrate the offending with the of-fended, inside and out.

To confess is not only to acknowledge a truth we have held from ourselves all along, breathing quietly, alone and in secret what we could not initially give a voice, but a hopeful dedication to a larger power that might make us powerless to commit the selfsame sin again.

SONG | Da pacem

Da pa - cem cor - di - um. Da pa - cem cor - di - um. Da Give
 Give peace to ev - 'ry heart. Give peace to ev - 'ry heart. Give
 pa peace, cem. Lord. Da Give pa peace, cem. Lord. Da Give
 fine

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM |

Psalm 121 | *Levavi oculos*

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

SCRIPTURE READING | Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Reader: *A reading from Romans.*

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY/REFLECTION | Leah Chrest

THE SILENT MEDITATION | TIME

I believe there is a time for everything under the sun. A time to live, a time to die, a time to rise, to dream, to become... to find room for me in the most crowded spaces of my mind, to see there is still time for me to slow down, process things, and let Ecclesiastes sing to me



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please scan to give



OFFERTORY SONG | Jesus, Remember Me

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

Ostinato Refrain

Capo 1: (D) Eb (Em/G) Fm/Ab (A) Bb (D) Eb

Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in - to your King-dom.

(Bm) Cm (Em/G) Fm/Ab (A) Bb (D) Eb

Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in - to your King-dom.

The memory
 Of last year's
 Redeeming dark ashes
 On my pale face
 Keeps them there
 Long after
 They are gone --
 When the world
 Which created
 The powdery dust
 Removes them
 For
 New Creation.

I do not need
 to feel the ashes
 To know that
 They were
 There.

When I see
 Disordered collections
 Of them
 In my heart,
 They remind me
 That it's time
 For
 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, Natasha, Mildred, Nancy, Patrick, Winifred, Priscilla, 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 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 -
 Let your ser - vant now go in peace, O

ne, Lord, se - cún - dum ver - bum
 Lord, Dó - mi - ne, O Lord, ac -

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: Leah Chrest

Lectors/Readers: Various

Ushers: Betty Dagne, Yetti Lipede

Altar Guild: Ivy Amponsah, Jai Jones, Kathy Simms, Sonni Aribiah

Tellers: Brian Farnandis, Cherry Williams

PARISH CALENDAR

MARCH 2 –7, 2026

Monday, March 2

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
7:30 – 10:00 pm WOCC Meeting – Zoom
8:00 pm Lenten Compline w/ Mtr Marcia – YouTube & Facebook

Tuesday, March 3

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 – 8:30 pm 300 Yr Race & Slavery Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm CEC Book Club – Zoom

Wednesday, March 4

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Ying Shu Recital: Dress Rehearsal – New Brick, UL
6:00 – 9:00 pm Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series – New Brick, LL

Thursday, March 5

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 6

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
8:00 pm Lenten Compline w/ Mtr Marcia – YouTube & Facebook

Saturday, March 7

10:30 – 12:30 pm Winter Exercise Group – New Brick, LL
2:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
2:00 – 5:00 pm Ying Shu Recital - New Brick, UL
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 by Tuesday evening.

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

Sunday Circle: SOMOS AMIGOS

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 from even 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 on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. for this important series. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **894 6507 7361**, and the Passcode is **SC**

Lenten Taizé Vespers - This Sunday Evening

Vespers is a liturgy of Evening Prayer that combines scripture readings, prayer, silent meditation, and rich music. Each Sunday evening, Christ Church offers a service of contemplative prayer and music in the tradition of the Taizé community of France. It offers this special service on Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. in New Brick, offering different opportunities for prayer, music, and reflection. This worship of reflection offers a chance to meditate on God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims on the way.

LENT at Christ Church

Our **Lent at Christ Church** page contains details for our worship, formation, and fellowship gatherings throughout the season. This is also where you can read our Daily Lenten Meditations, which will be published every weekday morning, both there and on our Instagram and Facebook pages. In addition to those, we'll have an inspirational *Saturday Song* posted every weekend, as well - something to enjoy, to lift your spirits, and to comfort your heart. We hope you'll find it a useful part of your Lenten journey.

Other Ways to Enrich Your Lenten Journey

This year, Christ Church also provides additional online resources to further enrich your Lenten experience. In addition to our **Daily Lenten Meditations**, you can also visit our website for a link to The Episcopal Church's Lectionary calendar, where you can find Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel readings.

The second resource on our page is provided by Sister Monica Clare, an Episcopal nun and author - **and unlikely TikTok star**. She invites us to rediscover—or deepen—habits of prayer, worship, and engagement with Scripture. These "holy habits" provide a path to a life shaped, given meaning, and directed by a deeper relationship with God. Visit the Christ Church website at **www.christchurchcolumbia.org/other-lenten-resources** for these links and details.

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 emailing **centering@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

A NEW BOOK at 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're about to begin a new book for Lent, so why not come and join us on this new journey? We read and discuss a chapter or two each week on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom, and we can help get you started. Email **bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org** and let us know that you're interested.

The Rev. Richard A. Ginnever is at Christ Church's WELS - Next Wednesday, March 5

Each year, the Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series is one of the most enriching experiences of the season. We are always thankful to the members of Christ Church's **Spiritual Life Commission**, who work so hard to put this, and other, events together. The WELS series offers five weeks of insightful, life-transforming seminars.

Next Wednesday, we are proud to welcome back Rev. Richard Ginnever, our beloved Rector Emeritus, who will present his perspective on our 2026 Spiritual Life Theme, ***Building Relationships through LOVE***. The meal will be provided by the Christ Church Outreach Committee (thank you!). We begin each evening 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. The Rev. Marcia Davenport will lead this week's 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.

Lenten Evening Compline with Mother Marcia - Mondays and Fridays during Lent

Beginning this Friday, the Rev. Marcia Davenport leads this series of online worship, a Christ Church tradition that you can participate in from wherever you are. Each service is unique, featuring liturgy from a different prayer book, and contains Mother Marcia's personal reflections and messages written expressly for this series and relevant to the Lenten season. You can find these streams on our website, YouTube, and Facebook pages at 8:00 p.m. Monday and Fridays throughout Lent, or you can tune in any time afterwards. Begin and end each busy week with a peaceful evening of Lenten worship.

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! If you're interested, please email **music@christchurchcolumbia.org**

LIFT US UP: A Prayer Vigil for Non-Violence at a Time of Crisis - Next Thursday, March 5

Christ Episcopal Church invites all parishioners and community neighbors to attend a prayer Vigil on Thursday, March 5th, at 7:00 pm in the New Brick sanctuary. Gather with us as we welcome participants from the many congregations supporting our Refugee Ministry, Columbia, and Howard County. And please share this with your family, friends, and neighbors, as everyone is welcome to attend and take part.

Lift Us Up will feature meditations, songs, reflections, and prayers from many in our Interfaith community, in response to recent and ongoing violence across American cities. We will mourn those of all ages killed, injured, or cruelly deported to unknown fates. At this time of major political division, we will unite in prayer for God's will for mercy and peace - two qualities we need much more of in our communities and our world.

Christ Church Sunday School Helps LEMS - March 8

On Sunday, March 8, the younger Sunday school students and their parents will gather to assemble snack bags for LEMS instead of holding classes. Please come ready to help with this project for Lent!

Film Doubleheader Weekend – March 13 & 14

Another double feature is coming to Christ Church on March 13 & 14, with *Amazing Grace* ([trailer](#)) being screened on Friday, March 13th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Building's lower level. Then at the Center for Spiritual Nourishment on Saturday, March 14, the film *Amistad* ([trailer](#)) is shown in the Church Office Conference Room (upper level) at 9:00 a.m. Bring movie munchies (or pastries on Saturday) to share with others. See you at either showing!

MOCC Monthly Breakfast - Saturday, March 21

Join us for French toast and fellowship - the MOCC breakfast is a monthly tradition. This month, it will take place on Saturday, March 21 at Silver Diner. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome. See you there!

WOCC at Toby's Dinner Theatre - April 17

Next up: a night at Toby's! Join us for *The Wizard of Oz* on Friday, April 17. Family and friends are welcome to a night of food and fun as we gather at 6:00 p.m. for the buffet dinner, followed by the feature production. The cost is \$85. for adults and \$81. for children, and you can pay via Realm (write *TOBY'S* in the memo line). You can sign up in the Narthex, and must do so by March 15th.

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. For Inreach, please email inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org (or [visit their website page](#)). You can also call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Stay in Touch with the Larger Church Family

Maryland Episcopalian is a service that spotlights and tells the stories around our Diocese. This month, there's a little interview with our own beloved Archdeacon Denise Schiavone, and so much more! Visit marylandepiscopalian.org

Bookmark the *Diocese of Maryland's* website, which covers on the [diocesan](#), [young adult](#), and [youth](#) activities and gatherings. Visit episcopalmaryland.org

The *Episcopal News Service* (ENS) offers in-depth reporting of local, regional, national, and international news for Episcopalians and others interested in the church's mission and ministry. ENS is the official news source of the Episcopal Church. Visit episcopalnewsservice.org

And always stay in touch with your beloved *Christ Church!* We have our Lenten schedule online, which details every service, fellowship, and gathering taking place throughout the season. You can also look back at [every Sunday worship](#) this decade (and beyond), learn about our initial [300th Anniversary](#) plans, explore [our history](#), and so much more. Visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org

Nursery Care Assistant Still Needed

Christ Church is seeking a Nursery Care Assistant to help with our youngest members of our parish family during Sunday services and other special events. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this position, please have them contact Amanda Kirkpatrick, Christ Church's Nursery Care Coordinator, at nursery@christchurchcolumbia.org. Be sure to place "Nursery Care Assistant" in the subject line of your email. You can also call the church office and let them know. Thank you.

Do You Love Sharing Stories and Reading?

Did you know that we have volunteers who read a Bible story to our youngest children in the nursery? We can always use more, and we welcome anyone to participate in this ministry. We have books and children's Bibles, or you can bring your favorite story. There is no preparation needed; you can do it as often or as little as you wish, and it only takes ten minutes on a Sunday. If interested, get in touch with Jenn Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net or speak with any volunteer.

Register for Sunday School!

Christ Church's Sunday School ministry believes in growing a deep and wide faith in kids through education in the Gospel, serving our community, and fellowship with one another. From the earliest age, we want kids to know the fundamental truths of God's Word and how to apply them in their daily lives.

If you've been coming to Sunday School this fall, you don't need to register again. But if you are new to Christ Church or haven't registered before, please visit www.cecevents.org/SundaySchool-2526 to learn more and complete our registration form (one form per child) so we can reserve space for your children. And if you have any questions or need assistance, please email us at sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Learn What It's Like to Volunteer at a Somos Amigos Clinic When Founder Frank Brightwell Visits Christ Church this Sunday, March 1

We'll have several opportunities this Sunday to learn about life in the Dominican Republic and how Christ Church supports **Somos Amigos Medical Missions** in its work. Founder and Executive Director Frank Brightwell will deliver the sermon during the 8 a.m. and 10:30 worship services and conduct Sunday Circle this Sunday, March 1.

His visit to Christ Church has become an annual tradition, in part because of the depth of our support. It includes dedicated volunteers, monetary and spiritual support, and life-changing efforts for patients Euclides, Emilio, and Franci (see photos).

You can read about Euclides' diagnosis of colon cancer in the **Outreach Blog of May 29, 2025** and about his recovery in the **Outreach Blog of Jan. 29, 2026**. You'll recall that Emilio required high-tech hearing aids and Franci needed heart surgery, as described in the **Outreach Blog of Nov. 14, 2024** and the **Outreach Blog of Oct. 27, 2022**. Thanks to all whose prayers lifted up these patients over the years.

Regular volunteers are Dione and Jim Mahoney, and Dione's sister and brother-in-law, Desiree and Jorge Arce. All are expected to attend the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday; catch them afterward to ask about their experiences. Other parishioners who have volunteered include Outreach member Shahra Toth and physicians Ellen Boudreau and Preethi Jackson. Somos Amigos holds quarterly clinics. Future dates are April 11-18, July 11-18, and Oct. 10-17, 2026. Go **here** for volunteer information.

In an interview for a Somos Amigos newsletter during the January 2026 clinic, the Mahoneys described their motivation: "For us, Somos Amigos represents the belief that even if we cannot do everything, we can always do something—and that something truly does make a difference. Through many years of returning to the clinic, serving especially in the pharmacy and working closely with the wonderful doctors and staff, we have witnessed the dedication behind the much-needed medical and dental care provided to the rural community of El Naranjito.

"What makes this experience so meaningful is that it is truly a two-way street. The warmth and openness of the people who live here leave a lasting impression, and together—patients and volunteers—we experience healing, learning, joy, resilience, faith, and gratitude. Each visit is deeply fulfilling and enriching, reminding us that serving others also transforms and strengthens us in ways we never expect."

Please Bring Diapers, Non-Perishables for CCC/FISH, And Consider Volunteering from Home to Take Phone Calls From Neighbors in Need

FISH and Columbia Community Care (CCC) partnered last year and merged their pantries. CCC continues to hand out food at three sites on Saturday mornings and by home delivery to Howard County residents. For information, go online to Get Help. Find CCC updates on its Facebook page. FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label "FISH/CCC". Please bring baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes.

FISH will continue to provide telephone support to Howard County residents, offering guidance and financial assistance, because the personal touch is very important when people are in crisis. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong (see photo) or email him at andydelong.fish@gmail.com.

You could be the one to lend a helping hand by lending an ear! As a phone volunteer, you can help from your home by giving just one day a month to assist those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. Thank you always for your support.



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 Premph 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