

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Jazz Vespers | Sunday, March 19, 2023

Welcome to Sunday Jazz 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.

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.

Tonight's music is provided by The Leister Quartet.

Gathering Song | In a Mellow Tone

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 lamp-stand 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 | Down by the Riverside

Consolations | Longing | Read by Dianne Azu

Longing is the transfiguration of aloneness, the defenseless interior secret core of a person receiving its overdue invitation from the moon, the stars, the night horizon and the great tidal flows of life and love. Longing is divine discontent, the unendurable present finding a physical doorway to awe and discovery that frightens and emboldens, humiliates and beckons, makes us into pilgrim souls and sets us on some road that starts in the center of the body, and then leads out, like an uncaring invitation, like a comet's passing tail, glimpsed only for a moment but making us willing to give up our perfect house, our paid for home and our accumulated belongings.

Longing is felt through the lens and even the ache of the body, magnifying and bringing the horizon close, as if the horizon were both a lifetime's journey away and living deep inside at some unknown core – as if we were coming home into a beautifully familiar, condensed strangeness.

In the longing and possession of romantic love, it is as if the body has been loaned to someone else but has then from some remote place, taken over the senses – we no longer know ourselves. Longing calls for a beautiful, grounded humiliation; the abasement of what we thought we were and strangely, the giving up of central control while being granted a watchful, scintillating, peripheral discrimination. The static willful central identity is pierced and wounded, violated and orphaned into its own future as if set adrift on a tide: like Moses in his floating cradle, bumping along the reeds of the Nile, like a child lost in a panicked moving crowd and at times, like a creature stunned, gripped and lifted by a passing hawk.

Longing has its own secret, future destination, and its own seasonal emergence from within, a ripening from the core, a seed growing in our own bodies; it is as if we are put into relationship with an enormous distance inside us leading back to some unknown origin with its own secret timing indifferent to our wills, and gifted at the same time with an intimate sense of proximity, to a lover, to a future, to a transformation, to a life we want for ourselves, and to the beauty of the sky and the ground that surrounds us.

Longing is nothing without its dangerous edge, that cuts and wounds us while setting us free and beckons us exactly because of the human need to invite the right kind of peril. The foundational instinct that we are here essentially to risk ourselves in the world, that we are a form of invitation to others and to otherness, that we are meant to hazard ourselves for the right thing, for the right woman or the right man, for a son or a daughter, for the right work or for a gift given against all the odds. In longing we move and are moving from a known but abstracted elsewhere, to a beautiful, about to be reached, someone, something or somewhere we want to call our own.

The following psalms are read responsively by half-verse.

Psalms | Read by Robin Bradley

Psalm 19 | *Caeli enarrant*

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the LORD are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Psalm 46 | *Deus noster refugium*

God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
**and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;**

Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.

It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
**he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

"Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
**I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."**

The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Song | Blue Bossa

Scripture Reading | Galatians 4:21-5:1 | Read by Dianne Azu

Reader: A reading from Galatians.

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written,

‘Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children,
burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs;
for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous
than the children of the one who is married.’

Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? 'Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.' So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Song | Primavera

Homily/Reflection | Leah Chrest

Silent Meditation |

Announcements |

Song | I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Offertory |



Poems | by Pamela Pruitt

CANDLESTICK MAKERS

We are all
God's Candlestick
Makers because
We make ourselves
Beacons of light.

The tall and straight
Among us borrow
Our radiance
From the stars.

While short and round
Sparklers
Linger closer
To Earth
To show the way.

And those
Who do not know
Whose they are
Hesitate to glitter
At all.

But, it's not the size
Of the flame
That matters;
It's the glow.

GIFTS

To create
Our worlds,
God gave
Us
Time
To fashion
Our varied
Pleasures,

Ways and
Willingness
To build shelters
To bury
Them in

And
Fancy toys
To combat
The resulting
Loneliness.

To create
His world,
God only
Gave Us
Love.

Prayers of the People | Read by Robin Bradley

God our faithful Shepherd, we depend on you for everything we need: for daily food, for guidance and protection, for healing in injury and comfort in sorrow. You respond in abundant provision. Thank you for your tender care of us. Thank you for soothing the wounds of this life. Thank you that in the presence of enemies, especially the last enemy of death, you are with us, as Shepherd, Host, Home. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Knowing your faithfulness in our lives, we bring before you the lives of others, the cares of this world, entrusting all things to your goodness and mercy. Bring healing to those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Bring release to those who are held captive by old hurts or new bonds that oppress and entangle. Bring freedom to those unjustly accused, relief to those burdened with debt, comfort to all who suffer from abuse of any kind. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for people living precariously in the midst of war. Protect, we pray, citizens and soldiers alike, and teach us to put away our weapons, taking up instead words of peace and reconciliation. By the power at work in Christ, break down the walls of hospitality we build so that we may learn to live together graciously. We remember those living in the midst of drought and famine. We pray for rain to fall and crops to grow, and for generosity to overflow from our own hands and resources, until all your children receive their daily bread; until all your children have clean water to drink; until all your children have adequate shelter and medical care. Compel us to be better stewards of creation so that our habitation is sustainable and responsible. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, help us to see the world as you see it; to see others as you see them; and to see ourselves rightly, too. Because you have come into this world for judgement, we can leave our judgements behind. Pursue us all with your goodness and faithful love until goodness and faithful love fills every heart and informs every action. We pray these things in the name of the one who came that we might see, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. 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 | Carnival Nights

Thank you for joining us today!

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PARISH CALENDAR MARCH 19 TO MARCH 25

Sunday, March 19

8:00 – 8:45 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School – Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick
10:30 – 11:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Jazz Vespers – New Brick, upper level

Monday, March 20

7:00 – 7:30 am Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 – 7:30 pm Crab Kickers Soccer – Field
7:00 – 8:00 pm Centering Prayer – Zoom

Tuesday, March 21

7:00 – 7:30 am Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 2:00 pm Japanese Play Group – Outside New Brick

Wednesday, March 22

7:00 – 7:30 am Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 – 11:00 am Take Off Pounds Sensibly – Parish Hall, lower level
6:30 pm Lenten Supper Series – New Brick, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, March 23

8:00 – 8:30 am Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm Lenten Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 8:30 pm AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, March 24

7:00 – 7:30 am Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 7:00 pm Taizé Service – Old Brick
7:00 – 7:30 pm Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm Christ Church Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, March 25

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Crab Kickers Soccer – Field
9:00 am – 5:00 pm Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
10:30 am – 12:30 pm Small Delusions Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
1:00 – 3:00 pm Lumen Christi Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
2:00 – 3:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm NA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,
email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening

For a digital copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Easter Altar Flowers and Gifts

Easter Sunday is a time that we honor, remember, or give thanks for someone or a blessing in our lives by donating flowers to adorn our worship spaces as we celebrate our risen Lord. If you would like to present Altar gifts this Easter, you can find our online Easter Offering form at <https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/-/form/give/lenteaster>. Be sure to place the dedication name(s) in the *MEMO* line. You can also drop your donation in the plate on Sunday or to the Church Office during the week; include the same dedication information on the *MEMO* line of a check, please. **Email the Church Office** with any questions.

Strategic Plan Review - March 20 - NEW LINK

Everyone is welcome to join us on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. next Monday, March 20th for our Strategic Plan Review, as we'll go over everything the Strategic Planning Committee has worked very hard on over the last several months. We

want everyone to be able to have a voice, so please join us for this if you are able for this important review and discussion. **The Zoom link is HERE**, the Meeting ID is **892 0053 2779** and the Passcode is **Planning**

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer takes place next Monday, March 20th on Zoom, but we have great news - we will soon go hybrid! Later this month, you'll be able to join us in person in Old Brick or virtually on Zoom. What is Centering Prayer, you ask? It is a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God, moving us beyond conversation with Christ and towards communion with Him. Everyone is welcome to join us for this reflective gathering on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link is **here**, the Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340** and the Passcode is **Centering!**

Lenten Supper Series – Wednesdays

After a very successful and well-attended first session, we are returning next week for the second installment of this popular series, offering five weeks of insightful and life-enriching seminars on our theme for this year, ***Be an Instrument of God's Peace*** - taken from St. Francis of Assisi's beautiful prayer. The guest presenter for this week is Monique Ellison, Priest-in-Charge at St. Matthias Episcopal and Church of the Messiah in Baltimore, and Chaplain to the Bishop Search Committee. We begin at 6:30 p.m. with a communal supper in the Great Hall – this week, food is provided by the Spiritual Life Committee - followed by the evening's presentation and a brief Eucharist.

Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Each Thursday at 12 noon during Lent, Christ Church offers midday worship in Old Brick. This service includes readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and non-parishioners 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 for a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

Christ Church Choir - Thursday Evenings

C'mon, all of you who like to sing! Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9 p.m. and everyone is welcome to take part! **You can find links to the registration forms on our website's Music Ministry page.** 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 choir! If you're interested, please speak with Larissa on Sunday or email her at **music@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

CEC Book Club - Fridays

We are currently discussing a great book, *How Then Shall We Live? 4 Simple Questions that Reveal the Beauty and Meaning of our Lives* by Wayne Muller, and are always welcoming new readers to join us, so how about you? Take part for an hour or so on Friday evenings for a lively discussion of this book, as we are a friendly bunch and appreciate everyone's input and thoughts. The book can be purchased online at your favorite digital retailers, but we can set you up with a few pages to get you started. Interested? Email Ellen Hoke at **efboudreau1@gmail.com** or text her at 301-452-7115.

April Newsletter Deadline - March 25

As spring approaches, many ministries and groups have activities and events coming up, so be sure to have yours included in the April *Gathered Together* newsletter! Please be sure to send any upcoming information about your ministry's activities or gatherings to Chris by the end of next Saturday, March 25th. You can email text and photos to **communications@christchurchcolumbia.org**

Small Delusions Performs in Honor of Some Incredible Parishioners - March 26

Come one, come all! Small Delusions will play a concert in honor of Ellen and Charlie Hoke on Sunday, March 26th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend to hear some folkie acoustic music that is sure to bring back some great memories.

Leave of Absence

We want to keep everyone informed that Deacon Denise will be away for several weeks to tend to an important family matter. She does not have an exact date when she will return, but she plans to participate in our common life as she is able to virtually. For further questions or information, please feel free to reach out to Father Manny.

WOCC Upcoming Events

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our March labyrinth walk at St. John's. You can read our recap and view photos at <https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/wocc-our-march-labyrinth-walk>. We even have a way for you to create a simple labyrinth for yourself at home on that page.

Also, save the dates for upcoming events:

- **Saturday, April 1st** - A guided tour of the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center, in celebration of Women's History Month.
- **Monday, April 3rd at 1:00 p.m.** - April WOCC Meeting in New Brick and on Zoom.
- **April 7th, Good Friday** - Stations of the Cross labyrinth walk at St. Johns.

The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick **and on our website** and contains all the fun events planned for this year. We have as many events as we could schedule on Saturdays so more women can attend who are not able to come on weekdays. Come and join us for these events, so speak to any WOCC member or email us at WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Office Volunteer Appreciation

Thank you to the volunteers - Gail, Dee, Mareli, Barbara, and Carolann - that helped out in the Church Office this past week. There are times when there are more tasks than we can handle as a small staff, so being able to count on others to lend a hand is very much appreciated. Thank you!

Christ Church's 300th Birthday

We are presently seeking parishioners to help with planning Christ Church's 300-Year Anniversary. This celebration is an important milestone for our church, and we want as much participation from each of us as possible. There are lots of committees that you can serve on and so we would like to encourage everyone to consider being a part of this historic occasion. If you have ideas, are interested in assisting, or would like more information, please contact Fr. Manny at revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org. Thank you.

Altar Guild Schedule

The schedule for the first half of 2023 - including Holy Week - is now on our website. **[Just visit here](#)** to see when you're scheduled to help prepare the Sanctuary for worship.

Election of Bishop Co-Adjutor, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

This important election is scheduled for next Saturday, March 25th at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ellicott City, and the slate of candidates is as follows:

- The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, Canon to the Ordinary for Transition and Church Development, Diocese of Central New York
- The Rev. Alissa Newton, Canon for Congregational Development and Leadership Formation and Vicar, St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Kent, WA, Diocese of Olympia
- The Rev. Gregg Morris, Rector, St. Andrew's, Downers Grove, IL, Diocese of Chicago
- The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander Jr., Rector, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria, VA, Diocese of Virginia

You can learn more about this process at <https://episcopalmaryland.org/bishop-search>

Columbia Community Care Recruits Gardening Volunteers and Plans a Spring Fun Run/Walk as It Marks Three Years Since Its Founding

As Spring 2023 arrives, **Columbia Community Care**(CCC) is looking back at its establishment during the early days of the pandemic and calling attention to plans for outdoor activities on upcoming weekends. On Saturday, April 8 at 9 a.m., volunteers will converge on the CCC pantry building to help kick off a gardening project that will allow CCC to grow its own healthy produce. The **Community Ecology Institute** has partnered with CCC on the project. It has installed a series of raised garden beds on the grounds of the former Columbia Flier building that Howard County made available to CCC for its pantry and headquarters.

Please come to 10750 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia to learn what will be planted and help out as needed. “Come learn what we will be growing at our community garden and how to contribute your gardening skills and time to growing our own produce for our CCC families,” CCC posted last week on the **CCC Group on Facebook**. It contains a link to a CCC **signup form** with slots throughout the year and says: “We appreciate you lending your gardening expertise.” On Saturday, April 22, CCC will hold a Spring Fun Run/Walk starting at 9 a.m with a kickoff party at the Columbia Flier building. The run/walk start time is 10 a.m. Advance registration costs \$20 or \$10 for children ages 12 and under. Same-day registration for adults is \$25. Registration is preferred by April 15. To register, go online to **CCC events**.

All registered participants will get discount cards to Feet First Sports, located at 5305 Village Center Dr., Suite 110, in Wilde Lake Center. The course ends at the center, where the Wilde Lake Village will be holding a village board election party. Wilde Lake is also the site of one of CCC’s three distribution centers where, as usual, volunteers will be distributing goods to less fortunate neighbors. The Wilde Lake Interfaith Center is located at 10431 Twin Rivers Rd. Free groceries, produce, baby supplies, and household essentials also are distributed on Saturdays at Long Reach Village Center, Suite 9, 8775 Cloudleap Ct., and at The Barn in Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, all in Columbia. Recipients are welcomed from 10 a.m. to noon, or when supplies run out, and volunteers are encouraged to register for their slots at each location. Those shifts last from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Signups for volunteers are posted through the end of the year according to site: **Wilde Lake**, **Long Reach**, and **Oakland Mills**.

CCC started as an all-volunteer organization that came together in 2020 at the outset of the pandemic. Last year, Howard County honored CCC with a “Rise to the Challenge Award for “dedication and resiliency” in response to the coronavirus. CCC Executive Director Erika Strauss Chavarria posted on the **CCC Group on Facebook** on Tuesday, March 14 as she looked back on the fear and uncertainty at the outset of the pandemic. The founder of CCC was then a teacher at Wilde Lake High School who first posted on March 11, 2020 about her concerns that students would go hungry if schools closed. This week she wrote: “I cannot believe I am writing this, but Happy 3rd birthday to Columbia Community Care!!! THREE YEARS AGO TODAY this FB group was created and it has been a whirlwind since then. So much growth, so much pain, so much love, so much care. Thank you to every single person who has contributed to CCC and allowed us to continue supporting HoCo families. A special shout out to Meg Dacey Feroi (CCC administrator) without whom CCC would not exist.”

Since its founding in 2020, CCC has gained more than 8,000 members on Facebook and has attained 501(c)(3) status. In 2022, Christ Church parishioners played a part in refurbishing its pantry building and stocking the shelves so that home deliveries could resume after a hiatus. At Christ Church, Leigh Smith is our representative who takes parishioners’ donated items to CCC. Members of R.A.G.E and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to continue supporting CCC by collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Put them in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday.

Please read the rest of this week’s Outreach blog at <https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/christ-church-outreach-news-march-16-2023>



Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Denisa Abdallah • Jane Adams • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Sara Kirkpatrick

Andrea Leeman • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Alfred Titus-Glover