

Christ Episcopal Church
2627 Atlantic St. N. E
Warren, Ohio 44483
Phone: 330-372-4998

E-mail: secretary@christchurchwarren.org

WEB

www.christchurchwarren.org

WORSHIP

Sunday at 8 am in the Old Chapel

Sunday at 10 am in the Main Church

WEDNESDAY

10 am Healing Service with Eucharist

The Rev, Tom Furrer—Interim Rector
thomasjohnfurrer@gmail.com

Tiffany L. Fisher—
Parish Administrator
secretary@christchurchwarren.org

Laurie Tonn—Finance Secretary
finance@christchurchwarren.org
Carole Lewis—Treasurer

Jamie Shiell—Director of Music
music@christchurchwarren.org

Paul Keriotis—Director of Formation
formation@christchurchwarren.org

CHRIST *Episcopal* CHURCH 
WARREN - OHIO

February 2024

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ADS

MISSION

STATEMENT!

TO LOVE OTHERS AS
CHRIST LOVES US!

Interim Rector's Message

“Behold, I am Doing a New Thing”

Our Theme for 2024

Dear Christ Church Parish,

Our theme and prayer focus for this year is “Behold I am Doing a New Thing” (Isaiah 43:19). At the time Isaiah wrote these words, God was calling his people back home to Jerusalem after forty years of exile. God was calling them to reinvent themselves after a very, very difficult time in their history. God was calling them to see themselves in a new way for a new chapter in God’s love story with the human race.

What new thing is God doing here at Christ Church in 2024 ? He is calling us to see ourselves and our parish life in a new way. Just as the people of Israel needed to reinvent themselves to rebuild Jerusalem 2,500 years ago, so God is calling us to rebuild our parish community in a new era that is very different from the 1950’s and 1960’s when the wider culture was supportive of the Church and its role in our society. We are now in the midst of a cultural drift away from Christian faith and practice and it has affected every denomination and nearly every parish community. How do we survive and thrive in this new context ?

At a recent Vestry meeting, someone said: **“We have a beautiful church building, we have a wonderful choir and music program, we have great financial resources, we have good leadership from the clergy and staff. What we need is a congregation.** (long pause.....)

We need to grow our congregation. How do we do that ? ”

That is an excellent question. In fact, I have been asking myself, and asking God, the same question since the first day I walked into Christ Church on January 1, 2023.

The church communities that are surviving and thriving in this new cultural context are the ones in which members have an up-close and personal love of Jesus and a zeal for sharing that love with others. For lack of a better term, let's call it "contagious Jesus-focused faith".

God is calling us to be a vibrant Christ-centered and mission-focused parish community. Congregations grow and have an impact when members are excited about knowing Jesus and sharing his love with others. People join churches when people who are excited and enthusiastic about their faith invite them to "come and see".

This is why we are doing the ALPHA Course on Sunday mornings. The goal is to help everyone develop a deep and abiding connection with our Lord and Savior and to become mission-minded people who have a contagious faith. This is the New Thing that God is doing in our midst. I invite you all to open your eyes and see. And open your life to God's call.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Tom

SEARCH COMMITTEE

"Dear friends,

We invite your input as Christ Church continues the search for our next rector. We want to hear from all members of our community about the qualities, gifts, and experience we should look for in our next spiritual leader.

If you have thoughts to share about the rector search, please send them to our dedicated email address: christchurchsearch44483@gmail.com

We will review all messages received at this address as we develop a parish profile and job description. Your perspectives will help guide our search committee as we evaluate candidates and discern who God is calling to serve as rector.

This is an important time in the life and mission of our parish. We want to ensure the widest participation possible as we take the next steps. Please do not hesitate to share your voice by emailing christchurchsearch44483@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from many of you. May God bless our community and lead us into this new chapter together.

In faith,

HUGS

It's wondrous what a hug can do:

A hug can cheer you when you're blue.

A hug can say I love you so:

Or, I hate to see you go.

A hug is "Welcome back again,"

And "Great to see you, where've you been?"

A hug can soothe a small child's pain,

And bring a rainbow after the rain.

The hug, there's just no doubt about it:

We scarcely could survive without it!

A hug delights and warms and charms:

It must be why God gave us arms.

Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,

Sweet sisters and swell for brothers.

And chances are your favorite Aunt's

Love them more than potted plants.

Kittens crave them, puppies love them.

Heads of State are not above them.

A hug can break the language barrier

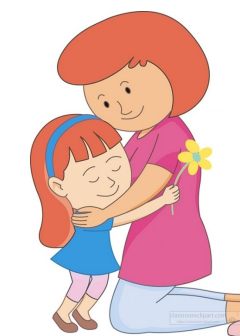
And make travel so much merrier.

No need to fret about your store of 'em

The more you give, the more there's more of 'em!

So, stretch those arms without delay;

And give someone a big hug today!



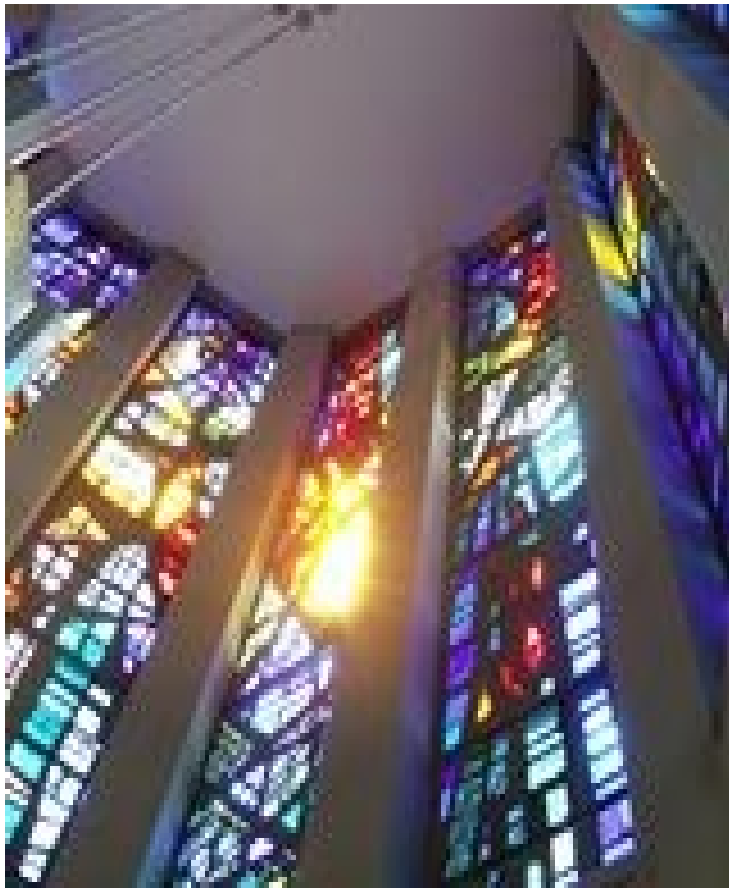
Thank you Jeannine for the poem.



WHAT IS THAT?

That is an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator). We now have 2 of them located in the hallway by the office and one in the Garth hallway.

Some of the staff are going to be trained to use it, but the AED works so that if we need to use it, the machine talks you through it. It's very user friendly. I hope we never have to use the equipment, but if we do, we have it.



TOWER LIGHTING

Our March Tower Lights shine in

Loving Memory of
Margaret Moore

From

Paul & Marilyn Homa and Family

&

Loving Memory of
Gary Richards

From

Sandee Skovran

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

18 Judy Pippenger

19 Cindy Thirion

20 Tiffany Fisher

25 Al Novak

29 Dave Susa



Our Sexton, Bob, has a mailbox just outside the office. In his mailbox are WORK REQUEST forms. If you need something worked on please fill out the form and put it back in his mailbox. He checks those forms first thing each morning when he comes in for the day. He will either fix it himself or he will find out who can fix it.

Remember the forms are in his mailbox just outside the office under Bob Hambach/Sexton.

LINCOLN SCHOOLS

MARCH 2024

Every Tuesday while school is in session CEC makes a Lincoln School delivery. There are always two dozen loaves of bread plus a case of peanut butter or jelly depending on which is in short supply. The other items are dependent on my weekly conversation with the Community Liaisons.

I always ask the Liaisons if they have a family story to share. This time the answer surprised me. Instead of hearing about a family I was told there are too many to tell me about. There are children who live in cars; with family members but not their immediate family; in motels whose rooms have no amenities like a microwave and at safe places like Some Place Safe. There is a need for even more food bags than ever before.

The Liaisons prepare 50 weekly emergency food bags and 10 boxes for Friday distribution ensuring the children and their families have food for the weekend. This week I learned there was another addition - the Happy Bag. A little boy came to the Pantry and said he needed a Happy Bag and went on to explain that he needed food for his dinner that evening. Now Happy Bags are made daily.

The Pantry now has a refrigerator which has expanded their food item selections. In addition to ramen noodles, mac and cheese, spaghetti Os, fruit cups, peanut butter and jelly the Pantry can now offer Uncrustables, Go-Gurts, Lunchables, string cheese, fresh fruits and vegetables (carrots and ranch dressing favorites) plus cereal bars and peanut butter crackers. Happy Bags will include a dry and refrigerated item plus a fruit cup.

The needs of the children continues to grow and the Liaisons are pressed for time to get everything done. They can use help to make emergency food bags and boxes, Happy Bags and stock the shelves. Please contact Linda Day at lindabday@aol.com or 330-395-8818 if you have a couple of hours to spare.

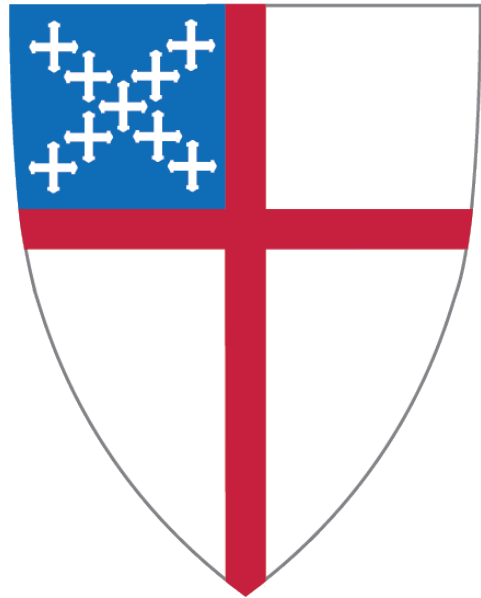
Thank-you on behalf of the children for your many kindnesses, caring and generosity.

Bless You,

Linda Day

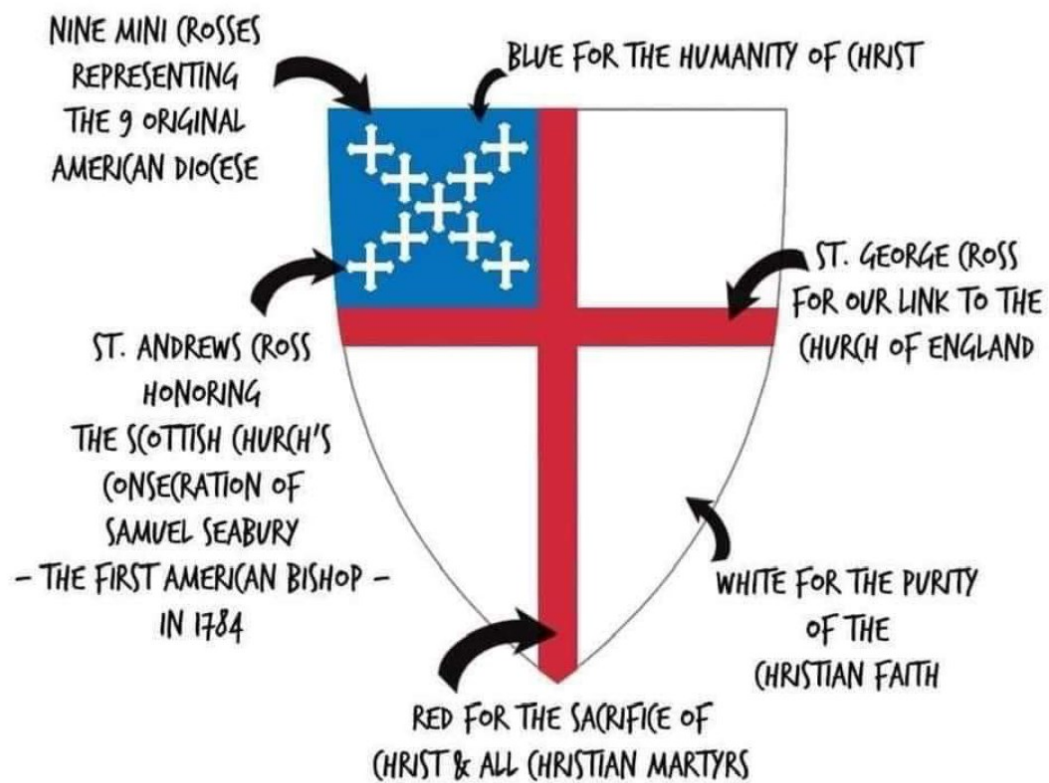


NEW NEWS, WHO KNEW??



Do you know the meaning behind the Episcopal Shield and why it looks the way that it does?

Have you ever wondered why the Episcopal Shield looks the way it does? Each element has a meaning:



Thank you to Paul for giving us this information.

DON'T STOP PRAYING

I found myself having a rough day, or a series of days and I found myself getting upset very easily over every little thing. I was in the car and a driver cut me off. I know we've all been there, but being cut off was a final straw, and I found myself saying some very un-lady like words and getting upset over something that was over as quick as it happened. I then started thinking about all the things that had gone wrong that day, and I was getting even angrier.

I wasn't really mad at those things that had happened. I was angry and hurt because I didn't feel well, and I was tired of not feeling well. I have a very strong faith in God, but I was a little angry and hurt because I had been praying for healing and it wasn't happening.

During this time in the car, I was listening to the radio. Just about everyone who knows me knows I listen to Christian contemporary music 95% of the time and today was no different. I had KLove on the radio (great radio station), and on the radio comes the new song by Matthew West. I hadn't heard it until this point so I turned it up. The song title was "Don't Stop Praying". I listened intently to the song and when it was done, with tears in my eyes, all I could say was, "thank you Jesus". He seems to give me those lessons regularly. If you open your eyes, ears, and heart he really does speak to you. To me, he spoke with this song on KLove.

Please take a minute and read the words and then use your phone to click on the QR code at the bottom of this page and listen to him sing this song. If you can't do that, click on the link or copy and paste into Google. If you are still confused, get a son, daughter, grandchild, or friend to show you how to do it.

When you think the praying is not working, "DON'T STOP PRAYING". He is there for you and he is listening.

God Bless,
Tiffany

What's your impossible
Your "I need a miracle"
What's got you barely hanging by a single thread
What looks so hopeless now
What weighs down your heart with doubt
You beg for a breakthrough but no sign of breakthrough yet

When you've cried and you've cried til your tears run dry
The answer won't come and you don't know why
And you wonder if you can bow your head even one more time

(refrain)
Don't stop praying
Don't stop calling on Jesus name
Keep on pounding on heaven's door
Let your knees wear out the floor
Don't stop believing
'Cause mountains move with just a little faith
And your Father's heard every single word you're saying
So, don't stop praying

He's close to the brokenhearted
Saves those who are crushed in spirit
The Alpha and Omega knows how your story ends

Don't stop praying for the prodigal
Don't stop praying for the miracle
Hallelujah, hallelujah and amen
Don't stop praying that additions end
Don't stop praying for deliverance
Hallelujah, hallelujah and amen
Oh, don't stop praying for the sickness healed
Don't stop praying for His power revealed
Hallelujah, hallelujah and amen
No, don't stop praying for the kingdom come
Don't stop praying that his will be done
Hallelujah, hallelujah and amen

<https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/dontstoppraying>



FINANCE



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS				
	JANUARYER 2023		YEAR TO DATE	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income				
Pledges	\$24,689	\$24,689	\$24,689	\$24,689
All Other	\$7,904	\$7,904	\$7,904	\$7,904
Total Income	\$32,593	\$32,593	\$32,593	\$32,593
Expenses	(\$18,422)	(\$18,423)	(18,422)	(18,423)
Excess/ (Deficit)	(\$14,171)	(\$14,170)	(\$14,171)	(\$14,170)



“Behold, I Am Doing a New Thing” - 2024

**Easter Sunday – Guest Preacher
Bishop Markus Dogo - Diocese of Kafanchan, Nigeria**

Dear Christ Church parish community,

On Easter Sunday, we welcome Bishop Markus Dogo as our guest preacher. He is Bishop of the Diocese of Kafanchan in central Nigeria.

I have known Bishop Markus for about ten years. I have worked together with him to build a medical hospital in his diocese in 2018. Since then, we have worked together to conduct medical missions, to raise scholarships for students in his diocesan schools, to build new school buildings and to assist the diocesan Women’s Centre to provide vocational training and food assistance for widows.

Bishop Markus is a man with a zeal for sharing the life-changing gospel of Jesus and for equipping God’s people to make a lasting impact in our world. And he is an outstanding preacher.

We encourage every one of our parish members to invite at least one friend – and preferably many more than one - to join us on Easter to hear what will be a life-changing message for everyone. I have heard Bishop Markus preach many times and he is a powerful preacher.

I invite you to come with expectant and receptive hearts to receive the blessing that God will bring you all this Easter Sunday.

God is doing a New Thing in our parish. Come and be a part of it.

God bless

Fr Tom



MARCH 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 8:00am Sunday Service Alpha Course End of Both Services 10:00am 10 am Sunday Service	26 5:00pm Boy Scouts	27 5:00pm AA Meeting	28 10:00am 10 am Healing Service & Bible Study 12:00pm Weekly Bulletin Deadline to submit information 6:00pm Pinewood Derby Setup for Cub Scouts	29 5:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice 6:00pm Pinewood Derby for Cub Scouts 7:00pm Choir Practice	1	2
3 8:00am Sunday Service Alpha Course End of Both Services 10:00am 10 am Sunday Service 4:00pm Arts on Atlantic-Sing Out! 3 Sopranos in Concert	4 5:00pm Boy Scouts	5 5:00pm AA Meeting	6 10:00am 10 am Healing Service & Bible Study 12:00pm Weekly Bulletin Deadline to submit information	7 5:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice	8	9 8:00am Toast Masters
10 8:00am Sunday Service Alpha Course End of Both Services 10:00am 10 am Sunday Service	11 5:00pm Boy Scouts	12 5:00pm AA Meeting	13 10:00am 10 am Healing Service & Bible Study 12:00pm Weekly Bulletin Deadline to submit information	14 5:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice	15	16
17 8:00am Sunday Service Alpha Course End of Both Services 10:00am 10 am Sunday Service	18 5:00pm Boy Scouts	19 5:00pm AA Meeting	20 10:00am 10 am Healing Service & Bible Study 12:00pm Weekly Bulletin Deadline to submit information	21 5:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice	22	23 8:00am Toast Masters
24 PALM SUNDAY 8:00am Sunday Service 10:00am 10 am Sunday Service	25 5:00pm Boy Scouts	26 5:00pm AA Meeting	27 10:00am 10 am Healing Service & Bible Study 12:00pm Weekly Bulletin Deadline to submit information	28 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service & Potluck 5:00pm Cub Scouts 5:00pm Vestry Meeting 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice	29 12:00pm Good Friday-Stations of the Cross 5:00pm Good Friday Litany	30
31 EASTER 8:00am Sunday Service 10:00am 10 am Sunday Service	1 5:00pm Boy Scouts	2 5:00pm AA Meeting	3 10:00am 10 am Healing Service & Bible Study 12:00pm Weekly Bulletin Deadline to submit information	4 5:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice	5	6

Christ Church Ministry Schedule- 08:00 AM Service 2024	
MARCH	
3	Mike Maggiano Jan Henrey
10	Anne Martin Joe Gladd
17	Cindy Thirion Steve Watts
24	Bill Baran Jan Henrey

Christ Church Ministry Schedule- 10:00 AM Service 2024	
MARCH	
3	Cindy Thirion Sally Mazey
10	Tiffany Fisher Karen Andrus
17	Jeff Heakin Faith Scarmuzzi
24	Jim Crofford John Panagis

**March 31
Easter Ministry
Schedule to be
Determined**

Christ Church Greeters Schedule- 10:00 AM Service 2024	
MARCH	
1st Sunday	Kathy Hughes
2nd Sunday	Carol & Linda James Nancy Forrester
3rd Sunday	Megan & Jesse Massaro Jackson & RJ, Pat Sullivan
4th Sunday	Linda Day Sandy Schlecht

Christ Church Ushers Schedule- 10:00 AM Service 2024	
MARCH	
1st Sunday	Rosa Durig Seth Durig
2nd Sunday	Jim Crofford Sam Heakin
3rd Sunday	Nancy Forrester Steve Watts
4th Sunday	TBD TBD

Christ Church Bakers - 10:00 AM Service 2024	
MARCH	
1st Sunday	Mr. & Mrs. Morris MaryAnne Stefanik
2nd Sunday	Steve Watts Becky Watts
3rd Sunday	Lynn Peteritis Linda Day
4th Sunday	Al Novak Pat Sullivan

Christ Church Altar Guild - 08:00 AM Service 2024	
MARCH	
3	Janet Gladd Mr & Mrs Begg
10	Nellie Doan Clare Adams
17	Jan Henrey
24	Janet Gladd Mr & Mrs Begg
29	Jan Henrey
31	Nellie Doan Clare Adams

Christ Church Altar Guild - 10:00 AM Service 2024	
MARCH	
3	Karen Andrus Kevin Knowlton
10	Deb Clary Nancy Forrester
17	Kathy Hughes Becky Watts
24	Karen Andrus Tess Crofford
28	Becky Watts Kathy Hughes
29	Deb Clary
31	Karen Andrus Kevin Knowlton

Christ Church Altar Guild - 10:00 AM Wednesday Service 2024	
MARCH	
6	Mr & Mrs Begg Janet Gladd
13	Jan Henrey
20	Mr & Mrs Begg Janet Gladd
27	Jan Henrey