

Christ Church Food Pantry

Greetings from the Polsons! It has been a little crazy since we've become directors this January but we are still open and serving the community during this pandemic. We've had many people step up to help volunteer and are taking extra precautions to keep volunteers and those receiving food safe. We continue to run our normal hours which are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am until 12pm as well as Wednesday evenings from 5pm-6pm. If you know anyone that is in need of food, please send them our way!

We've also made it to Facebook! Check out our new Facebook page, please like, comment and share it.

Before the pandemic began we had a refrigerator donated to us from Momentive's IUE-CWA 81380 union, which has been put to great use because we are still receiving food from the Milton Hannaford and many other donations from local people and community agencies. We want to thank those who have donated, volunteered and prayed for this ministry during these trying times.



Christ Episcopal Church
15 West High Street
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Office Phone 518.885.1031
ChristEpiscopalBallstonSpa.com



May/June 2020

Dear Friends,

Our church family has been in my daily prayers. I pray for your safety, health, and peace of mind. These have certainly been strange times- like nothing we have experienced before. It's been hard on people in many, many ways. Thus, perhaps the most important of my prayers are that you do not lose hope and that as much as we or you individually are hurting that we continue to do our best to share God's love. I can say from my heart that I miss you. As you also may now realize, sometimes we don't know the blessings we have until they are threatened. I can't wait until the time we can come together. It's important to remember that although we can't gather together for worship, or other gatherings, we still continue to be the Church. In the meantime, I hope you've been able to access our online worship service either through our website, Facebook, or going directly to YouTube. We've also been meeting via Zoom for vestry and other board meetings and recently had the first of what I hope is only the beginning of other Zoom Bible Study and discussion groups.

We've set up calling ministries to keep in touch and I encourage you to call our office or me directly should you have a need, concern, question, or just want to say hello. The office is open Monday-Friday. 518-885-1031.

I also want to thank you for your kindness and generosity! Without Noah's Attic being open and our KidsFirst daycare being way down in numbers because of the families either out of work or working from home, there has been genuine concern about meeting our financial obligations, especially payroll. I have been deeply concerned that our staff would need to be laid off, but because of your overwhelming generosity, we have been able to hold on. In fact, because of your outpouring of love, our plate and pledge offerings for the month of March (and thus far as I write this- the week after Easter), we've been averaging a little higher than usual.

Because of my deep concern about the negative effect the Coronavirus would have on the church and daycare financially, I applied for the Payment Protection Program, part of an incentive through the Cares Act to help non-profits and small businesses, and I am excited to tell you that we were approved. This money can be used for an eight-week period for payroll costs and, with your generosity, will help us immensely.

On a more personal note, as many of you know my wife's brother died at the end of January, and Easter week her sister Gail, who attended church with her husband Steve, passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Thank you for your out-pouring of love to me and Cathy, and to my brother-in-law Steve during these sad days. It is such a blessing to be part of a "Loving community."

*Faithfully yours,
Father Derik Roy*

Please follow us!

Facebook:

Christ Episcopal Church Ballston Spa

Instagram: @cecbspa

Website:

www.christepiscopalballstonspa.com

FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Monday	10:00am—Noon
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10:00am—Noon 5:00pm—6:00pm
Thursday	10:00am—Noon
Friday	10:00am—Noon

If you or someone you know is in need of food please call the church office 518.885.1031

**Financial Giving
During this Time**

People have been asking how they might continue to make financial contributions to the church. There are a number of ways you can do this:

Check – Send your check to:

Christ Episcopal Church

15 West High St

Ballston Spa, New York 12020

Bill Payment – Set up a Bill Payment through your bank using the above address as the vendor. It would also be helpful if you include your envelope number. This option should be free for the donor and allows us to identify where the contribution comes from.

Give on-line. Please find the give online app at the top of the webpage. Please click on that app and there are directions to tell you how. Please note that a small percentage of your giving goes to pay the online fee.

BELIZE Mission Trip 2021

Have you always wondered what it’s like to go on a mission trip? Have you considered going but don’t know how to go about it? Christ Church is once again leading a mission team to assist the people of Mt. Hope Bible Church in Unitedville, Belize, Central America. As in past years, we will be staying at a “camp” set up by missionaries to host mission teams with air conditioning, internet and all the comforts of home. We will be sharing information about our trip planned for January of 2021 very soon.

This will be our third trip. The first trip saw us make major improvements to the Youth Center as well as assisting some of their church families. Last year we finished two Sunday School classrooms, built a two-bedroom addition onto a single mom’s house, and helped make another 6 village families’ lives better with improvements to their homes. We were even able to assist another 3 families with financial gifts when we ran out of time to help them physically. We also distributed over 2,000 pencils that were collected and donated by a local elementary school and several large boxes of school supplies to six different schools.

This year our focus will be on helping even more villagers. Specific plans and projects will be determined by the number of people joining us on the trip, the skills they bring, and the resources we raise. If you would like more information, please contact Glen Face at glenface@gmail.com or (518) 441-6396.

Sunday School

Christine Osgood

So... how fun is it to be alone with your family? In my family, I am perfect. So my family has no complaints about me! Well, I think we all know that is a big joke!

This quarantine is a great time to remember that Christ loved us, and he puts up with us. We have always been annoying, bickering, and ungrateful. We are bored to the point of seeking all but HIM. Let’s face it, Tiger King has been our entertainment. For our family is has been The Office! BUT God is with us now and beyond this “quarantine.” He has dealt with us at every level, and has always remained loving, patient, and waiting.

If you are like me, you can’t keep up with working and schooling. And in the midst of the expectation of keeping my kids on track at school, working and just managing this “new way of life,” I can sometimes forget that my kids need to be on track with learning- specifically about God.

There is a free on-line Sunday School for 8 weeks following the program we have been using. Families just need to go to the website “Sparkhouse family Sunday school” and it will come up. But also consider just being aware of relating everyday tasks to God.

- If you have chores, teach Colossians 3:23 “And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”
- If your child has been wronged by another and is angry, show them Matthew 7:1 “Judge not lest you be judged.” Or Ephesians 4:6, “Be angry and sin not.”
- If they are scared, 2 Timothy 1:7 says, “God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power and love and of a sound mind.”

If you or your child is struggling, ask a friend for help or ask the internet for scriptures of what God has to say about that situation.

AND... dance in praise with your children!

- Psalm 30:11-12. 11 “You turned my wailing into dancing.”
- Psalm 150:4 urges, “Praise him with tambourine and dancing!”

Psalm 150.6 “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!”

Have fun praising Jesus!

Already Cancelled at Christ Church

Newcomers Class

Confirmation Class

Little Saints

Alpha

Community of Hope

Bible Studies and Study Groups

Sunday School

Some of the above may be scheduled in the near future, meeting virtually. Please continue to check our website for updates.

Cancelled by the Diocese

Parish leadership conferences were cancelled, but the teaching will be made available online: it is not yet available.

Diocesan Convention – scheduled for the first weekend of June, is being rescheduled for the Fall. A date and time have not yet been set.

Bishop Love’s Trial/Hearing scheduled for April 21, will be rescheduled

Not cancelled as of yet is the Diocesan Youth Ministry Beaver Cross. A decision will be made by May 15 as to whether or not our summer youth program can go forward.



May

- 1 James Paley
- 2 Karen Kubas
- 3 Peg Moser
- 6 Paul Guilmette
- 8 Amanda Russell
- 9 Edward Lewis
- 10 Donna Armer
- 12 Judith Bell
- 13 Larry Jorgensen
Matthew Elliott
- 15 Glen Face
- 16 Noel Drindak
Meredith Goertz
- 17 Tammy Boyd
- 18 Ed Melander
- 19 Adrianna Drindak
Tim Iannon
Desiree Lutgens
- 20 Linda Hendricks
Mike Drindak
- 22 Emily Barno
Marcia Thomas
- 26 Timmy Iannon
Linda Paley
James Van Valkenburg
- 28 Nicki Gardner
Jack Mancini
Cetera Moore
- 29 Danai Haggerty
- 30 Elizabeth Barno
- 31 Bonnie Anderson
Damian Keefe

June

- 1 Barbara Grandin
- 2 Corinne Sausville
Jeffrey Uhlinger
- 3 Joseph Sleight
- 5 Tyler Schmidt
Bill Myers
- 6 Juliane Carson
Carla Greenspan
- 8 Joseph Luger
Kaia Hemming
- 10 Thomas Armer
Michael Russell
Wyqie Aguda
- 12 Gavin Cuozzo
- 13 Katherine Garrant
- 14 Delaney Campbell
Cathy Roy
Stephanie Miner
- 15 Kathryn Lehmann
- 16 Bambi Becker
- 17 Ashley Bush
- 18 Madison Doud
Caitlin Jorgensen
- 18 Lea Burlingame
- 19 Michael Barno
Chip DuBois
- 20 Jessica Roy Demling
- 21 Catherine Benson
- 22 Edna Altone
- 23 Gina Fajans
Dan Rabideau
- 25 Campbell Bailey
- 27 Stephen Vacula
- 29 Desiree Drindak
Zachary Paley
Emily Luger
Theodore King
- 30 Maxim Hinrichs



May

- 2 Pat and Bambi Becker
- 4 Angela and Brad Roy
- 5 Joe and Gail King
- 16 Larry and Caitlin Jorgensen
- 19 Bruce and Ann Krupa
Derik and Cathy Roy
- 20 Mike and Juliane Carson
- 26 Bill and Elaine Pearson
- 28 Gregg and Donna Thomas

June

- 7 Caleb and Bet LaRue
- 10 James and Janice Bornheim
- 13 Richard & Joyce Reed

IN MEMORIAM

Gail T. Vacula

Gail Tracy Vacula, 71, was called into eternal rest on April 6, 2020, after a gallant 11 year battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

Gail is survived by her loving husband of 50 years, Stephen J. Vacula Sr; as well as her two sons Stephen J. (Kelly) Vacula, Jr; and Scott H. (Abby) Vacula. She is also survived by two sisters Cathy Roy and Rose Nelson.

Contributions in Gail’s memory may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave; Floor 17, Chicago, Il 60601 or to the Christ Episcopal Church, 15 W High Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

Lorraine McPherson, our church historian, is asking if people would like to submit a letter to the church about how they are dealing with the pandemic, we would add them to our archives.

Thank you

Thank you to Jeremy Bailey for the hours of time he has given to make it possible to have our worship services online.

Thank you to our worship team, gathering while doing our best to honor social distancing: Kristin McCabe and her children, Edison and Claudia Roberts; Deacon Bill Pearson, Deacon Gil DeLaura, and Father Richard Lehmann.

Thank you to Julia Duchesne for seeing that the altar is set up and taken down for our video services.

Thank you to Lois Mitchell for the Easter lilies.

Thank you to John and Theresa Polson and all the volunteers who have kept the Food Pantry up and running.

Thank you to Rachel Norsworthy for organizing our lay calling ministry

Thank you to Deacon Lynne for organizing our deacons’ calling ministry.

Thank you to Ann Wait for sending out cards from the church to people.

Thank you to our staff that continues to work under difficult conditions.

Thank you to all of you for checking in on one another, and again, for your generosity.

Keep in Your Prayers

*Janice Baird
Judy Covey
Erin Dumovitz
Bert Grandin
Tim Iannon*

*Curtis Niemeyer
Mabel Siler
Claire Weaver
Nancy Wemple*

**Thank you
From Beverly Granger**

I want to thank Fr Roy and the members of the parish for the lovely event prior to the Annual Meeting in recognition of my retirement after 20 years as Treasurer.

I was overwhelmed with the kind expressions of appreciation for my services and your generosity – the flowers, special cake, and the many gifts. Thank you so much!

The New Catacombs
The Rev. Richard B. Lehmann

Many of the earliest Christian Communities met furtively in places that their pagan neighbors would have never thought to frequent. In Rome, Christians famously met and worshiped in the catacombs – the precursor to a Columbarium. There, among the skeletal remains of the dead, numbering hundreds, Christians gathered for Eucharist. In what we know as “the persecuted Church,” this was a logistical necessity rather than a casual choice.

Today’s Church faces many of the same type of problems faced by our spiritual ancestors. We are not able to gather for worship as we have always done. We stay home and approximate our past experience by Zoom, Skype and online streaming of virtual Church Services. This elicits two responses in the short term:

- (1) We are thankful to Almighty God that technological options are available to even the most economically challenged parishes. There is a weekly Diocesan Eucharist than anyone with a computer can access. Christ Church has Pajama Church on a weekly basis. We can Zoom or text or email each other. There are chat-rooms and blogs. In sum: there are a plethora of ways to “gather in worship,” not in physical propinquity, but virtual reality.
- (2) Which bring us to the other side of this coin. Even the “techie” among us have serious doubts about the value and place of “virtual worship,” when comparing it to “the real thing.” It seems artificial and unreal. Our minds and hearts reference countless times that we gathered “as a Church,” and long for even a moment to be able to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers and sisters in Christ without the “social distancing” mandate of 6 feet apart. Dare I say that we might even regret times that we neglected to “go to Church” for some reason (legitimate or otherwise)?

There is a dialectic here between “Virtual Worship” and “the Real Thing.” The questions present themselves:

- What makes a worship experience “real” or not?
- Does a “virtual” worship service have the same value or legitimacy as a vis-à-vis gathering?
- How can we overcome the obvious hurdle of not being able to receive the Blessed Sacrament (Holy Communion) within the context of a virtual worship experience?

There are many other related issues and, certainly, legitimate concerns we all have for the present and future welfare of the Church. As a priest, I grapple with the present crisis in light of our Anglican theology of the Sacraments and the necessity of pastoral care. Both involve, at their heart, *real contact* with other people.

In the long-term, then, our *Incarnational Theology* is being tested; and perhaps being *challenged to expand* into the new areas of ministry and worship precipitated by Covid-19. Because “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,” [John 1:14] we must provide at least a working definition for our present-day Church when we are unable to physically gather together.

If some “virtual” alternative of worship and fellowship is legitimate *now* in the time of this pandemic, on what grounds can we call our fellow Christians back into the “actual” world of coming to the Church building for worship? If some new theology has been hammered out in light of a temporal crisis, can that new way of looking at things or “doing Church” be pushed aside and abandoned once the “all clear” is sounded?

Our current health crisis has presented the Church with an opportunity (like it, or not) to re-think our theology and praxis. Where, I ask, are the New Catacombs? Where is that “safe environment” in which we can “meet and worship,” other than our beautiful church building? How can we “do Church” in a new but legitimate modality? This fundamental question of *worship* in relation to *locus* is hardly a new one.

The people of ancient Israel were in a “similar but different” situation during the time of the Exile in Babylon. The Psalmist asked [Psalm 137:1,4]:

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept,
When we remembered you, O Zion.

How can we sing the LORD’s song
Upon an alien soil?

This is not a rhetorical question. It demanded a practical, and perhaps an entirely re-vamped response. The central place of the synagogue in the life of ancient Israel, and the development of Rabbinic Judaism were both post-exilic responses to that question. We, too, are on the “alien soil” of a *new exile*. What are our responses?



What’s Happening at KidsFirst?

KidsFirst is still going strong during this Covid-19 epidemic. Even though we may not have a building full of children, our teachers are hard at work providing care for the children of essential workers. They are continuing learning their letters, numbers, shapes, and colors; and exploring the themes “May Flowers” and “Great Outdoors.” The chapel services have been placed on hold at this time, however, the children are continuing to learn the Christian theme, “Noah’s Ark”. Our bible verse is: “Noah did everything that God commanded him.” Genesis 6:22

We are open for enrollment. If you are, or know of anyone looking for childcare at this time, please call 518-309-3540.

Cheryl Russell, our Pre-K teacher, is still in the process of fighting cancer. She is doing very well, and we ask that you keep her in your prayers as she fully recovers.

Follow KidsFirst on

Website
www.kidsfirst1.com

Facebook
Kidsfirst1daycare