

PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Welcome to Christ Church Alexandria!

Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people, whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith. If you are new to Christ Church, please fill out a welcome card, which can be scanned via QR code in your bulletin, or at the bottom of this page. Restrooms can be found on the first floor of Memorial Parish Hall, located across the churchyard. An infant caring room is also available in the Parish Hall, up the stairs to the right of the main entrance, for children five and under. We are glad you're here!

TODAY - WELCOME SUNDAY

Head to the churchyard following the 10:00 a.m. service for fun, games, music, and food!

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

For a listing of currently scheduled activities and meetings, visit www.historicchristchurch.org/events

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Welcome Sunday - Churchyard
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer - Facebook Live

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer - Facebook Live
(www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAlexandria)
7:30 p.m. Hymn Festival

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer - Facebook Live
9:00 a.m. Stewards of the Dirt - Churchyard

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer - Facebook Live

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer - Facebook Live
12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist - Chapel
4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir - Choir Room
5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir - Choir Room
9:00 p.m. Compline - Facebook Live

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

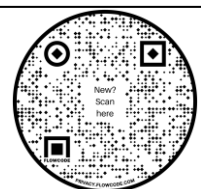
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer - Facebook Live
9:00 a.m. Lazarus Food Pantry - Meade Room
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

AA • Al-Anon

Various groups meet regularly
at Christ Church during the week.
Please check our online calendar for specifics.
(www.HistoricChristChurch.org/events)



118 N. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703.549.1450 • Fax: 703.549.5883
www.HistoricChristChurch.org



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send submissions of 50 words or less to ParishLife@ccalex.org.

Giving Makes us Feel Good!

Neuroscience proves that giving makes us feel good. Practicing generosity releases oxytocin and dopamine: the feel-good hormones that promote happiness, trust, and community. Giving makes us cheerful - and as everyone at Christ Church knows, "God loves a cheerful giver!" (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Wanna try? You can give through - wait for it - cash, check, ACH, debit card, credit card, Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, Benevity, DAFs, RMDs, and stock. Don't see your favorite option listed here? Let us know!

See our QR codes in Parish Life and the bulletin, or connect with Julie Simonton at jsimonton@ccalex.org or 703.778.4935

Welcome Sunday | September 7 | We ♥ Picnics!

Picnic Potluck & Hot Dogs & Games & Fun - what could be better to kick off the program year!!!! Join us after the 10:00 a.m. service today in the churchyard for lots of food and activities for kids of all ages including face painting, "Take the Cake", and lawn games. See you there!

The Mengo Raffle Returns!



Help our partner Mengo HIV/AIDS Clinic in Kamapala, Uganda offer care to over 9,000 patients per year by purchasing raffle tickets. Tickets are on sale online now: bit.ly/MengoRaffle2025 and in-person. The winning tickets will be announced on

September 28. You do not need to be present to win. The grand prize is a \$500 gift card to Trader Joe's. Second place prize is a \$200 gift card to Signature Theater and a \$100 gift card to the Carlyle Restaurant. Additional prizes include restaurant gift cards at a variety of places in the area. Please note, raffle ticket purchases are not tax deductible. If you would like to make a separate tax-deductible donation to support Mengo Hospital, please visit bit.ly/GivetoChristChurch and select "Mengo Hospital" from the fund dropdown.

Hymn Festival | September 8

On Monday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m., the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will celebrate its 70th anniversary with a hymn festival here at Christ Church. All are welcome to come and sing some wonderful hymns accompanied by various organists on our Bromley Organ. In addition to hymns being sung, there will be some readings, organ works, and reflections on the history of the chapter. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the service will recognize Ted Gustin for his 60 years as a leading member of this chapter. Ted served as organist at Christ Church for many years and we invite as many parishioners as possible to come and join in celebrating his contributions to the musical life of northern Virginia.

Stewards of the Dirt | September 13

Summer is winding down, but the church gardens are still going strong! The Stewards of the Dirt will hold a work session on Saturday, September 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the churchyard, and we could use your help. If you would like to join us and help keep our grounds looking beautiful, please contact Libby Witt at eawitt@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you on September 13.

LGBTQ+ Theology and Faith | 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

First and Third Thursday of the month | Library
LGBTQ+ parishioners gather every first and third Thursday for conversation about the relationship between their spiritual journeys and their coming out journeys. Through prayerful study of scripture in a safe, open, and loving space, we will seek a deeper understanding of our faith, our lived experiences, and our relationship with Jesus. For more information, please contact Terry Brown at terrymbrown1@me.com.

Christ Church is Starting a Democracy Circle!

Democracy Circles are an initiative of The Workers Circle, a 125-year-old secular Jewish organization that has long fought for workers' rights and civil rights. Following the Presiding Bishop's call for us to be "Christians who seek to practice our faith fully in a free and fair democracy," Christ Church's new Democracy Circle is one of nearly 100 that have sprung up nationwide. We'll meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month, at 11:30 with the purpose of understanding and strengthening for the long-term U.S. Constitutional democracy. Our next meeting is Sunday, September 21 in McMurray Commons. Please contact Libby Witt (eawitt@hotmail.com) and Susan Marquis (sanmarquis70@gmail.com) for more information.

Christ Church Soccer Saturday | September 27 | 7:30 p.m.

All Christ Church members, friends and family are invited for a night out to watch DC United play the Philadelphia Union at Audi Field. Tickets are only \$30 each! Tickets are available first come, first served, no later than September 15. To reserve a spot or for more information, contact Robbie. rlaughton@ccalex.org.

Join the Christ Church Choir!

Do you read music? Would you like to join a robust community of singers who help to lead worship at Christ Church? Would you like to instantly make friends with 40+ members of the parish? Consider joining the Christ Church Choir. There are a few rehearsals happening during the summer to be prepared once the program year begins in September. If you are interested, please contact the Director of Music, Jason Abel, at jabel@ccalex.org for more information.

Children's Choir - Sign Up Today!

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 10! The Cherub Choir (for children ages 4-7) rehearse on Wednesday afternoons from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. and sing on the first Sunday of each month. The Cherub Choir uses a combination of Orff and Kodaly training methods to introduce children to basic elements of learning music. The Canterbury Choir (for

children who can read proficiently, ages 7/8 to 8th grade) rehearse on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and sing each Sunday of the program year for the 10:00 a.m. service. The Canterbury Choir follows the RSCM training method which encourages not only strong proficiency in reading music, but also a deeper understanding of the music that is being sung. Both choirs use computer learning programs to assist each child to progress at their own pace. To sign your child up for choir, please email Jason at jabel@ccalex.org to express your interest! We hope to have a strong contingent of choristers helping to lead our music in worship this year!

FAITH FORMATION

For information, contact the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons at rector@ccalex.org or 703.549.1450

Care of Creation: A Christian Call | 9:00 a.m. | Meade Room
Sunday September 14, 21, 28, and October 5

The way we interpret our scriptural mandate to care for God's world drives the way we protect it. Join Rev. Noelle for a four-part series where we will look carefully at Old and New Testament passages to help us better understand how we can be stewards of creation instead of merely users.

Lectionary Bible Study | Sundays at 9:00 a.m. | Library
Resumes next week!

Ever wonder why that piece of scripture is in the Bible or what it means? Show up to the sermon and wish you knew more? This Bible study is for you! We'll read the lessons appointed for the day and conduct a brief study.

Covenant Class | Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m.

Covenant Class is a 10-week introduction for those who want to know more about being an Episcopalian & Christ Church—whether newcomers to the church or life-long Episcopalians—to get better acquainted with the clergy, staff, parish leaders, and other newcomers to Christ Church. Classes begin September 17. Contact Jessica Williams at jessicavilliams@gmail.com to sign up.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

For information, contact

Children: Ariel Rudy at arudy@ccalex.org

Youth: the Rev. Robbie Laughton at rlaughter@ccalex.org

Register for Sunday School

Sunday School begins again on September 14! Register your Sunday Schooler(s) ages three through 5th grade online today to help us prepare for the year ahead: bit.ly/SundaySchool2025

Youth Group, Youth Faith Formation and Confirmation Class Registration

Registration for all things Youth Ministry is open! All youth in grades 6 and up are invited to join in on everything going on at Christ Church. To register youth for Youth Group, Sunday morning Faith Formation, and Confirmation Class,

please use this form: bit.ly/YouthMinistry2025. Please email Robbie with any questions at rlaughter@ccalex.org.

It's Time for Confirmation Class!

The Christ Church youth confirmation program, "Confirm Not Conform," is returning for the 2025-26 school year. All 9th graders (or above) who are interested in exploring their faith and considering being confirmed in the Episcopal Church (and, in addition, having a little fun) are welcome. Confirmation itself is not a mandatory part of the program. The class will meet throughout the year on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fowler House Teen Center, beginning with a brief introductory session for parents and/or students on September 14. To register for class or learn more, please reach out to the class leaders, Kelley Brooke and Darrin Hostetler darrinahostetler@gmail.com.

OUTREACH & MISSION

For information, contact Melanie Gray at mgray@ccalex.org or 703.778.4937

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH: PASTA, PASTA SAUCE, AND CANNED FAVORITES

This month, consider helping us stock the Lazarus Food Pantry with some of our most popular staples: pasta, pasta sauce, canned fish, canned fruit and canned tomatoes. You can leave items in the white wooden donations box in the Parish Hall or order online (<https://amzn.to/40g4CaF>) and ship to

Christ Church ATTN: Outreach at
118 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

Join our Refugee Ministry Care Team

Volunteers provide critical support by staying in touch with families, offering companionship, and ensuring they feel welcome in their new community. Help with appointments, community events, and services like career support, school involvement, and basic needs. Your kindness can help them thrive and adjust to their new life! Be the bridge to resources, fun activities, and connections. Get involved today and make a difference—one family at a time. Ready to lend a hand? We need you and we train you! If you are ready to take the first step, schedule a meeting with our Refugee Coordinator, Cessilye, here: bit.ly/3YtgowX.

BLESSINGS ON...

- Claire Chow, Adrienne, Dave, Spencer and Henry Wegner, Brent, Holly, Ellie and Noah Levanto, Matt, Henry, and Nick Zahn, Tillman and Meredith Finley, Chris Parente, David Johnson and Scarlett Swan for moving furniture on August 30 for ALIVE!
- Our Summer Social hosts Fran Usher, Sara and John Grey, Stephanie and Jay St. John, Marilyn Bromley, Anne Shine, Elizabeth and Brett Trigg, and Jaclyn Moyer and Tillman Finley for their cheerful hospitality in opening their homes, backyards, and rooftops to parishioners in August.

NAME TAGS

Personalized Christ Church Name Tags: Are you a regular attender that would like a personalized Christ Church name tag? If so, please email membership2@historicchristchurch.org with the name you'd like printed. It will then be made and posted on the name tag board in the portico.

GIFT SHOP



Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to Noon and Wednesday to Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Phone: 703.836.5258

All proceeds benefit outreach in the Alexandria community and globally.

As we celebrate Welcome Back Sunday, we hope you will stop by the Gift Shop to see what we have for you! We have cards, pocket tokens and lapel pins, Anglican Rosaries, books and jewelry. As always, we have jams, jellies, peanuts and honey. Come take a look!

CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY, CLERGY, AND STAFF

Vestry

Steve Reed, '26, *Sr. Warden*
Kathleen Hickman '27, *Jr Warden*
Cornelia Horner '26
Ken Knapp '26
Jay Purcell Manchester '26
Nanette Lawson '27
Wendy Montes de Oca '27
Christopher Thompson '27
Jane Baird '28, Paula Dubberly '28
Jessica Hughes '28, Steve Slaton '28

David Rees, *Treasurer*

Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons
Rector
The Rev. Robbie Laughton
Associate Rector
The Rev. Abbott Bailey
Priest Associate

Music

M. Jason Abel
Director of Music

Parish Office

Michelle Baize
Meredith Bracco
Liz Denson, Melanie Gray
Ariel Rudy, Lia Sanchez
Julie Simonton

Facilities

Pouyan Meghdadian
Glen Curry, Kevin Lawyer