

PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF OCTOBER 5, 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 –

Sunday Forum | 9:00 a.m. | Care of Creation: A Christian Call

Blessing of the Animals | 3:00 p.m. For animals of all shapes and sizes, and a special prayer for beloved pets who have died.

Choral Evensong | 5:00 p.m. Featuring guest organist Simon Thomas Jacobs.
The prelude begins at 4:40 p.m. A reception follows in the Auditorium.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. Lectionary Study – Library
9:00 a.m. Sunday Forum – Meade Room
9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Fowler House
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour – Meade Room
11:30 a.m. Knit & Crochet – Teen Center
3:00 p.m. Animal Blessing – Churchyard
5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong
6:00 p.m. Evensong Reception – Auditorium

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
(www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAlexandria)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

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

7:00 p.m. Have Mercy Discussion – Crosier Room
7:00 p.m. Covenant Class – Library
7:00 p.m. EFM – Teen Center
9:00 p.m. Compline – Facebook Live

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

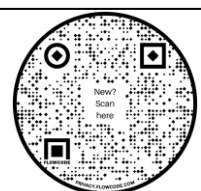
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

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

Blessing of the Animals | October 5 | 3:00 p.m.

Our annual Blessing of the Animals for animals of all shapes and sizes will be held in the churchyard. There will also be a special prayer for beloved pets who have died. Bring their retired collars, leashes, or photos for a blessing.

Choral Evensong | October 5 | 5:00 p.m.

We are excited to welcome Simon Thomas Jacobs, who will be our guest organist. Simon won the St. Albans International Organ Competition in 2013, considered one of the most prestigious competitions in the world. He holds degrees from Cambridge University in the U.K. as well as from Oberlin College. He has played recitals at Notre Dame de Paris, Westminster Abbey, and a host of other prominent locations. He will play an extended prelude beginning at 4:40. The choir will then sing works by Charles Stanford, Balfour Gardiner, Ivor Novello, and Edward Bairstow. A festive reception will follow the service. Invite a friend to join you for a wonderful evening of inspiring music!

Celebrating 20 Years of Jason | October 5

Jason Abel has been the Director of Music at Christ Church for 20 years, which means it is time for a party! Directly following today's Evensong, we will have a party in the Auditorium to honor Jason. All are welcome and encouraged to attend to show our Maestro how much we love and appreciate him.

Knit & Crochet on October 5 and November 2

Please join us in the Teen Center after the 10:00 a.m. service for a skill building session as we make hats and scarves for the Christ Child Ministry. Bring your projects, questions, tips, patterns, needles/hooks and love of the craft for a time of fellowship and learning. Supplies available for those picking up needles/hooks for the first time, with experienced crafters on hand to help you get started! For questions, contact Sandra Thomson smbthomson@gmail.com.

Monday Concert Series | 12:15 p.m. | October 13

Second Monday of the Month | October through May
The first concert in the series will be Organ Works of Bach, Willis, and Bridge featuring Paul Byssainthe, Jr., associate organist at The Riverside Church in New York City. There is no admission for these concerts, though we hope audience members will support the series with a goodwill donation of any amount (suggested amount: \$10). These 45-minute programs include solo performers and chamber musicians based in DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The full schedule is here: www.historicchristchurch.org/music

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.

Betsy's Breakfast | October 19 | Auditorium

Breakfast is served in the Auditorium from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.!

Christ Church Democracy Circle | October 19

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 Democracy Circle is one of nearly 100 that have sprung up nationwide. We'll meet in McMurray Commons on the 3rd Sunday of each month, at 11:30 with the purpose of understanding and strengthening U.S. Constitutional democracy for the long-term. Please contact Libby Witt (ewitt@hotmail.com) and Susan Marquis (slmarquis70@gmail.com) for more information.

All Saints' Sunday

At our Requiem service on November 2 at 5:00 p.m., we will remember the faithful departed in our prayers. If you have a specific person(s) you wish to be remembered, please email Michelle Baize at mibaize@ccalex.org before October 24 to be included.

Care for Creation, Clean Up the River | October 25

Led by the Potomac Riverkeeper Network, Christ Church will clean up the river at Oronoco Bay Park on Saturday, October 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Our time together will begin and end with brief prayers for creation. Be sure to wear clothing and shoes you don't mind getting dirty! Children in Kindergarten and older are welcome to participate with adult supervision. Let us know you're attending by emailing parishlife@ccalex.org.

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 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.

Rob Radtke | Meade Room | October 12 | 9:00 a.m.

On Sunday October 12 we will welcome Rob Radtke, President & CEO of Episcopal Relief & Development as guest preacher and to lead Sunday's forum. Episcopal Relief & Development facilitates healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease – and the organization is committed to demonstrating a measurable impact in three transformative program priorities: women, children and climate.

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light | Meade Room October 26 at 9:00 a.m.

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light's mission is to collaborate among people of faith and conscience to grow healthy communities by advancing climate and environmental justice. Come learn about VAIP's work with over 200 faith communities in the Commonwealth, the issues they are tackling and how we can collaborate.

Lectionary Bible Study | Sundays at 9:00 a.m. | Library

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.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

For information, contact

Children: Ariel Rudy at arudy@ccalex.org

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

All Are Welcome in Sunday School

Sunday School began again on September 14. It's never too late for your child to join us! Sunday School takes place almost every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Fowler House, is available for kids age three and up, and invites children into the story of God's love through scripture, games, crafts, music, service, and more. Email sundayschool@ccalex.org for more information.

Fellowship for Parents of Infants and Toddlers

Raising tiny Christians is no easy feat! One Sock On is a space for parents to come together and share the triumphs and trials of parenthood in a loving, relaxed environment while little ones get to know church friends. One Sock On meets during Sunday School (9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.) in Room 103 in the Fowler House. Come whenever you can, for as long as

you like. Email Jaclyn Hagner (jackie.hagner@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to be added to the email list.

Serve God, Serve the Church, Wear Cool Robes

Children and youth in 4th grade and above are invited to join the acolyte team! Acolytes assist during worship by lighting candles, leading the procession, receiving the gifts (bread, wine, offering), and more. Training is available for all new acolytes and no one ever serves alone. Schedules are assembled on a month to month basis. Email acolyte leaders Matt Zahn (matthew.zahn@gmail.com) and Aaron Nelson (c09aaron.nelson@gmail.com) to get involved.

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 rlaughton@ccalex.org.

OUTREACH & MISSION

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

OCTOBER OUTREACH: PANTRY STAPLES

This month, consider helping us stock the Lazarus Food Pantry with some of our most popular canned offerings: soups, stews, chicken, tuna, and sardines. 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.

Help a Child Learn to Read!

Alexandria Tutoring Consortium needs volunteer reading tutors in Alexandria's public elementary schools, with the most openings at Ferdinand Day, Patrick Henry, and John Adams schools in Alexandria's west end. Tutors work one-on-one with a kindergarten, first, or second grade student in 35-minute sessions, once or twice a week, during the school day, October through May. Contact Alexa Allmann aallmann@alexandriatutors.org or visit www.alexandriatutors.org to learn more or to register: bit.ly/4pDRc2T

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch

Open weekdays from 12 Noon to 6:00 p.m.
Weekends/ Holiday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Beautiful pumpkins and gourds grown by Navajo Nation farmers, delicious home-made soups and baked goods, and autumn-Halloween-themed crafts are available for sale. 100% of Patch profits support over 25 local, national, and international charities that directly support feeding, housing, educating, and caring for our most vulnerable neighbors, including the Christ Church Lazarus Ministry.

BLESSINGS ON...

- Janet Merrifield, Jay Merrifield, Sue Johnson, and the FAs for their hard work in preparing Sunday School classrooms and creating welcoming spaces for kids to encounter God.
- Amy Wilczynski for organizing our Sunday Memorial Flowers.
- Anneliese Gegenheimer, Margaret Zeigler, Jane Baird, Tom Suyday and Joel Bacon for selling Mengo Raffle Tickets on Sunday after the services.
- The Mengo Committee members and friends who sold tickets for the Mengo Raffle, Andrew and Gideon Floyd, Karen Hill, Bob Carpenter, Jim Cannon, Tom Suydam, Anneliese Gegenheimer, Joel Bacon, Jane Baird, Witney Schneidman, and Margaret Ziegler.

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.

Halloween is on its way! Come to the Gift Shop for cards and napkins and fall displays. We also have scripture stones and pocket tokens with prayers to carry with you. Our Treasure Box holds treasures for a young person to choose. We hope to see you soon.

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
Van Bridgers, Glen Curry
Kevin Lawyer