

PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF DECEMBER 28, 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 – COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour follows the 10:00 a.m. service

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

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

(www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAlexandria)

OFFICES CLOSED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

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

OFFICES CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

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

OFFICES CLOSED

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

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

OFFICES CLOSED

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

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

AA • Al-Anon

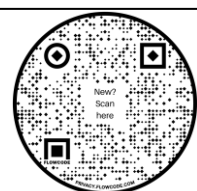
Various groups meet regularly
at Christ Church during the week.

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.

Our 2026 Thank You Gift

Make a pledge and receive an only-at-Christ-Church thank you! Our 2026 gift is a bookmark that features shelves of books only found here. You'll see titles like "*How to be a Cheerful Giver*," "*It's Time for Children's Chapel*," and "*I Ain't Afraid of No Ghosts: A Churchyard Tour*". Make a digital gift and choose "2026 Pledge" or complete a card in your pew. Recurring or one-time gifts are both welcome.

Completing Your 2025 Pledge

Please complete your generous 2025 pledge before December 31 so it may be recorded as a 2025 gift. Mailed gifts must be postmarked by December 31. Remember, our offices will be closed from December 24-January 1. If you drop off a check, please let Julie Simonton (jsimonton@ccalex.org) know to ensure it is attributed to 2025. Contributions postmarked January 1, 2026, or after—regardless of the date written on the check—will be part of your 2026 contribution record. Thank you!

Do You Itemize Charitable Gifts?

To qualify for a 2025 charitable deduction, please ensure that Christ Church or the Christ Church Foundation receives your contribution on or before December 31. (If mailed, the envelope must be postmarked by December 31.)

Dinner Church | January 7

The first Wednesday of the month means Dinner Church! From 5:45 to 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium, we will offer a special dinner for everyone. There will be a short "Service of Word and Table" during dinner for everyone to participate in together, and a special craft corner for kids.

Monday Concert Series | March 9 | 12:15 p.m.

Second Monday of the Month | March through May
The series resumes in March with 4-Hand Piano works by Mozart, Schubert, and Barber; featuring Sean Burns and Jason Abel. 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.historichristchurch.org/music

FAITH FORMATION

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

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.

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.

Lent 2026

Yes, you read that correctly. We are inviting you to contribute to our annual Christ Church compilation of daily meditations for Lent. It may seem premature to focus on Lent in Advent, much less the Christmas and Epiphany seasons; however, because Lent begins quite early in 2026, we will compile all contributions by January 16. Your thoughts can be shared in narrative or poetic style (no more than 300 words) and/or by an illustration. We strongly believe that these contributions will deepen our connection with God and our sense of community in these challenging times. Thank you in advance for considering our call. Email questions and submissions to mgray@ccalex.org. Thank you from the Lenten Meditation Collectors, Melanie Gray, Tom Hahn, Rawles Jones, Ariel Rudy, Sharon Schambra, and Tom Suydam.

New Sacred Ground Circle

Beginning Wednesday January 21, 6:30pm
Sacred Ground is an 11-part film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. More than 100 Christ Church parishioners have completed Sacred Ground as part of our commitment to the national Church's work of Becoming Beloved Community. Robbie and Noelle will lead the next Circle, beginning January 21 in person and running every other Wednesday through all 11 sessions. We do ask for a commitment to all eleven sessions and the homework in between though grace always abounds. For more information or to join the new Circle, please email Noelle at rector@ccalex.org.

Save the Date: Christ Church Pilgrimage to Turkey

October 9-26, 2026

The Dean of Virginia Seminary, The Very Rev Ian Markham, and Rev Noelle will be leading a trip to walk in the footsteps of apostles and to learn up close about the rise of early Christianity. Dean Markham will lead the forum on February 15 to introduce the themes and questions for the pilgrimage. Contact Noelle for more information.

OUTREACH & MISSION

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

DECEMBER: CANNED FRUIT, JELLY, AND RICE

This month, consider helping us stock the Lazarus Food Pantry with the staples we're running low on: canned fruits (packed in juice, or reduced sugar preferred), jelly and rice (12oz or 16oz bags, white and brown). 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.

Spanish Translators needed at Lazarus Food Pantry and Lazarus Financial Ministry

Lazarus Food Pantry needs translators Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. until roughly 10:30 a.m. We need translators to help with the Lazarus Financial Ministry on Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. until roughly 5:00 p.m. Please reach out to Liz Denson for more details ldenson@historicchristchurch.org.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

For information, contact

Children: Ariel Rudy at arudy@ccalex.org

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

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.

Sunday School

We will not have Sunday School December 28 or January 4. Sunday School will resume on January 11.

Children's Chapel

We will not have Children's Chapel on December 28. Children's Chapel will resume on January 4.

Youth Group Ski Trip, January 23-25, 2026

The Youth Group Ski Trip is just around the corner!

We've got a great group but there's still room. Reach out to

Robbie with any questions, and to RSVP by January 16. To youth@ccalex.org.

CHRIST CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Offices Closed Tuesday, December 24 through Thursday, January 1

BLESSINGS ON...

- Everyone who knitted and crocheted hats and scarves for Christ Child: Jane Baird, Cindi Bartol, Toni Cross, Maria De Fazio, Patricia Fineran, Judy Grandstaff, Joan Holladay, Susan Jones, Margaret Lachman-Lekki, Ellen Maday, Caroline Magill, Nancy Marsden, Eva Phelps, Judy Phillips, Katharine Pipke, Joanna Reams, Janet Scheid, Morgan Taylor, Sandra Thomson, Lynn Turner, Amy Wilczynski, Elizabeth Witt, Barbara Ziegler.

GIVING AT YEAR END

DAFs: If you have established a Donor Advised Fund, you can request the fund administrator to direct a contribution to Christ Church or to the Christ Church Foundation before the end of the year. Take advantage of this popular contribution vehicle!

IRAs: Are you 70½ or older and have an IRA? If you answer yes, then you may give up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). The QCD counts toward satisfying the required minimum distribution – and – excludes the distribution from the taxpayer's income.

For more information about these and any other contribution questions, contact Julie Simonton at 703.778.4935/jsimonton@ccalex.org or Christ Church Foundation at foundation@historicchristchurch.org.

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.

The Gift Shop will be closed for the Christmas holiday but will re-open for the weekend after Christmas.

Have a wonderful Christmas and thank-you for your support of the Gift Shop!

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. Beth Bingham
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