

# PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15, 2026

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 THE GUEST CHOIR FROM CHRIST CHURCH IN WINNETKA

They will sing for the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist and then return to sing  
Choral Evensong at 5:00 p.m.

## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

For a listing of currently scheduled activities and meetings, visit [www.historicchristchurch.org/events](http://www.historicchristchurch.org/events)

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday Forum – Meade Room
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour – Meade Room
- 5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – SHROVE TUESDAY

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
- 6:00 p.m. Burning of the Palms and Mardi Gras –  
Churchyard and Auditorium

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 – ASH WEDNESDAY

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
- 7:30 a.m. Service of the Word and Imposition of Ashes
- 12:05 p.m. Service of the Word and Imposition of Ashes
- 4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir – Choir Room
- 5:30 p.m. Family Ash Wednesday service
- 7:30 p.m. Service of the Word and Imposition of Ashes

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
- 9:00 a.m. Lazarus Food Pantry – Meade Room
- 7:30 p.m. LGBTQ Theology & Faith

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

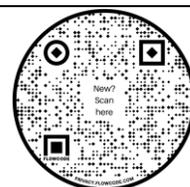
- 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

### AA • Al-Anon

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



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Phone: 703.549.1450 • Fax: 703.549.5883  
[www.HistoricChristChurch.org](http://www.HistoricChristChurch.org)



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send submissions of 50 words or less to [ParishLife@ccalex.org](mailto:ParishLife@ccalex.org).

### 2025 Contribution Statements An Update

Your 2025 contribution statements have been emailed. A software issue within the system meant some of you received several statements. Thank you for your patience if you received multiple copies, and thank you for your patience if you receive your statement later than expected.

You can also log into your Shelby account to find this information. Need your login details?

Email [membership2@ccalex.org](mailto:membership2@ccalex.org). For questions about your giving, e-mail Julie Simonton ([jsimonton@ccalex.org](mailto:jsimonton@ccalex.org)) or call 703.778.4935.

### Guest Choir | February 15

Today we are blessed to be joined by the choir of Christ Church Episcopal, Winnetka, Illinois. Located right outside of Chicago, this church is well known for a long tradition of good music and a thriving music ministry. They have toured throughout the United Kingdom and the United States. We are honored to have them joining us on their tour this winter. They will sing for the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist and then return to sing Choral Evensong here at 5:00 p.m. The intergenerational choir is under the direction of Organist-Choirmaster Richard Clemmitt and Assistant Organist Todd Gresick.

### Democracy Circle | February 15 | Teen Center

The Christ Church Democracy Circle meets the third Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Teen Center. The Democracy Circle provides us with an opportunity to accept the Presiding Bishop's call for Episcopalians to be "Christians who seek to practice our faith fully in a free and fair democracy." The next meeting will be on Sunday, February 15. The subject of the meeting will be Christian Nationalism and how we can counter its influence. Please contact Libby Witt ([eawitt@hotmail.com](mailto:eawitt@hotmail.com)) and Susan Marquis ([smarquis70@gmail.com](mailto:smarquis70@gmail.com)) for more information.

### Shrove Tuesday | February 17 | 6:00 p.m.

Join us in fellowship and fun as we celebrate the last hurrah and final Alleluia before Lent begins. A short service with burning of the palms will be held at 6:00 p.m., followed by a meal and games for all. We'll enjoy traditional Shrove Tuesday pancakes along with Mardi Gras creole fare. All are welcome to help your Stewardship Committee with the fun, flair, and food. Volunteer to decorate, serve, tidy and more: [bit.ly/ShroveTuesdaySignUp](https://bit.ly/ShroveTuesdaySignUp)

### Ash Wednesday | February 18

Service of the Word and Imposition of Ashes:  
7:30 a.m., 12 noon, 7:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Family Service: 5:30 p.m.

### Annual Meeting | March 1

This year's Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, March 1 after the 10:00 a.m. service. The livestream will continue for

viewing purposes only. Children are invited to join Ariel in the Meade Room for snacks, crafts, and fun!

### March 1 Evensong | 5:00 p.m.

On March 1, the Christ Church Choir will sing the next Choral Evensong at 5:00 p.m. The service will feature the music of Herbert Howells, one of the most important British composers of the 20th century. The service will be accompanied by organist Chris Betts, who will play an extended prelude beginning at 4:40. Mr. Betts is a former organist at Washington National Cathedral and St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston. He presently serves as Managing Director of Solid State Organ Systems and will serve as our organist here at Christ Church after Easter when Jason goes on sabbatical. Please plan to join us to hear some truly inspiring music. A reception will follow.

### 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.historicchristchurch.org/music](http://www.historicchristchurch.org/music)

### Vestry Elections

With Vestry elections scheduled for Sunday, March 15, it's time to prayerfully discern who our candidates should be. To be on Vestry you must be over 16 years old, an Episcopalian (confirmed/received in the Episcopal Church), and a member in good standing of Christ Church (demonstrated by regular attendance and pledging). If you feel called to nominate yourself or someone else, or if you just want more information about the process, please contact the Nominations Chair, Jaclyn Moyer, at [nominations@historicchristchurch.org](mailto:nominations@historicchristchurch.org).

## FAITH FORMATION

For information, contact the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons at [rector@ccalex.org](mailto:rector@ccalex.org) or 703.549.1450

### Lectionary Bible Study | Sundays at 9:00 a.m. | Library Resumes February 22!

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](mailto:terrymbrown1@me.com).

**Exploring Türkiye | Today | 9:00 a.m. | Meade Room**  
The Very Reverend Dr. Ian Markham, Dean of Virginia Theological Seminary, will offer some theological waypoints and historical notes about the modern-day country of Türkiye. Türkiye figures prominently in our scriptures, especially in the travels of the apostle Paul. This presentation prefigures the fall pilgrimage to Türkiye, but all are welcome to come learn!

**Lent Book Groups | Signup Deadline February 16**  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor, scholar, and Nazi resistor. This year in our Lenten book study, we will read Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship*, in which he challenges comfortable Christianity in Nazi Germany—and today—by emphasizing humility, sacrifice, and a transformed life following Jesus. To join one of our book groups, sign up at [bit.ly/3YWPehY](http://bit.ly/3YWPehY). If you'd like to lead a book group or have any questions, please contact Michelle Baize at [mibaize@ccalex.org](mailto:mibaize@ccalex.org).

**Preacher/Teacher Series: Rev. Sullivan | February 22**  
The Reverend Michael Sullivan has been president of Kanuga Camp and Conference Center, North Carolina, since 2016 and has lead the organization through renovations, natural disasters, COVID and more, into a renowned place of beauty and theological learning. The Reverend Sullivan is the second in our Preacher/Teacher series, offering the sermon at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services, giving the Adult Formation presentation at 9:00 a.m. The Preacher/Teacher Series is made possible through a generous donation from the family and friends of Martha Wilcox.

**Covenant Class Begins in March**  
Covenant Class is an 11-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 March 11. Contact Jessica Williams at [jessicavwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:jessicavwilliams@gmail.com) to sign up.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

For information, contact

Children: Ariel Rudy at [arudy@ccalex.org](mailto:arudy@ccalex.org)

Youth: the Rev. Robbie Laughton at [rlaughter@ccalex.org](mailto:rlaughter@ccalex.org)

### Collecting Collage Materials

Children's ministries wants your magazines and books for collages, cards, and other crafts in Sunday School! National Geographics (from any year) are ideal, but books/magazines focused on plants, animals, cooking, decorating, or fashion work well too. Please skim your materials to make sure they are appropriate for children before donating and please no Us Weekly, People, or Cosmopolitan. Materials can be bagged, labeled for Ariel, and left at the front desk.

## OUTREACH & MISSION

For information, contact Melanie Gray at [mgray@ccalex.org](mailto:mgray@ccalex.org) or 703.778.4937

### FEBRUARY: PANTRY STAPLES

This month, consider helping us stock the Lazarus Food Pantry: plain oatmeal (not instant), pasta sauce, and can openers. It's hard to open a can without a decent can opener. 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.

### Kairos Prison Ministry Needs Volunteers

Calling all bakers, artists, writers, and good listeners! Kairos is an ecumenical, international ministry that goes inside the walls of correctional institutions to lead Christian retreats with inmates. Our next weekend is April 9-12, and we're looking for volunteers to bake cookies, decorate placemats and posters, pray, write letters of encouragement, and/or serve on the weekend with us. If are interested of if you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Beth Bingham [bbingham@ccalex.org](mailto:bbingham@ccalex.org) and/or Melanie Gray [mgray@ccalex.org](mailto:mgray@ccalex.org) for more information.

### The 9th Annual ALIVE! Empty Bowls Alexandria

Empty Bowls for ALIVE! will take place on Saturday, February 28, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation. Join us for an unforgettable evening as we raise funds to support ALIVE!'s critical programs, including our Lazarus Food Pantry. Empty Bowls is a global movement to support non-profits like ALIVE! that work to prevent food insecurity. Enjoy food from Alexandria's best restaurants, an exciting silent auction for curated gift baskets, live music and more. All guests will take home a beautiful, handmade, artisan bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. Tickets are limited and do sell out: [bit.ly/4qjOnDj](http://bit.ly/4qjOnDj).

### Spanish Speaking Volunteers Needed

We need Spanish speaking translators to help with the Lazarus Financial Ministry either remotely or in person on Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. until roughly 5:00 p.m. Sign up when you can. Training provided. We have more Spanish speaking residents calling for help than ever and many of them are very frightened and need financial assistance for rent, utilities, and medical bills. Please reach out to Liz Denson at [ldenson@ccalex.org](mailto:ldenson@ccalex.org) for more details.

## BLESSINGS ON...

- The Lenten Meditation Collection Team, Tom Hahn, Rawles Jones, Sharon Schambra, Tom Suydam.
- The helpers who created such a wonderful Betsy's Breakfast Church occasion: Alan Adenan, Stratton and Sharmili Edwards, Bethany and John Kucia, Tom Hahn, Brian Butcher, Trish Fineran, Cindi and Jay Bartol, Anne Richardson, and the FA's who support the gatherings along with Ariel Rudy who uplifted the creation of a banner to honor the Monks Walk For Peace presence at our church on Monday.

## OUR HOPE FOR YEARS TO COME A COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FOR GOD'S WORK AT CHRIST CHURCH

For the last year, we have been working to develop a plan for our ministries and beloved campus that will meet the needs of our growing, thriving parish and serve the Christ Church community for generations to come. At the core of this work is ministry – to serve, to welcome, to include, and to grow with our hearts and minds always focused on God. We recently held our first campaign forums and distributed our feasibility case statement. Thank you to everyone who attended. If you were unable to attend, our feasibility case statement may be found [bit.ly/CaseStatement22026](http://bit.ly/CaseStatement22026), and hard copies are in the rack outside our chapel.

Later this month all parishioners will receive a survey so that you may share your insights on our ministry and future. Thank you for giving your time to help us discern the best next steps for Christ Church! Contact Julie Simonton at [jsimonton@cclalex.org](mailto:jsimonton@cclalex.org) or 703.778.4935 for more information.

## 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 is proud to announce Curious Ark Soap, handmade soap bars by Noah Levanto. Noah loves science and has learned to make beautiful handmade soap bars. They come in lovely colors and various scents. He has wrapped them and includes a beautifully illustrated card to introduce his soap to you. We hope you will come by the shop and see his soap display. Welcome Noah!

## 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

### Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons  
Rector  
The Rev. Robbie Laughton  
Associate Rector  
The Rev. Beth Bingham  
Associate Rector

### 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

David Rees, *Treasurer*