

# PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 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 REV. MICHAEL SULLIVAN

As part of our Preacher/Teacher Series, Rev. Sullivan will preach at the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services and lead the Adult Formation presentation at 9:00 a.m. in the Meade Room.

## 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 22

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. Lectionary Study – Library  
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. Holy Eucharist

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live  
7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting – Meade Room

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live  
12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist  
4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir – Choir Room  
5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir – Choir Room  
7:00 p.m. Education for Ministry – Teen Center

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

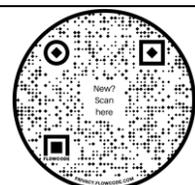
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

### 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))



118 N. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314  
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).

### Is your name included as a 2026 Annual Giving pledger?

We want to thank you during our Annual Meeting next Sunday, March 1! To ensure we can (by name in our written report or as one of our anonymous donors), confirm that your 2026 pledge has been received.

If you're not had a chance to pledge yet, complete a card in your pew or through our website before Tuesday, February 25. Questions? Contact Julie Simonton. She loves e-mails and phone calls from Christ Church's *cheerful givers!*

Connect today at [jsimonton@ccalex.org](mailto:jsimonton@ccalex.org) or call 703.778.4935.

### 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.

### Dinner Church | March 4

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.

### Watch the Bonhoeffer Documentary | March 4 | 7:00 p.m.

Following Dinner Church, head to the Meade Room for a viewing of the documentary Bonhoeffer by director Martin Doblmeier. Whether or not you are planning to join our Lenten book study of Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship*, the story of this renown theologian and Nazi resistor is profoundly necessary in our own day. No RSVP necessary!

### Meet the Vestry Candidates | March 8

This year's candidates for Vestry will be announced at the Annual Meeting on March 1. Meet the candidates at coffee hour on March 8. Vestry elections are Sunday, March 15.

### 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)

### Democracy Circle | March 15 | Teen Center

The 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." Please contact Libby Witt ([ewitt@hotmail.com](mailto:ewitt@hotmail.com)) and Susan Marquis ([slmarquis70@gmail.com](mailto:slmarquis70@gmail.com)) for more information.

### Visiting Choir | March 22

We are pleased that the Barksdale Treble Chorus from The College of William & Mary will be returning to Christ Church to perform Sunday, March 22 as part of their spring tour. We are looking for members of the parish to host their singers the evening of Saturday, March 21. Hosts would be asked to:

1. House two singers at minimum the evening of Saturday, March 21 (they come in pairs so no one goes to a house alone)
2. Provide the singers with a light breakfast on Sunday morning (ex. muffins, fruit, etc.)
3. Bring the singers to church early the morning of Sunday, March 22 (exact time TBD)

We would be very grateful to parishioners who would be willing to host the members of the chorus, who will be enriching our worship. If you are interested, please fill out the form: [bit.ly/4s4Arya](http://bit.ly/4s4Arya). Email Nancy Marsden with questions [njemarsden@gmail.com](mailto:njemarsden@gmail.com).

## 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

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).

**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.

**Praying the Way of the Cross | March 4 | 4:30 & 7:00 p.m.**

Join us in the church before or after Dinner Church for a spiritual pilgrimage through the Stations of the Cross. We will follow in the footsteps of Christ from his trial to the tomb. Each station includes prayers of remembrance of Christ's sacrificial love and prayers for our world. You are invited to walk any or all of the stations or to pray from the pews. You can also take a turn at reading prepared prayers and offer your own petitions, either silently or aloud. This annual Lenten observance is sponsored by the Daughters of the King.

**Lent Forum Series – New Testament Apocrypha**

**March 8, 15, 22 | Meade Room | 9:00 a.m.**

Join Robbie over three weeks as we explore early Christian writings that were not included in the New Testament. We'll survey some of the more well-known apocryphal books, discuss why they didn't make the cut, and explore how some of these writings still inform our traditions and culture today. For more info, contact Robbie [rlaughter@ccalex.org](mailto:rlaughter@ccalex.org).

**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 [jessicawilliams@gmail.com](mailto:jessicawilliams@gmail.com) to sign up.

**Sunday Lunch with Dr Marty Wheeler Burnett**

March 15 | 11:30 a.m. | Auditorium

Come have lunch with Dr. Marty Wheeler Burnett, the Associate Professor of Church Music and Director of Chapel Music at Virginia Theological Seminary. She will speak about her new book, *Shapers of The Hymnal 1982*. This work discusses at length the history of the creation and production of our denomination's primary hymnal. She will have interesting stories to share related to the publication of The Hymnal 1982. Dr. Burnett's book is available in the Gift Shop. Come prepared to learn more about the resources we use each week to sing our prayers and praises. A light lunch will be provided.

## 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.

### 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 parishioners who marched in the George Washington Parade and Elizabeth Trigg and Karen Hill for being our Christ Church Parade Grand Marshalls.
- Anne Shine for her years of dedicated service on the Properties Committee.
- The parishioners who shopped, cooked, and served dinner at the Carpenter's Shelter, Christine Jones, Claire Chow, Jim Beattie, Bradley McAllister, Ann McMurray, Lenny Marsico, Micaela Shaughnessy, Van Ellet, Kristine Lebras and Anne Shackleton.

## 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@cCALEX.org](mailto:jsimonton@cCALEX.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.*

Now that most of the snow is gone, except for some ugly heaps, come by the Gift Shop and find a book to read, a card to send, or a gift to give. We recently received a new shipment of peanuts and still have plenty of jams, jellies and pickles. We hope you will stop by soon to stock up on your favorites of try something new!

## 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*

### 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