

PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF APRIL 26, 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. NATHAN EMPSALL

Rev. Empsall is the next in our Preacher/Teacher Series, offering the sermon at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services and 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

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. Sunday Forum – Meade Room
9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Fowler House
9:00 a.m. Lectionary Study – Library
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour – Meade Room
11:30 a.m. Inclusive Memorial Presentation - Auditorium
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

MONDAY, APRIL 27

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Education for Ministry – Teen Center
7:00 p.m. Covenant Class – Meade Room

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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, MAY 1

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

SATURDAY, MAY 2

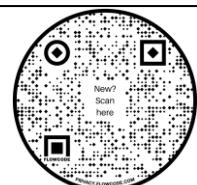
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

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.

We Need Your Help + A Gift for You

Pledging is an important part of community life at Christ Church, comprising about 70% of our ministry budget. We're not quite there, though. You can join us today! If you contribute to God's mission and ministry at Christ Church, turn your contribution into a pledge so we may faithfully plan for the months ahead.

AND - in gratitude, you'll 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 contribution and choose "2026 Pledge" or complete a card in your pew. One-time and recurring options are available.

Help us fulfill God's call at Christ Church this year and pledge today!

Contact Julie Simonton at jsimonton@ccalex.org or 703.778.4935 for more information.

Inclusive Memorialization

Did you know that this beautiful space in which we worship every week was constructed largely by enslaved people? Among the initiatives that grew out of Christ Church's 250th anniversary celebrations was the creation of a memorial to those workers, many of whose names have been lost to time. The members of the Inclusive Memorialization working group, led by Kathleen Hickman and Mark Pretzats, have delved into the Christ Church archives, met with historians, and developed plans to acknowledge the forced labor that created the building where we pray today. We look forward to hearing your thoughts! Please join us on one of these dates:
Sunday, April 26, | 11:30 a.m. | Auditorium
Wednesday, May 6, | 6:45 p.m. | Meade Room
Sunday, May 10 | 9:00 a.m. | Meade Room

Stewards of the Dirt | May 2

Join the Stewards of the Dirt for the first SOD work session of 2026. SOD will hold a work session on Saturday, May 2 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the churchyard. If you would like to join us and help keep our grounds healthy and beautiful, please contact Libby Witt at ewitt@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Monday Concert Series | May 11 | 12:15 p.m.

Last of the season! May's concert is To Pleasures, To Delights: Songs for Voice and Lute featuring Aaron Sheehan and William Simms 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.

Shrine Mont Parish Weekend

Join us for our annual Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont, June 19-21 (Father's Day weekend), nestled in the beautiful Shenandoah Mountains. This beloved tradition offers a chance to step away from daily routines and enjoy fellowship, worship, and rest in a peaceful setting. The weekend includes shared meals, outdoor activities, worship services, and time to connect with friends old and new. All ages, individuals, couples, and families, are warmly invited. Registration is open: bit.ly/4ewYv9g For immediate questions, contact CCShrineMontParishRetreat@gmail.com.

Democracy Circle | May 17 | 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) and Susan Marquis (slmarquis70@gmail.com) for more information.

FAITH FORMATION

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

Preacher/Teacher Series: The Rev. Nathan Empsall Sunday, April 26

The Rev. Nathan Empsall is the Priest-in-Charge at the Episcopal Church of St. Paul and St. James in New Haven, CT, and the former Executive Director of Faithful America, the largest online community of grassroots Christians acting for social justice. His writing - particularly on Christian resistance to fascism and white Christian nationalism - has appeared in Time, Newsweek, NBC News, the Hill, the Daily Beast, Red Letter Christians, Religion News Service, and more. He currently writes a Substack column called "Defiant Love." The next in our ongoing Preacher/Teacher series, Nathan will be offering the sermon at the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services, and giving the Adult Formation presentation at 9:00 a.m. This series is made possible through a generous donation from the family and friends of Martha Wilcox.

Sunday Forum | May 3 | 9:00 a.m. | Meade Room

Christ Church parishioner and CEO emeritus of Bread for the World, David Beckmann, will offer a sneak peak and thoughts about his upcoming book *Poverty Abolitionists: Faith, Activism, and Hope for Difficult Times*.

New Contemplative Prayer Group

We are starting a new weekly contemplative prayer group at Christ Church beginning on Sunday, May 10 at 9:10 a.m. If you are seeking a deeper sense of peace and connection with God and are interested in learning more about centering prayer and other meditative practices, this group is for you. Rooted in stillness and simplicity, our weekly gathering will

enable us to step away from the busyness of daily life for 30 minutes and enter into a time of guided, silent, reflective prayer. Whether you are new to contemplative practices or have long been drawn to this form of spiritual devotion, all are welcome. Join us as we listen, rest, and grow together in faith through the gentle rhythm of sacred silence. We will meet in the St. Peter room (#207) on the 2nd floor of the Parish House. If you have questions, please talk with Carter Land or Rev. Beth Bingham.

Lectionary Bible Study | Sundays | 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.

OUTREACH & MISSION

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

APRIL: PANTRY STAPLES

This month, consider helping us stock the Lazarus Food Pantry: plain oatmeal (not instant), canned tomatoes, spaghetti, and cooking oil. 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.

Outreach Sunday | May 17 | Meade Room
Join us in the Meade Room after the 10:00 a.m. service and learn all ways your church is responding to the needs of our neighbors in Alexandria. Our 13 outreach ministries will have representatives from these ministries and will have information to share with you, in addition to specific opportunities for families with young children and youth.

Deliver Rent Checks for the Lazarus Ministry
We need volunteers to help with the delivery of checks for the Lazarus Emergency Financial Ministry and our Refugee Ministry. Sign up when you are available. Checks are delivered once a week to leasing offices inside the city of Alexandria. Checks will be ready by Tuesday at noon, and the deliveries can happen at your convenience anytime Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday. Please contact Liz Denson at ldenson@ccalex.org if you are interested or have questions.

Hospice Volunteers Needed

Caregivers Home Health Hospice Caregivers Hospice is seeking compassionate volunteers to provide companionship and support to families and patients facing serious illnesses. Offer comfort, prayer, and emotional support to patients and their families during life's most tender moments. No medical experience is required. Training is provided and scheduling is flexible. For more information, contact Jessica Caulfield at 571-609-0922 or Jessica.caulfield@caregivershhs.net

Gleaning at the Old Town Farmer's Market

Come join us for the Gleaning ministry on Saturdays starting May 9 at noon, when we pick up fresh, beautiful, donated fruit and vegetables from the farmers at the Old Town market. It takes about 1.5 hours and is greatly appreciated by the recipients at our weekly Lazarus Food Pantry. This is an easy family activity that kids enjoy, helping us teach our children our love for our neighbors. Sign up on any Saturday you are available: bit.ly/4eufyJ4 or reach out to Andrea McNicholas at alamcnicho@gmail.com.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

For information, contact

Children: Ariel Rudy at arudy@ccalex.org

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

Fellowship for New Parents

Are you the parent of an infant or toddler and looking for community? One Sock On, Christ Church's fellowship group for people in this stage of life, welcomes you! Join other parents and little ones to share in the trials and triumphs of raising tiny humans. OSO meets during Sunday School from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in Fowler House Room 103. Drop in as you can, no rsvp necessary. All families of all shapes and sizes are welcome. Contact Jaclyn Hagner (jackie.hagner@gmail.com) with questions.

BLESSINGS ON...

- Those who shopped for, fixed and served Bag Lunches: Karen Hill, Lenny Marsico, Elizabeth Olsen, Anne Land, Claudia Ellett, Jack and Mary Dixon Hutcheson, Amy Bacon, Susan Magill, Maude Williams, Emily Soapes, Cara Alfano, Rosanne Bennett, Emily Bryan, and Mary Hobbie.
- Those who shopped, cooked and served the Carpenter's Shelter dinner: Monique de Quay-Jones, Mike Jones, Cornelia Hunter, Bradley McAllister, Kris Lebras, Lenny and Milly Marsico, Megan Cavanaugh, Micaela Shaughnessy, and Robin Campbell.
- JoAnn Ackerman, Susan Anderson, Ruth Arnold, Jane Baird, Mary Hobbie, Liz Jones, Kirk Kitchen, Caroline Magill, Bob McIntyre, Michele Smith, Jon Smott, Ann Spitler, Rusty Vellek, and Maude Williams for delivering Meals on Wheels on April 15.
- The generous donors who gave to our Spring2ACTion campaign for our Lazarus Emergency Financial Ministry.

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.

Mother's Day will be here soon. Come to the Gift Shop for Mother's Day cards, small gifts, and of course, chocolate peanuts! We also have beautiful cards with spring birds by Paul Lebras and cards of the Christ Church flowers. We have gift sets by Thistle Farms of hand soap and lotion, handmade bracelets and earrings from Mexico, and Pashmina scarves in lovely spring colors. We hope to see you soon!

CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY, CLERGY, AND STAFF

Vestry

Kathleen Hickman '27, Sr. Warden
Steve Slaton '28, Jr Warden
Nanette Lawson '27
Wendy Montes de Oca '27
Christopher Thompson '27
Jane Baird '28, Paula Dubberly '28
Jessica Hughes '28,
Carrie Ann Alford, '29
James Beattie, '29
Janet Beckmann, '29
Christianne Witten, '29

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