

PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20, 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 – SUNDAY FORUM | 9:00 A.M. | MEADE ROOM

Parishioner Charleen Smith-Riedel will be discussing the process and issues involved in writing her new history of Christ Church, *God and the Generals*.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday Forum – Meade Room
- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Study – Library
- 9:10 a.m. Contemplative Prayer – St. Peter's Room
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour – Meade Room
- 11:30 a.m. Democracy Circle – Teen Center
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
(www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAlexandria)
- 7:00 p.m. Trivia Night – Meade Room

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 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. Education for Ministry – Teen Center
- 7:00 p.m. Covenant Class – Meade Room
- 9:00 p.m. Compline – Facebook Live

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- 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, SEPTEMBER 25

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

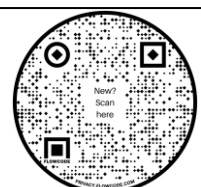
- 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

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.

Christ Church's Comprehensive Campaign – Our Hope

& Home for Years to Come – launched on Welcome Sunday. More than \$3.6 million is already committed to the campaign, meaning we are 70% of the way to our goal of \$5.2 million! This is an incredible start, and it reflects a deep and abiding belief in the mission of this parish to faithfully embody God's unbounded love in all that we do.

Over the next week we will host a variety of fun events (including a trivia night tomorrow!) to provide more details about this exciting campaign and how the projects we are undertaking will help us more fully live into our commitment to radical welcome. We want to share the next steps in the campaign with every member of this community and invite you to prayerfully consider how you might get involved.

Visit bit.ly/CampaignSocials to see the schedule and sign up!

Democracy Circle | Today | 11:30 a.m. | Teen Ctr

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. Contact Libby Witt (ewawitt@hotmail.com) and Susan Marquis (slmarquis70@gmail.com) for more information.

Stewards of the Dirt | September 26

Stewards of the Dirt will hold a work session on September 26 from 9:00 a.m. 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 ewawitt@hotmail.com.

Comprehensive Campaign Forum

September 27 | 9:00 a.m. | Meade Room

Our Comprehensive Campaign launched September 13! Join our Director of Development, Julie Simonton, as she discusses the campaign and answers your questions.

Knit and Crochet | September 27 | Teen Ctr

The Christ Church Knitters and Crocheters make hats and scarves year-round for our Outreach ministries. The next meeting is in the Teen Center on September 27 after the 10:00 a.m. service to knit and crochet together. Everyone is welcome! We will have yarn, patterns and expertise to share. For questions, contact Barbara Ziegler at barzieg@mac.com.

Bach Documentary Screening | September 28

Join the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists for a film premiere here in the church at 7:30. Dr. Eric Marin, Professor of Film at UCLA has created a 30-minute documentary about one of the most important journeys in western musical history. In 1705, a 20-year-old Johann Sebastian Bach walked roughly 250 miles from Arnstadt to Lübeck, Germany, to hear and study under the master organist Dietrich Buxtehude. The film features churches where Bach played as well as performances on some

of their historic instruments. The evening will also include a live performance by two local organists playing a work by Buxtehude and a prelude and fugue by Bach on our Bromley Organ. This event is free and all are welcome.

Blessing of the Animals | October 4 | 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 4

Please join us for the first Choral Evensong of this program year. The choir will sing a service featuring contemporary American composers - Alfred Fedak, Shiela Bristow, David Ashley White, and Shawn Kirchner. Kirchner's anthem will be the premiere performance of this work; it was commissioned in 2025 by Christ Church to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Jason Abel's role as our Director of Music. The service will be accompanied by Christian Crocker, the Director of Music at St. Paul's in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He will offer an extended organ prelude on the Bromley Organ beginning at 4:40. A festive reception will follow the service.

Christ Church Soccer Saturday | October 24 | 7:30 p.m.

All are invited for a night out to watch DC United play the Cincinnati FC at Audi Field. Tickets are only \$40 each! Tickets are available first come, first served. Please RSVP no later than October 1. To reserve a spot or for more information, contact Robbie. rlaughton@ccalex.org.

Celebrating Ten Years | November 15

On Sunday, November 15, we'll celebrate the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons' 10th Anniversary as Rector of Christ Church. Members of her Search Committee and the 2026 Vestry have lots of ideas up their sleeves, and almost all of them need your input – and soon. What has Noelle meant to you and the parish? Is there a Noelle story, sermon, phrase, or theme that comes to mind? What new ideas, events, and additions did she bring? So much of what's coming on November 15 depends on what you tell us now. Co-chairs Sandra Thomson and Eileen Adenan are collecting it all. See them at church or email Sandra, smbthomson@gmail.com, or Eileen, eileen42@live.com. You can also contact Carol Donlan at ckdonlan2@gmail.com or 703-941-0112.

FAITH FORMATION

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

Witney Schneidman, *This Africa Idea* book discussion

September 27 | 11:30 a.m. | Auditorium

Join us as parishioner Witney Schneidman discusses his new book, *This Africa Idea*. In this riveting memoir, one of the United States' leading Africanists recounts the risks, setbacks and breakthroughs that shaped his career at the intersection of diplomacy, business, academia and faith. A light lunch will

be provided. For more info contact Robbie:

rlaughton@ccalex.org

Book Discussion | October 14, 21, 28

How do we stay rooted in our faith when the world around us feels uncertain and challenges our beliefs and our sense of security? What can history and scripture teach us about resilience, discernment, and Christian witness today? If these are questions you've been asking, join with others for a discussion of *For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional*, by Hanna Reichel's to engage these and other questions. We will discuss select chapters and themes from the book over three Wednesday evenings, October 14, 21, and 28. Each session will meet in the Chapel from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please RSVP: bit.ly/4rh8u77. A limited number of copies of the book are available in the Gift Shop. Questions? Email Rev. Beth at bbingham@ccalex.org.

Covenant Class | Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m.

Covenant Class is a 10-week introduction for those who want to know more about being an Episcopalian & Christ Church – whether newcomers to the church or life-long Episcopalians – and to get better acquainted with the clergy, staff, parish leaders, and other newcomers. Classes began September 16. Contact Jessica Williams at jessicawilliams@gmail.com.

Contemplative Prayer Group | Sundays | St. Peter Room

Our 20 minute weekly contemplative prayer group begins at 9:10 a.m. on Sundays. 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. All are welcome to step away from the busyness of daily life and enter into a time of guided, silent, reflective prayer. The St. Peter room (#207) is on the 2nd floor of the Parish House. If you have questions, please talk with Carter Land or Rev. Beth at bbingham@ccalex.org.

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.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

For information, contact

Katherine Carpenter-Rains at kcarpenterrains@ccalex.org

Coffee & Conversation

Coffee & Conversation is back! During the 9:00 hour, post-confirmation high schoolers can skip the classroom and hang out with us at different local cafés in Old Town. We'll grab drinks, talk about life and faith, and get to know each other. Meet in the Fowler house. Adult hosts are welcome with Safe

Church training. If interested, email Holly Levanto at holly.levanto@gmail.com.

Children and Youth Ministries Registration

Do you have a child between the ages of 0 and 18?

Christ Church Children and Youth Ministries offers programs for every stage of childhood and adolescence throughout the 2026-27 program year. Register your child for One Sock On, Sunday School, Youth Formation (Sundays at 9:00 a.m.), Middle and High School Youth Groups (Sundays at 6:00 p.m.), events, trips, seasonal offerings, and group service opportunities by visiting bit.ly/3RgDSVF or scanning the QR code on the Worship Cart.

OUTREACH & MISSION

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

SEPTEMBER: CANNED TOMATOES AND SOUP

Thanks to your donations, the Lazarus Food Pantry is overflowing with all the canned fish and canned fruit. Thank you! Your donations allow us to give generously to pantry guests. This week, please consider helping us restock the pantry with some other essentials: canned tomatoes, canned soups (all types) old fashioned oatmeal, cooking oil, and unsweetened evaporated milk. You can leave items in the white wooden donations box in the Parish Hall or order online (<https://amzn.to/40g4CaF>)
Christ Church ATTN: Outreach at
118 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

Bag Lunch Ministry

Bag lunch is part of the safety net for our guests, and your support truly makes a difference. Please review the signup here: bit.ly/44eAqxX and sign up as you are able. If you have any questions, or you'd like to prepare something other than the listed sandwich, please email Karen Hill at jbh707@juno.com. Our remaining assignments are; October 5-9; November 9-13; and December 15-17.

Travel Size Toiletries Needed

Many of the people who come to us for emergency food bags also request toiletries. We are collecting unopened travel-sized toiletries including body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, and lotion. Or purchase online here: bit.ly/4gB3GEC

Gleaning at the Old Town Farmer's Market

Come join us for the Gleaning ministry on Saturdays at noon (through October 31), 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.

BLESSINGS ON...

- The parishioners who gleaned from the Old Town Farmer's Market for our Lazarus Food Pantry, Megan Cavanaugh, David Johnson, Nina and Peter Addison.
- Alan Adenan for shopping, preparing, serving, and cleaning up for our annual Lazarus Food Pantry Volunteer Thank You Luncheon and Lenny Marsico for being his tireless sous chef.
- The 12 vendors who generously donate vegetables, bread and eggs to our Lazarus Food Pantry, Ashton Farms, Bigg Riggs, Common Roots, Diaz Farm, Dunham Farm, Grace, farm, Lopez Farm, Maribeth Bakery, Montoya Farm, Papa's Farm, Spring Valley Farms, and 1690 Farm.

PRAYER LIST

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE GIVEN

In honor of our Sunday School teachers

WE PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

Ross Adams

WE PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OVERSEAS

Holly Prousalis, Omar Sharif, the Hood, Doherty, and Jennings families

PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH

Mary Crow, Gladys Hook, LaVerne Scott-Rayford, Gail & Ridge Multop, Susanne O'Neill, Carol Lafley, Linda Hoekstra, Kathie Nelson, Doug Mitchell, Marynelle Losin, Mary Ellen Freesland, Brenda Hernandez, Greg Peterson, Bob Bark, Unalane Ablondi, Margaret Welch, Sherley Keith, Susan Meslang, Mike Altieri, Rich & Vicki, Elena Pokalova, Gene Rossi, Browne Mercer, the Womack and Drago families, Clyde Slaton, Wynne Beers, Barbara Campo, Robert Dunn

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 both in the Alexandria community and around the world.

The Gift Shop is pleased to offer several books by members of Christ Church. We have *Poverty Abolitionists* by Davis Beckman, *This Africa Idea* by Whitney Schneiderman, *God and the Generals* by Charleen Smith-Riedel, and *Jesus and His Fishermen* by Randal Teague. We hope you will stop by the Gift Shop and find a book you will enjoy. 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
Cornelia Horner, *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
Katherine Carpenter-Rains
Liz Denson, Melanie Gray
Lia Sanchez, Julie Simonton

Facilities

Pouyan Meghdadian
Glen Curry, Kevin Lawyer