

PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, 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

Director of Development, Julie Simonton, discusses the campaign and answers your questions.

SUNDAY FORUM | 11:30 A.M. | AUDITORIUM

Parishioner Witney Schneidman discusses his new book, *This Africa Idea*.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

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. Sunday Forum – Auditorium
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
6:00 p.m. Campaign Social – Meade Room

7:00 p.m. Education for Ministry – St. John's Room
7:00 p.m. Covenant Class – Meade Room
9:00 p.m. Compline – Facebook Live

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

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
7:30 p.m. LGBTQ+ Theology and Faith – Library

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

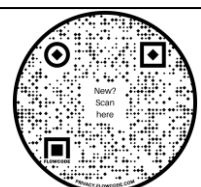
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist – Chapel
4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir – Choir Room
5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir – Choir Room

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. Tonight is our last campaign social event. Please join us in the Meade Room following the 5:00 p.m. service to learn more 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. Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP here bit.ly/CampaignSocials.

Comprehensive Campaign Forum

Today | 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 | Today | Teen Ctr

The Christ Church Knitters and Crocheters make hats and scarves year-round for our Outreach ministries. Everyone is welcome after the 10:00 a.m. service to knit and crochet together. 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 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 | 5:00 p.m.

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.

Betsy's Breakfast | October 11 | Auditorium

Breakfast is served in the Auditorium from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.!

Monday Concert Series | October 12 | 12:15 p.m.

Our Monday Concert Series returns on October 12 with a concert entitled *Invitation to Love: Songs for Peace*, featuring acclaimed soprano Chelsea Helm accompanied by Dr. Lester Green on piano. 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

Democracy Circle | October 18 | 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 (ewitt@hotmail.com) and Susan Marquis (slmarquis70@gmail.com) for more information.

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.

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

Today | 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

October 4 | 9:00 a.m. | Meade Room

Celebrating the Season of Creation

Come and learn about the work of the Creation Care Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. The Committee's mission is to encourage, empower, and educate the people of the diocese to reconnect Christian discipleship and mission with the ecology of nature. The speaker will be Libby Witt, who serves on the committee.

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.

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.

Step ALIVE! Walk-a-Thon | October 18

On Sunday, October 18, hundreds of neighbors will come together for the 45th Annual StepALIVE! Walkathon, Alexandria's largest day of awareness around food insecurity and other basic needs in our community. Our Lazarus Ministries rely on the generosity of ALIVE! as do so many in our community. Sign up for team Christ Church: bit.ly/46EWbrS

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...

- Richie Ackerman, Susan Anderson, Jane Baird, Glen Hewitt, Jeanne Hoenicke, Mary Hobbie, Liz Jones, Kirk Kitchen, Jon Smott, Ann Spitler, Rusty Vellek, and Maude Williams for delivering Meals on Wheels on September 16. Welcome to our new volunteer Tonya Kirchner!
- The faithful Gift Shop volunteers who served in the Gift Shop on those hot summer days; Nancy Bieging, Janet Beckman, Jane Baird, Ruth Arnold, Kim Brown, Judy Phillips, Libby Witt, Michele Smith, Sandra Thomson, Maggie Owens and Ellen Maday.

PRAYER LIST

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE GIVEN

In memory of Julian and Thelma Allen

In honor of the anniversary of Sharon & Bill Schambra

WE PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

Shirley Thronson

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, 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, Eleanor Wilson, Cindi Bartol

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.

Fall is officially here! We hope you will come by the Gift Shop and see our autumn decor. We are featuring foxes, owls and other critters from Wild Republic, a company dedicated to conservation and animal habitats. We have scarves in fall colors and items to decorate your table. Come by the Shop and celebrate fall!

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