

PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF OCTOBER 4, 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. | Celebrating the Season of Creation

Blessing of the Animals | 3:00 p.m. For animals of all shapes and sizes, and a special prayer for beloved pets who have died.

Choral Evensong | 5:00 p.m. Featuring guest organist Christian Crocker. The prelude begins at 4:40 p.m. A reception follows in the Meade Room.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

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
3:00 p.m. Animal Blessing – Churchyard
5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong
6:00 p.m. Evensong Reception – Meade Room

7:00 p.m. Covenant Class – Meade Room
9:00 p.m. Compline – Facebook Live

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

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, OCTOBER 9

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

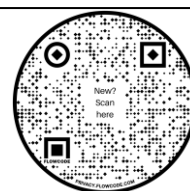
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist – Chapel
4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir – Choir Room
5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir – Choir Room
7:00 p.m. Education for Ministry – St. John's Room

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.

Our Hope & Home for Years to Come: Christ Church Foundation Is Committed!

As Rev. Noelle recently announced, the Christ Church Foundation has made a very generous unrestricted gift of \$500,000 to *Our Hope & Our Home* comprehensive campaign. She writes that "the Foundation's generous contribution to our Comprehensive Campaign is more evidence of their ongoing support of the growing and changing life and ministry happening in this parish. With the Foundation's support in this campaign, we can continue to protect our historic legacy while simultaneously adjusting our buildings to meet the changing needs of our growing church."

Join the Christ Church Foundation and the many parishioners who have made commitments to *Our Hope & Home for Years to Come*. Give today and support God's continuing work at Christ Church: bit.ly/ourhopeandhome

Blessing of the Animals | Today | 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 | Today | 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.

Dinner Church | October 7

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

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 the DC area. 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 (leawitt@hotmail.com) and Susan Marquis (slmarquis70@gmail.com) for more information.

All Saints' Sunday

At our Requiem service on November 1 at 5:00 p.m., we will remember the faithful departed in our prayers. If you have a specific person(s) you wish to be remembered, please email Michelle Baize at mbaize@ccalex.org before October 23 to be included.

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. 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

Sunday Forum | Today | 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.

Sunday Forum | October 11 & 18 | 9:00 a.m. | Meade Rm Teach us to Pray

From the traditions of the Daily Office to *lectio divina* and centering prayer, there are myriad ways to seek God in prayer. Join Robbie as we explore these and other ways to cultivate a rich prayer life, following in the disciples footsteps when they asked Jesus, 'Teach us to pray.'

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.

OUTREACH & MISSION

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

OCTOBER: 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/4eufjY4 or reach out to Andrea McNicholas at alamcnicho@gmail.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.

BLESSINGS ON...

- The parishioners who gleaned at the Old Town Farmers Market Saturday for our Lazarus Food Pantry, Andrea McNicholas, Anne Shackleton, and Steve Slayton
- The volunteers who picked up and delivered available furniture to those who need it in the City of Alexandria for ALIVE!: Aaron, Liam and Luke Nelson, Chris Parente, Nancy Marsden and Kevin Metz.

PRAYER LIST

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE GIVEN

In memory of Daniel F. O'Keefe

WE PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

Margaret Welch, Patricia Snyder

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, 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, David Drago, Mary Beth Dority, the Hostetler and Snyder families

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.

Come to the Gift Shop and try some of our jams and jellies that are new to you! We have Peach Butter, Plum Butter, and Pumpkin Butter. We have Peach with Apricot jam, we have Cherry Berry, Fig with Ginger jam and of course, Traffic Jam and Toe Jam! We also have Salt and Pepper peanuts and Salt and Vinegar peanuts. Visit us 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