

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 20, 2025

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner
Presider

Cliff Hudgins
Senior Warden

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

We are delighted God has brought you to this special place.

What do you need to know about worship? Everything you need for your worship today is in the booklet you are holding. Our service is based on the Book of Common Prayer, using music from sources including the Hymnal 1982 and Taizé.

Are you worshipping with us for the first time? We would love to get to know you! Please email our office at ccepisopal@skybest.com with your name and contact information, and let us know if we can call you, answer questions, or pray for you. And know that wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Christ Church.

Newsletter: Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter, the weekly *Good News & Notes*. Email the church office at ccepisopal@skybest.com.

Do you need prayer? We have an active prayer ministry here at Christ Church. If prayer would be helpful to you, please fill out a prayer request card (found in the pew back), making sure you include your name and contact information (email and/or phone). We'll include you in our weekly prayers. Just complete the card & put it in the offering plate during the Offertory or share your request with the greeter.

We extend special thanks today to:

The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner for leading us in worship this morning,
Kathy Sugishita for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,
Doris King for the beautiful flowers at the altar, and
Nancy Wilson for providing coffee hour refreshments today.

Please enter the Sanctuary in silence to respect those who are preparing for worship. Save conversations, whispered or out loud, for outside or Coffee Hour.

Please silence your cell phone, too.

Social media:

For more information about Christ Church, please visit our website –
www.christchurchallegghany.org

Christ Episcopal Church

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Sparta, North Carolina 28675

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Online giving link: <https://onrealm.org/CEpiscopal/give/now>

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

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Cover art: Mary, Martha & Jesus by Kathleen Peterson

The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Nancy Wilson

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #440

Blessed Jesus, at thy word

Remain standing, as able.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

All Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria: S280 (sung by all)



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly



King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray,

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Genesis 18:1-10a

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on~ since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the

servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *

who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *

who speaks the truth from his heart.

There is no guile upon his tongue;

he does no evil to his friend; *

he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

In his sight the wicked is rejected, *

but he honors those who fear the LORD.

He has sworn to do no wrong *

and does not take back his word.

He does not give his money in hope of gain, *

nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things *

shall never be overthrown.

The Second Reading

Colossians 1:15-28

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers~ all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him~ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #642

Jesus, the very thought of thee

Please remain standing, as able.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel

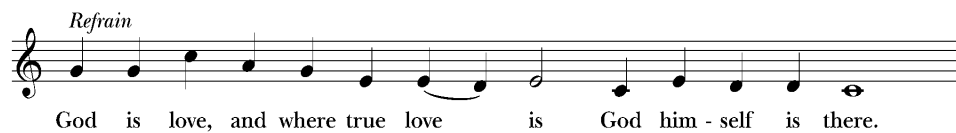
Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Refrain:



All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner

A time of silence following the sermon.

Please stand, as able.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Let us pray to the Most High God saying, Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant your church such love for you that others are led into relationship with you by our faith and actions. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Open the hearts of each person here to feel your presence and do your will this day and always. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless this nation, state, and local community. Bless all nations and people. Give us leaders who seek to serve all people with justice, compassion, and care. Lord in your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Restore all things in your creation and heal the wounds we have inflicted on your earth and creatures. Lord in your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Leader: End the cycle of violence and poverty through your grace and our efforts on behalf of victims and the vulnerable. Lord in your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons... *especially our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop, José, and our Celebrant, The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner.* Lord in your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; *especially, in our Anglican community, the Church of Pakistan; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, Faith Memorial Chapel in Cedar Mountain and Whiteside Summer Chapel in Cashiers, and in our Alleghany Community, New Haven Church of the Brethren. And please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...* Lord in your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Heal all those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. Bless us with good care through doctors, nurses, staff, medicines, and prayer. We pray especially for... **Antje & Bill, Bobbie, Brenda & Kelly, Carl & Carol, Carl & Mimi, Cathy Davis and her family, Charles & Christine, Donna & Mike, Elizabeth, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Gary, Isabel, Jean, Jeanne, Jonathan, Julia, Lucy, Lynn, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Marybeth & Ned, Mr. Whitley, Rita & Angelia, Rod & Louise, Roger, Rudy, Tammy, and Vanita.** *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud...* Lord in your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Surround the dying with your love and give strength to those who mourn. Bring all souls into the light of your perpetual love. Lord in your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Presider: All these we ask in the name of your son, our savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the holy spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP, pg 360

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Please stand, as able.

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please greet one another in a way that is comfortable as a sign of our participation in Christ's reconciling work in the world.

Please be seated.

Offertory Music

Kathy Sugishita

Please stand, as able.

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Please remain standing, as able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP 367

Presider The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

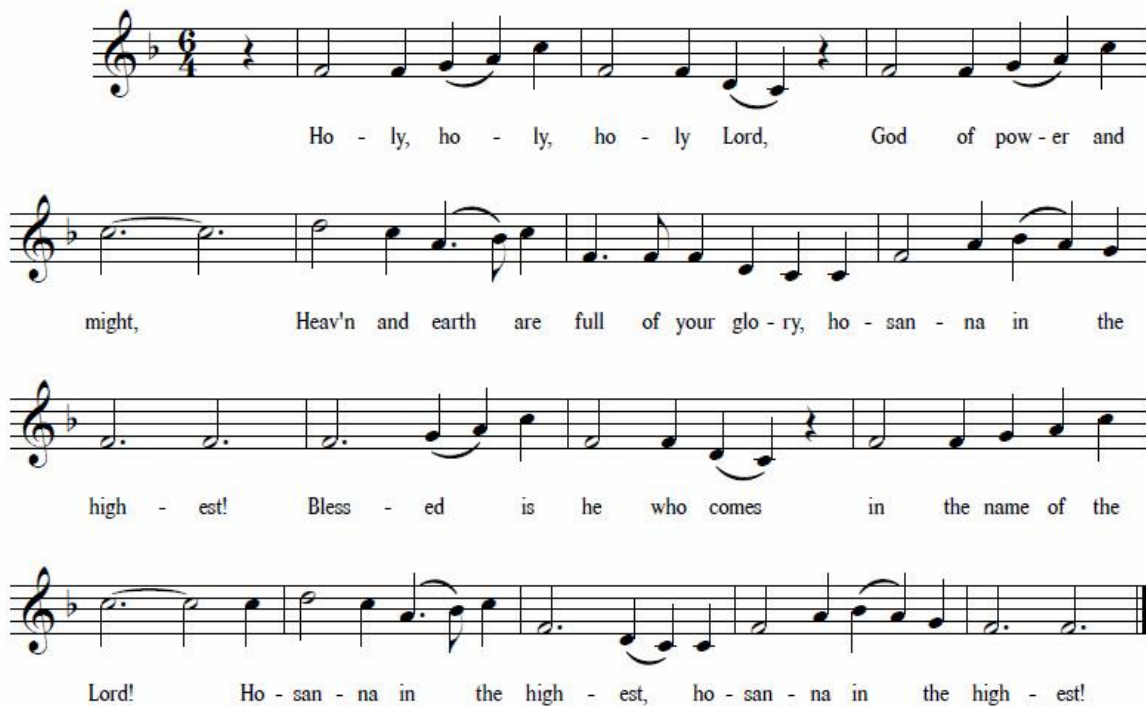
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and in fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations. Therefore, we praise you, joining

our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: (sung by all)

Land of Rest tune



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the

high - est! Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord! Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Remain standing or kneel for prayer of consecration.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Proulx *Alleluia*

The Invitation to Holy Communion

If you are gluten allergic, please ask for a rice wafer at the distribution.

11

Communion Music

Kathy Sugishita

Surely the Presence of the Lord

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace,
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayer after Communion

BCP, pg 366

Presider Let us pray,
Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
for assuring us in these mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #467

Sing, my soul, his wondrous love

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-19

Luke 11:1-13

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Doris King	Doris King
Crucifer	Bruce Smith	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Lector I	Les Colvard	Jann Boggs
Lector II	Les Colvard	Jann Boggs
Prayers of the People	Les Colvard	Jann Boggs
Sanctus Bell	Bruce Smith	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Cynthia Grant	Nancy Wilson

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bobbie, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Carl & Mimi, Cathy Davis (Rev Dr) & her family, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Elizabeth (Rev Martha's friend), Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Gary Medley, Isabel Tomé, Jean Callison, Jeanne Green, Jonathan, Julia (Allan's cousin), Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Marybeth & Ned Lentz, Mr. Whitley, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Roger, Rudy McKnight, Tammy, and Vanita (Ruthie's sister). And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed:

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: Tom Dillon & Grace Mauney (July 25)

Schedule

Sunday, July 20 – The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, July 22

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Wednesday, July 23

10:00 am – Yoga with Julie in the Parish Hall

Sunday, July 27 – The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev George Greer

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, July 29

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Wednesday, July 30

10:00 am – Yoga with Julie in the Parish Hall

Sunday, August 3 – The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/Welcome Karla Woggon!

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, August 5

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Wednesday, August 6

10:00 am – Yoga with Julie in the Parish Hall

Announcements

Revised Ministry Teams are being introduced in the *Good News & Notes*.

Yoga class with Julie meets on Wednesday mornings. Classes are held on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in July & August. If you haven't completed a form, please do asap

so Julie will know what arrangements need to be made. Blank forms are on the information table in the Parish Hall. Completed forms can be given to Julie on Wednesdays. This class is open to both males & females and at whatever level you need.

UPDATED: The Spiritual Formation/Centering Prayer group continues to meet for prayer on Tuesdays at 1:00. Book Discussion begins at 2:00. The book discussion group has finished with the workbook and will be starting a new book in August. **On Tuesday, July 27th, the group will be watching an interview with The Rt Rev Budde and learning more about the Dignity Index.** *All are invited to attend on July 27th at 2:00.*

The Vestry is thrilled to announce we have a new Priest-in-Charge, The Rev Karla Woggon who will start August 3rd! The Vestry will continue the search for a permanent part-time priest but are excited about having a steady pulpit presence among other things. If you have questions, please ask!

Welcoming The Rev Karla Woggon! We will be having a **potluck lunch** after our worship service **on Sunday, August 10th** to officially welcome Karla. The Vestry is handling the main dish/meat but asks that you **please sign up to bring a side dish or dessert.** The sign-up sheet is on the information table in the Parish Hall. We hope you'll all join us to welcome Karla and enjoy a time of fellowship with her & each other!

Ladies Lunch Out will meet on Friday, August 15th at 11:45 am We will be meeting at Christ Church at 11:45 on the 15th to carpool to The Bluffs. Please sign-up if you'd like to attend so we know how big of a table we'll need.

A reminder that all are invited to attend Vestry meetings to learn more about what's happening here at Christ Church. Vestry meetings are the second Monday of each month in the Parish Hall, beginning at 10:00 am. If you plan to attend and want to be on the agenda, please let Cliff or Mary Lee know the week before so you can be added. If you don't have time to attend the Vestry meeting but want to see what the Vestry is working on, the minutes are available in a binder on the information table.

The prayer shawls & lap quilts, now located in the Community Resource Room downstairs, are available for you to give someone who needs our Christ Church love and support. *For more information, read the GNN.*

First Sunday Donation Day benefits the Solid Rock Food Closet If you're donating cash or check, please make sure you write "food closet" or SRFC so we know that's where you want your gift to go. There are envelopes in each pew back that can be used if you want to give cash. We'll collect donations the first Sunday of the month and then send one check to the Solid Rock Food Closet, our local food closet. We also welcome non-perishable food and personal care items. If you brought items, please put them in the red wagon located in our narthex.

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
July 20	Doris King	Nancy Wilson
July 27		
Aug 3		Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Aug 10		Welcome Karla Lunch!