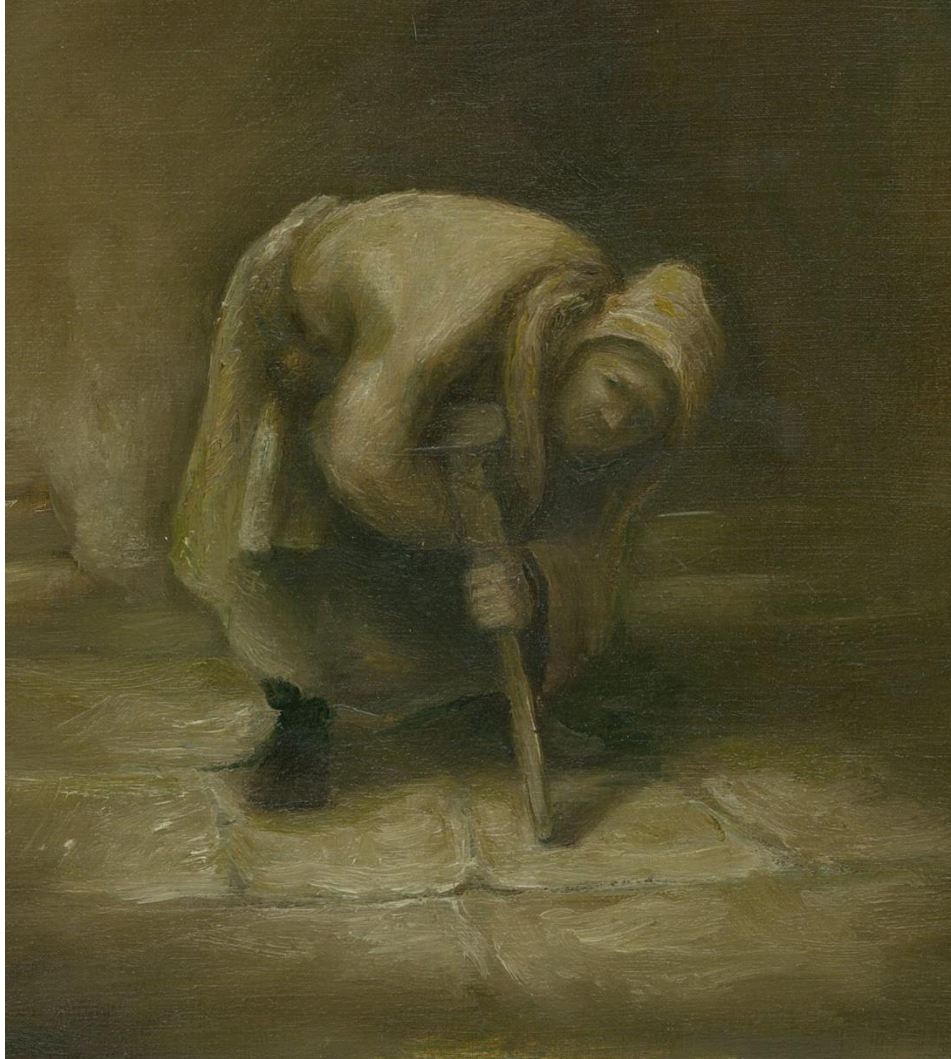


# Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

*A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.*



## The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin  
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev Karla Woggon  
Priest-in-Charge

# 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 [christchurchspartanc@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchspartanc@gmail.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 [christchurchspartanc@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchspartanc@gmail.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 George Greer** for leading our worship this morning,  
**Kathy Sugishita** for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,  
**Nancy Wilson** for the beautiful flowers at the altar, and  
**Cynthia Grant** for providing our refreshments for coffee hour.

**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](http://www.christchurchallegghany.org)

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
2543 US Highway 21 South  
PO Box 1866  
Sparta, North Carolina 28675  
Office: 336.372.7983  
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Website: [www.christchurchallegghany.org](http://www.christchurchallegghany.org)

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

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

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# The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Nancy Wilson

*Please stand, as able.*

Processional Hymn #304

*I come with joy to meet my Lord*

*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,

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

#### Isaiah 58:9b-14

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
 the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
 if you offer your food to the hungry  
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
 then your light shall rise in the darkness  
 and your gloom be like the noonday.  
 The LORD will guide you continually,  
 and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
 and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,  
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;  
if you call the sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;  
if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;  
then you shall take delight in the LORD,  
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Reader        Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
People        **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Response**

### **Psalm 103:1-8**

Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
**and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
**and forget not all his benefits.**

He forgives all your sins \*  
**and heals all your infirmities;**

He redeems your life from the grave \*  
**and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

He satisfies you with good things, \*  
**and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**

The LORD executes righteousness \*  
**and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

He made his ways known to Moses \*  
**and his works to the children of Israel.**

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**

## The Second Reading

### Hebrews 12:18-29

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken~ that is, created things~ so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

**People** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand, as able.*

### Gospel Hymn #522

*Glorious things of thee are spoken*

*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 13:10-17

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free

from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Presider     The Gospel of the Lord.

People     Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*All are seated.*

## The Sermon

The Rev George Greer

*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: Healing God, as we gather to express the longings of our hearts, shower on us your mercy and grace as we say, Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Holy Lord, shake your church, tumble us out into the world to continue the ministry of Jesus to bring wholeness to a broken world. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Move the hearts of this nation and its leaders that we and they might see clearly both what holds us together and what pulls us apart, that joining together we might build a just and merciful society. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts to hear your call and empower our hands and feet to move closer to you through our service to others. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Fill us with awe in contemplation of the glory of your Creation and shake us out of our complacency that we might be effective stewards and champions of our nation world. 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 George Greer.* 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 the Province of South East Asia; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, Church of the Savior in Newland, and in our Alleghany Community, Old Saddle Mountain Union Baptist Church. And please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...* Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Tend those who suffer, bring to wholeness what is broken, reconciliation to what has been separated, and lift up what has been pressed down. Especially we ask your healing power for... **Antje & Bill, Bill, Bob, Brenda & Kelly, Carl & Carol, Carl & Mimi, Charles & Christine, Donna & Mike, Elizabeth, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Isabel, Jay, Jean, Johnny, Jonathan, Liz, Lucy, Luke & Cole & Andrew, Lynn, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Marybeth & Ned, Rita & Angelia, Rod & Louise, Rudy, Sandra, Sue, and Vanita.** *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud...* Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Fulfill your promises to the dying, care for the grieving, and grant us all an entrance into your eternal loving presence. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**



Presider: You have allowed no barriers to your loving action, hear and fulfill our longings as may be best for us, and grant us your salvation. All these we ask in the name of Jesus, our Lord, who abides with you and the Holy Spirit forever. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

EOW, p 56

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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

EOW1, pp 57-59


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.**

Presider It is truly right, and good and joyful,  
to give you thanks, all-holy God,  
source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

**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!

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the

fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

*Stand or kneel, as able, for Prayer of Consecration.*

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

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.

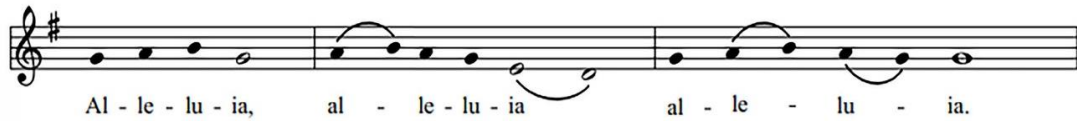
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction:** (sung by all)

Proulx Alleluia



## The Invitation to Holy Communion

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God, God's holy food for God's holy people.

*Please be seated.*

## 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.*

## Post Communion Prayer

EOW, p 70

Presider Let us pray,

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## The Blessing

Presider Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen.**

*Please stand, as able.*

## Recessional Hymn #493

*O for a thousand tongues to sing*

## The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Postlude

Kathy Sugishita

## Coming Lessons

Sirach 10:12-18 OR Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

**The following people are assisting with the services**

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Nancy Wilson	Bruce Smith
Crucifer	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Jonathan Halsey
Lector I	Brenda Weems	Patti Phelps
Lector II	Brenda Weems	Patti Phelps
Prayers of the People	Brenda Weems	Patti Phelps
Sanctus Bell	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Jonathan Halsey
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Cynthia Grant	Nancy Wilson

## Prayer List

### Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bill Harrison, Bob Bamberg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Carl & Mimi, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Elizabeth (Rev Martha's friend), Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Isabel Tomé, Jay Woodruff, Jean Callison, Johnny Thompson (Bill Harrison's friend), Jonathan, Liz, Lucy, Luke & Cole & Andrew Bagwell, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Marybeth & Ned Lentz, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, Sandra, Sue, and Vanita (Ruthie's sister). And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

### Departed:

**Birthdays:** Marybeth Lentz (Aug 30)

**Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:** Hal & Nancy Wilson (Aug 25), Kelly & Brenda (Aug 26)

# Schedule

## **Sunday, August 24 – The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

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

Coffee hour follows the service

## **Tuesday, August 26**

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group, *Falling Upward*

## **Wednesday, August 27**

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

## **Sunday, August 31 – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Martha Honaker

Coffee hour follows the service

## **Monday, September 1 – Labor Day holiday, the Office will be closed**

## **Tuesday, September 2**

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group, *Falling Upward*

## **Wednesday, September 3**

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

## **Sunday, September 7 – The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

Coffee hour follows the service

## **Monday, September 8**

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

## **Tuesday, September 9**

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group, *Falling Upward*

## **Wednesday, September 10**

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

## Announcements

**NEW Christ Church email address is:** [christchurchspartanc@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchspartanc@gmail.com).

**NEW Priest email address for Karla is:** [priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com](mailto:priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com).

**Karla would love to get to know everyone!** If you'd like to meet for coffee or lunch, meet in her office, or meet at your home, call her at **828.638.0533**. She'll reach out on Sunday or Monday to schedule.

**Solid Rock Food Closet Volunteers last week!** Questions? Contact Jann Boggs at 727.641.4925.

**Yoga class with Julie meets on Wednesday mornings through November.** Classes are held on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. *For more information, read the Good News & Notes.*

**The next Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) is scheduled for Monday, Sept 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am.** We'll meet at church and carpool to Mis Arados for lunch. The lunch has moved to Monday so Karla can join us! Please make sure to sign up so we know a head count – the sign-up sheet is on the information table in the Parish Hall.

**The Christian 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 started a new book, Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward*. If you're interested in taking part, let Patti Phelps know so she can order you a book. All are invited to attend one or both groups!

**The prayer shawls & lap quilts, relocated again to the narthex under the table, 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:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Altar Flowers</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
Aug 24	Nancy Wilson	Cynthia Grant
Aug 31	Cynthia Grant	Cynthia Grant
Sept 7	Mary Lee Joines	Sara Brown Davis
Sept 14		Kathy Hudgins