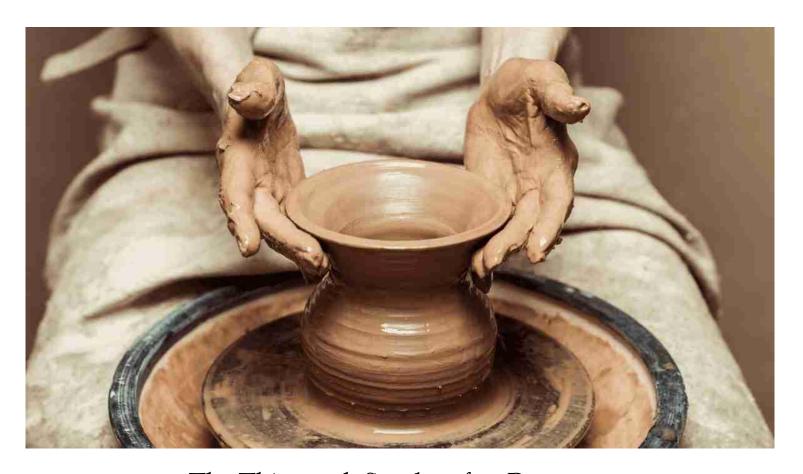
Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 7, 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 worshiping with us for the first time? We would love to get to know you! Please email our office at 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 chirchspartanc@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:

Laura Davis for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,

Mary Lee Joines for the flowers at the altar in special honor of our beloved, Brenda, and

Sara Brown Davis & Patti Phelps 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.christchurchalleghany.org

Christ Episcopal Church

2543 US Highway 21 South PO Box 1866 Sparta, North Carolina 28675 Office: 336.372.7983 Priest cell: 828.638.0533

Email: christchurchspartanc@gmail.com (NEW)

Priest Email: priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com

Website: www.christchurchalleghany.org

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

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Music used by permission CCLI License #11138616
Cover art: image of a potter and clay, photographer unknown, on The Thin Place blog

The Gathering

Prelude Laura Davis

Announcements Louise Law

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #684

O for a closer walk with God

Remain standing, as able.

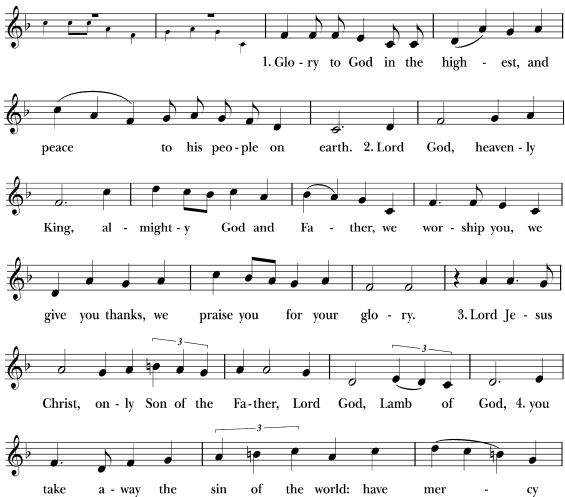
Opening Acclamation

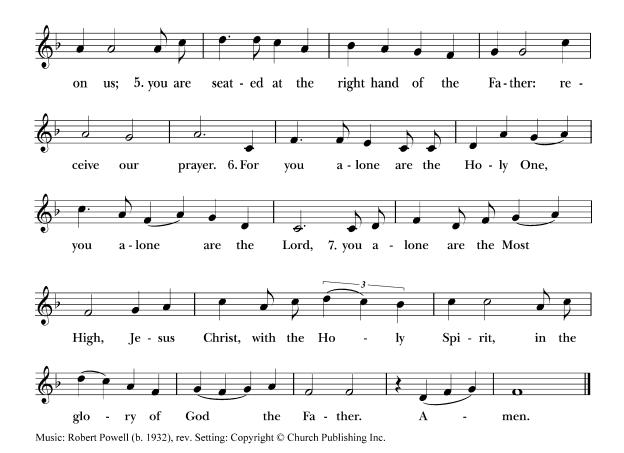
Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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)





The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray,

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through 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 Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken,

turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; * you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places * and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, * but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before * and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; * it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

For you yourself created my inmost parts; * you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I will thank you because I am marvelously made; * your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

My body was not hidden from you, * while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;

all of them were written in your book; *

they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.

How deep I find your thoughts, O God! * how great is the sum of them!

If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; * to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

The Second Reading Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love~ and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother~ especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #658

As longs the deer

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 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For

which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, `This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

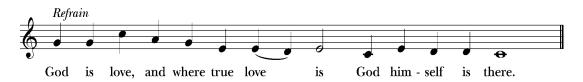
Presider

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Refrain:



All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Karla Woggon

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.

Saying Goodbye to Brenda Weems

Presider

Eternal God, look kindly on your servant, Brenda Weems. Guide her steps with your mighty arm and strengthen her in spirit. Be with the one who leaves and with those who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Most loving and glorious God, hear us we implore you and act speedily to answer our

prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: You have blessed your church across time with leaders of true faith, grant your church today

wisdom and discernment that we might effectively share the good news of Jesus. Lord in

your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us wisdom to choose leaders of integrity, and also the courage and resolve to hold

them accountable to their responsibility to build a nation where all people might thrive and

know their dignity as God's created children. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: All our truest needs are provided by you. Open our minds and hearts to see the abundance

of your creation and to boldly embrace policies that ensure no basic human needs go

unmet. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Fill our hearts with the love of one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and to see and

be inspired by the Christ which dwells in each of us, so that together we might boldly be

Christ's loving body in a hurting 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 Priest-in-Charge, Karla. 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 Anglican Church of Southern Africa; in the Diocese of Western

North Carolina, St Giles Chapel and residents & staff of Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community in Asheville, and in our Alleghany Community, Pine Fork Missionary Baptist Church. And please

keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We ask healing for all who suffer, and we ask that we might be people of healing and

reconciliation to those in need in our lives. Especially we pray for... Antje & Bill, Bob, Brenda & Kelly, Carl & Carol, Charles & Christine, Chuck & Sally, Donna & Mike, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Gary & Allan, Isabel, Jamey, Jay, Jennie, Jonathan, Lucy, Luke & Cole & Andrew, Lynn, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Martha A, Marybeth & Ned, Rita & Angelia, Rod & Louise, Rudy, Sandra, and Vanita. Please add your own petitions silently or

aloud...Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We are surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses who have been the lights of the world

in their time. Grant us to follow in their example and welcome us into your eternal loving

presence when it is our time to leave this earth. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Presider: Most gracious Father, from the beginning you have sought to lead us into the joy possible to

us through life in You. Aid us and be present with us that we might walk in the path of Jesus and live into his example. All these we offer through Christ, our Lord and highest allegiance, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reign always and for ever. **Amen**.

Confession of Sin BCP, pg 360

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

All 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.

Presider Walk in love as Christ loves us and gave himself as an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Music

Laura Davis

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 A, BCP

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

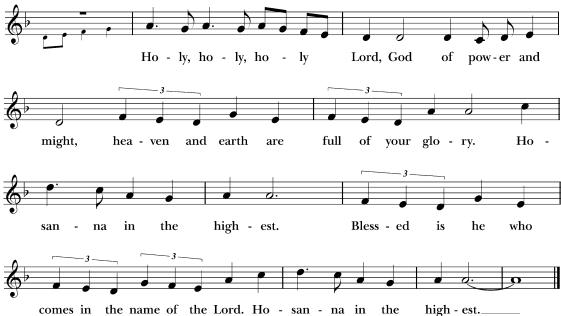
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him 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. 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: S129 (sung by all)



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and

eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 many 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.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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**.

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

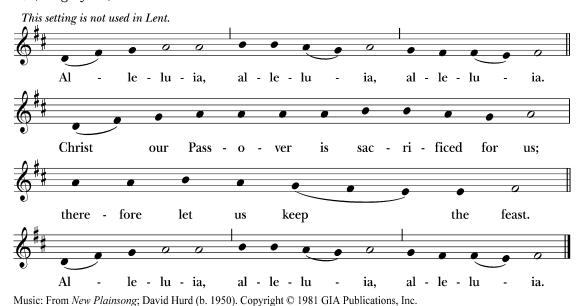
The Lord's Prayer

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: S154 (sung by all)



The Invitation to Holy Communion

Please be seated.

Communion Music Laura Davis

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

Presider Let us pray,

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. 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 #690

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude Laura Davis

Coming Lessons

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Crucifer	Nancy Wilson	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Louise Law
Lector II	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Louise Law
Prayers of the People	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Louise Law
Sanctus Bell	Nancy Wilson	Bruce Smith
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Jann Boggs & Les Colvard	Jane Franck

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bob Bamberg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Gary Medley & Allan Joyce, Isabel Tomé, Jamey Bass, Jay Woodruff, Jennie Smith, Jonathan, Lucy, Luke & Cole & Andrew Bagwell, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Martha Adams, Marybeth & Ned Lentz, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, Sandra, and Vanita (Ruthie's sister). And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed:

Birthdays: Libba Evans (today!), Jim Lambie (Sept 13)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Schedule

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

No groups today

Wednesday, September 10

9:30 am - Yoga with Julie in the Parish Hall

Sunday, September 14 - The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, September 15

11:30 am - Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) meets at the church to carpool to Mis Arados

Tuesday, September 16

1:00 pm - Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm - Book Discussion group, Falling Upward

Wednesday, September 17

9:30 am - Yoga with Julie in the Parish Hall

Sunday, September 21 - The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am - Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, September 23

1:00 pm - Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm - Book Discussion group, Falling Upward

Wednesday, September 24

9:30 am - Yoga with Julie in the Parish Hall

Announcements

TODAY: 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.

A change in how we approach the altar for communion. We've noted recently that the Greeters/Ushers will *no longer* usher each pew of parishioners to go for communion. Instead, we need to go row by row, form a line down the middle of the aisle, and all head to the right as space becomes available. If you have any questions or if it becomes confusing, ask the greeter(s).

NEW Christ Church email address is: christchurchspartanc@gmail.com.

NEW Priest email address for Karla is: 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.

Save-the-Date! Rebecca Gain will be sharing her experience living in and working in a community in Abu Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates on **Sunday, Oct 19**th during coffee hour. For more information, read the Good News & Notes.

Yoga class with Julie meets on Wednesday mornings thru November Classes are held on Wednesday mornings. The start time has changed to 9:30 am. For more information, read the Good News & Notes.

The next Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) is scheduled for Monday, Sept 15th 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 in 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.

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
Sept 7	Mary Lee Joines	Sara Brown Davis
Sept 14	Judy Ritchie	Kathy Hudgins
Sept 21	Janice & Ken Kleva	Patti Phelps
Sept 28		Patti Phelps