

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 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 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.

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,
Ann & Frank Hazard for the beautiful flowers at the altar in honor of Terry & Bess, and
Patti Phelps for providing 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

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

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

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Cover art: *The Rich Man and Lazarus* by James Janknegt

The Gathering

Prelude

Laura Davis

Announcements

Louise Law

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #410

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

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



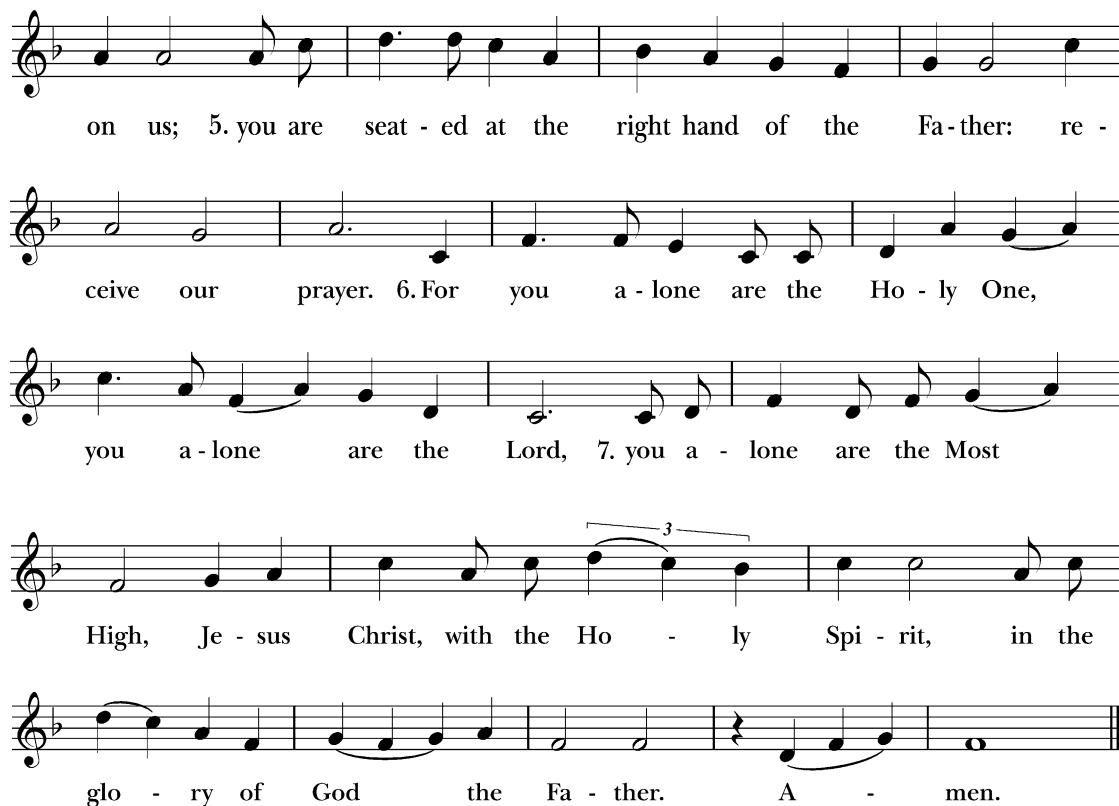
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



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



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,

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

Jeremiah said, 'The word of the LORD came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the

land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.” Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.’

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

He shall say to the LORD,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."

He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *
and from the deadly pestilence.

He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge under his wings; *
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.

Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

The Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-19

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time~ he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #440

Blessed Jesus, at thy word

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 16:19-31

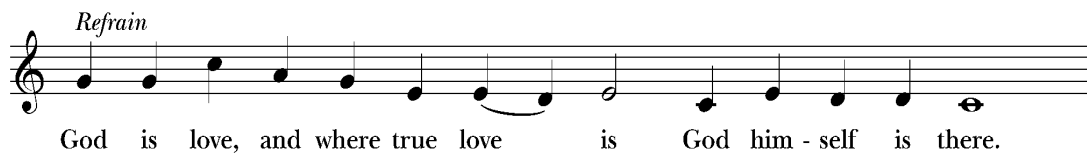
Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good

things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house~ for I have five brothers~ that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayers of the People (*Congregation sings response: Lord in your mercy hear our prayer*)

You are above us O God, You are beneath.
You are in air, You are in Earth.
You are beside us, You are within.
O God, you are in the betrayed and suffering people of our world,
Just as you were in the broken body of Jesus.
We offer now all our concerns as we gather at your table.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For God's holy church, that it may be a community
of faithful transformation where the Holy Spirit
calls forth boldness and passion.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all who share leadership in God's church,
and for those who long to live Jesus' way
of compassion and liberating discipline of the Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all who seek to follow God
in accordance with their true gifts,
that this may unite us together
to honor the belovedness of each person.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those who are in the dry places of their lives
that God's living water may nourish and baptize them.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the peace of the world
that a spirit of courageous compassion and
interconnectedness may move humanity beyond war.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For a blessing upon God's earth
that respect for and understanding of its
complex and fragile nature will fill human beings
with the desire to preserve and protect it.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the dignity of all human labor
that the world may be freed
from the evils of the domination system and
the gap between the rich and the poor
may be lessened as we are called to
stand in solidarity with the marginalized.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for everyone whose body aches,
whose heart is weary and frightened,
whose mind is confused or clouded or cast down.
Send us your Spirit to fill them with healing
and give us all your Grace to make us instruments of your Peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves, for the Grace we need in our lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the needs of others. Especially we pray for... **Antje & Bill, Bob, Brenda & Kelly, Carl & Carol, Charles & Christine, Chuck & Sally, Deborah, Diane & John, Donna & Mike, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Isabel, Janice H, Jean, Jessalyn & family, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn, Lynn & Ajit, Maeleigh & Keel & Sara, Margaret, Maria, Martha A, Marybeth & Ned, Rita & Angelia, Rod & Louise, Rudy, Sandra, Terry & Bess, and Vanita.**

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We offer our prayers of thanksgiving.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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.**

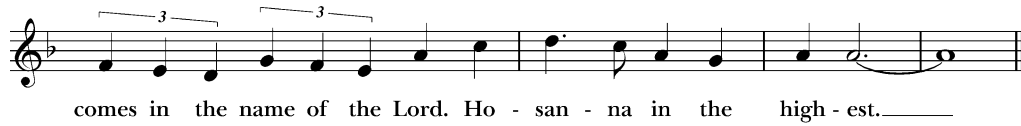
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: S129 (*sung by all*)

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

might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



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)

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

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 #390

Praise to the Lord

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

Lamentations 1:1-6
Lamentations 3:19-26 OR Psalm 137
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Jeanne Green
Crucifer	Patti Phelps	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Mary Lee Joines	Jann Boggs
Lector II	Mary Lee Joines	Jann Boggs
Prayers of the People	Mary Lee Joines	Jann Boggs
Sanctus Bell	Patti Phelps	Bruce Smith
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Barbara Halsey	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bob Bamberg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Deborah, Diane & John, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Isabel Tomé, Jean Callison, Jessalyn & her family following her mother's death, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Maeleigh & Keel & Sara, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Marybeth & Ned Lentz, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, Sandra, Terry & Bess (Ann's BIL & sister), and Vanita (Ruthie's sister). And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed: Jennie Smith (Sept 23)

Birthdays: Cynthia Grant (Oct 4)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Schedule

Sunday, September 28 – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, September 29

11:45 am – Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) meet at Mis Arados for lunch with Karla

Tuesday, September 30

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

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

Wednesday, October 1

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

Sunday, October 5 – The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

2:00 pm – Blessing of the Animals service

Monday, October 6

11:45 am – Ladies Lunch Out meets at Tex Mex for lunch with Karla

Tuesday, October 7

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

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

Wednesday, October 8

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

Sunday, October 12 – The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service/**Rebecca Gaskin presentation**

Monday, October 13

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

Tuesday, October 14

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

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

Wednesday, October 15

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

Announcements

TOMORROW, Monday, September 29th – Ladies Lunch Out meets at Mis Arados at 11:45 am.

NEXT SUNDAY! Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 5th at 2:00 pm
This service is held outside and is open to the community. So, bring your own 4-legged friend or reptile, make sure they're in a crate or on a leash, and invite your neighbors to join us for this special service. *If you have any questions, please ask Karla after the service.*

NEXT SUNDAY! 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.

DATE CHANGE: Rebecca Gaskin will be sharing her experience living in and working in a community in Abu Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates on **Sunday, Oct 12th** during coffee hour. *For more information, read the Good News & Notes.*

Office hours are changing back THIS WEEK! After a month or so of trying the new office hours, it just didn't work well. As a result, **the Office will be open 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, Monday-Thursday beginning this Wednesday, October 1st.** You will occasionally see Mary Lee in the office on Sundays because sometimes that's a good day to get a few things done.

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.

Yoga class with Julie meets on Wednesday mornings thru November Classes are now held on Wednesday mornings **at 9:30 am.** Please note the time change! *For more information, read the Good News & Notes.*

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 is currently reading, 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 28	Ann & Frank Hazard	Patti Phelps
Oct 5	Judy Ritchie	Jane Franck
Oct 12	Jeanne Green	
Oct 19	Louise Law & Rod Pace	