

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 2025

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev Rick Lawler
Celebrant

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:

The Rev Rick Lawler for leading our worship service this morning,
Kathy Sugishita for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,
Jann Boggs for the beautiful flowers at the altar with thanksgiving for *many* blessings, and
Rebecca & Arnold Gain 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

Christ Episcopal Church

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

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

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Cover art: *The Determined Widow*

The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Cliff Hudgins

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #448

O love, how deep

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 and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession 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: Jeremiah 31:27-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say:

"The parents have eaten sour grapes,
 and the children's teeth are set on edge."

But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took

them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt~ a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 119:97-104

Oh, how I love your law! *

all the day long it is in my mind.

Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, *

and it is always with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers, *

for your decrees are my study.

I am wiser than the elders, *

because I observe your commandments.

I restrain my feet from every evil way, *

that I may keep your word.

I do not shrink from your judgments, *

because you yourself have taught me.

How sweet are your words to my taste! *

they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

Through your commandments I gain understanding; *

therefore I hate every lying way.

The Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from

listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

People Thanks be to God.

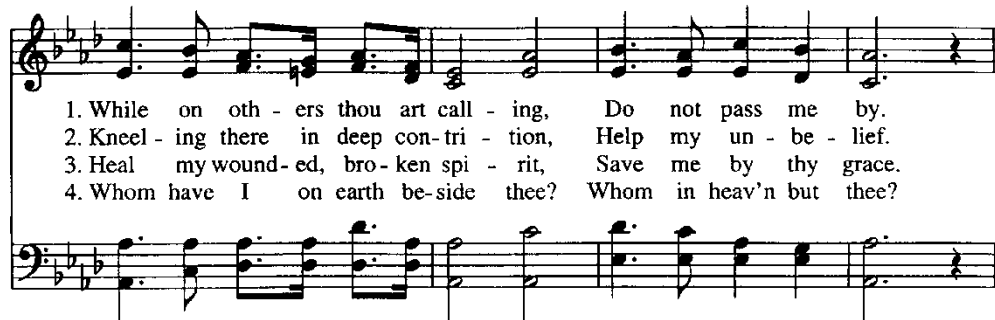
Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #139 (LEVAS), vss 1-3

Pass me not, O gentle Savior



1. Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, Hear my hum - ble cry;
2. Let me at thy throne of mer - cy Find a sweet re - lief;
3. Trust - ing on - ly in thy mer - it, Would I seek thy face;
4. Thou the spring of all my com - fort, More than life to me,



1. While on oth - ers thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.
2. Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, Help my un - be - lief.
3. Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spi - rit, Save me by thy grace.
4. Whom have I on earth be - side thee? Whom in heav'n but thee?



Sav - ior, Sav - ior, Hear my hum - ble cry;



While on oth - ers thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.

Words: Fanny J Crosby (1820-1915)
Music: William H Doane (1832-1915)

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 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Hymn #139 (LEVAS), vss 4

Pass me not, O gentle Savior

All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Rick Lawler

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: God of Justice, hear us and respond as we lift our prayers to you saying, Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Be with your church and guide us so that our prayers may be the seeds of ministry. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Inspire our nation and its leaders, help us to rise above our divisions and work together for the common good. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Be with those facing perils from natural disaster and climate change, show us how to respond effectively, and lead us to be advocates for the preservation of your creation. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Be present to us in our parish, strengthen us, renew us, and embolden us, that we might eagerly share your good news in our daily lives. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons... *especially the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah, our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop, José, our Priest-in-Charge, Karla, and our Celebrant, The Rev Rick Lawler.* 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 Episcopal Church; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, St Luke's in Asheville, Boone, and Lincolnton, and in our Alleghany Community, Rich Hill Union Baptist Church. And please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...* Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Heal the sick, mend the injured, renew the worn down, and lift up the oppressed. Especially we ask your healing presence for... **Antje & Bill, Bob, Brenda & Kelly, Carl & Carol, Charles & Christine, Chuck & Sally, Deborah, Diane & John, Donna & Mike, Dottie, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Isabel, Janice, Jean, Jill, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria, Martha A, Mike, Rita & Angelia, Rod & Louise, Rudy, Savany, Terry & Bess, and Vanita.** *And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams. Please add your own petitions silently or aloud...* Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Welcome the dying into the comfort of your embrace, comfort those who grieve, and allow us entry into the realms of your glory when our journey through this life ends. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Presider: God of Love who has never turned your back on us, be our loving and gracious God, hear and answer our prayers that we have asked through the merits of our Lord, Christ Jesus, who with You and the Holy Spirit hold all creation in your hands. **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

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

Eucharist Prayer B, BCP

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our 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.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: 129 (*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

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. ———

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

Please stand or kneel, as able.

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 we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 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.

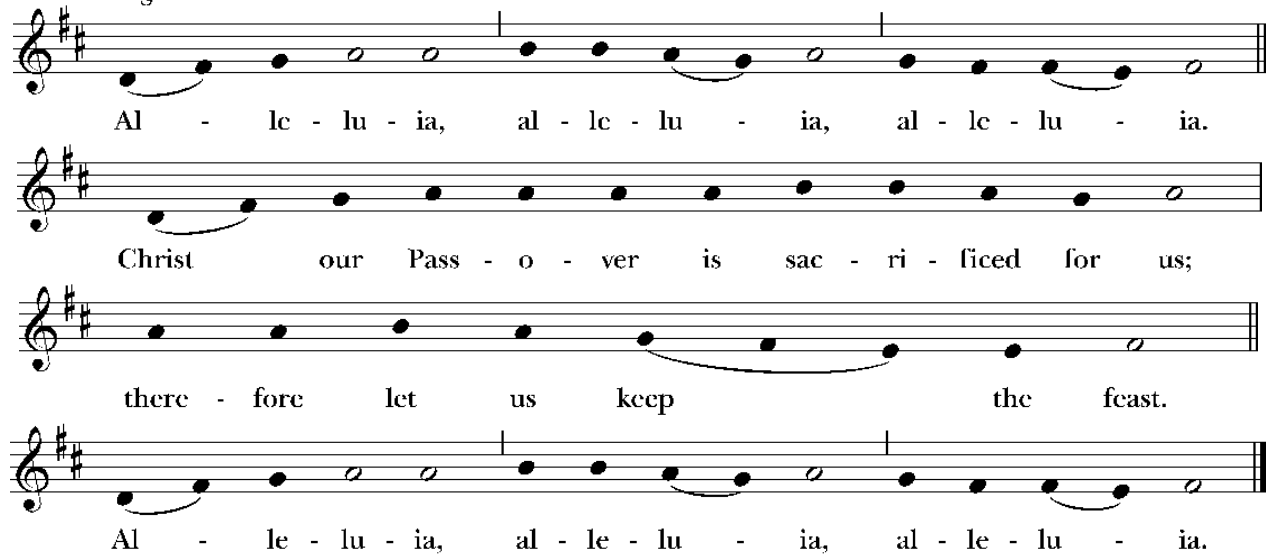
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: S154 (sung by all)

This setting is not used in Lent.



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

The Invitation to Holy Communion

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

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 #707

Take my life and let it be

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. Alleluia, alleluia.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Marybeth Lentz	Marybeth Lentz
Crucifer	Jeanne Green	Patti Phelps
Lector I	Louise Law	Cliff Hudgins
Lector II	Louise Law	Cliff Hudgins
Prayers of the People	Louise Law	Cliff Hudgins
Sanctus Bell	Jeanne Green	Patti Phelps
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Cynthia Grant	Barbara Halsey

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, Dottie Maddock, Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Isabel Tomé, Janice Harrison, Jean Callison, Jill Hardee, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Mike Tanner (The Rev), Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, Savany Demmink, Terry & Bess, and Vanita (Ruthie's sister). And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed:

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: David & Mary Lee Joines (Oct 22)

Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah, Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop, José, and our Priest-in-Charge, The Rev Karla Woggon, and our Celebrant, The Rev Rick Lawler

In the Anglican Community: the Episcopal Church

In the Diocese of WNC: St Luke's in Asheville, Boone, and Lincolnton

In Alleghany County: Rich Hill Union Baptist Church

Schedule

Sunday, October 19 – The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Rick Lawler

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, October 21 – *No groups this Tuesday*

~~1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group~~

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

Wednesday, October 22

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

Sunday, October 26 – The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Worship Team meets with Karla following the service

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, October 28

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

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

Wednesday, October 29

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

Sunday, November 2 – All Saints’ Sunday AND Daylight-saving time ends

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

LEMs meet with Karla following the service

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, November 3

11:45 am – Ladies Lunch Out with Karla meet at Tex Mex

Tuesday, November 4

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

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

Wednesday, November 5

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

Announcements

NEXT Sunday, October 26th – Worship Team meets with Karla following the service.

Next Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) is scheduled for Monday, November 3rd at 11:45 am at the Tex Mex restaurant. A sign-up sheet is on the information table in the Parish Hall.

Please sign-up if you’re able to attend so Barbara has a head count.

First Apple Harvest luncheon on Sunday, November 9th, following our church service.

Our luncheon will feature appetizers, soups, salads, main courses, and desserts *all*

featuring apples. **Our sign-up sheet will be located downstairs.** Please put your creative juices to work creating your favorite apple dish to share with all of us.

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.*

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.

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
Oct 19	Jann Boggs	Rebecca & Arnold Gain
Oct 26	Louise Law & Rod Pace	Louise Law
Nov 2	Mary Lee Joines	Mary Lee Joines
Nov 9		First Apple Harvest luncheon