

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 18, 2026

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 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:

Jonathan Halsey for serving as musician and for being so generous with his talents, and

Janice & Ken Kleva for the beautiful flowers at the altar in honor of their granddaughter,
Leila Josephine Nabet.

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, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Music used by permission CCLI License #11138616

Cover art: *Preaching of Saint John the Baptist* by Pieter Bruegel

The Gathering

Prelude

Jonathan Halsey

Announcements

Barbara Halsey

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #7

Christ, whose glory fills the skies

Remain standing, as able.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Glory to God on highest!

People And peace to God's people on earth!

Presider Let us pray,

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.

Hymn #410, vs 1

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.*

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray,

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
 pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The LORD called me before I was born,
 while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God."

And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength-

he says,

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,

"Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 40:1-12

I waited patiently upon the LORD; *
he stooped to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; *
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.

He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God; *

**many shall see, and stand in awe,
and put their trust in the LORD.**

Happy are they who trust in the LORD! *

they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!
how great your wonders and your plans for us! *

there is none who can be compared with you.

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! *

but they are more than I can count.

In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *
(you have given me ears to hear you);

Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *
and so I said, "Behold, I come.

In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *

**'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep in my heart."**

I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *
**behold, I did not restrain my lips;
and that, O LORD, you know.**

Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; *

I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

You are the LORD;
do not withhold your compassion from me; *
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be
saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their
Lord and ours:

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ
Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind- just as
the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual
gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so

that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #538

God of mercy, God of grace

Please remain standing, as able.

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel

John 1:29-42

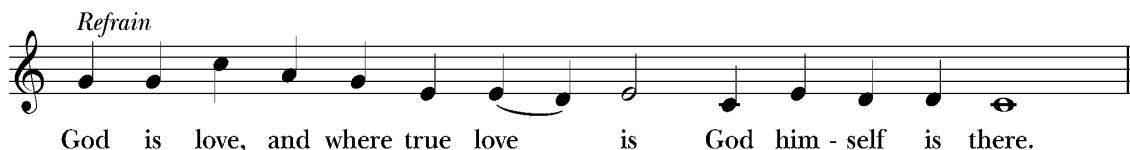
John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Refrain:



Refrain

God is love, and where true love is God himself is there.

All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Karla Woggon

A time of silence following the sermon.

Please stand, as able.

The Nicene Creed

WLP 768

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
 2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
 3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with -

be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
 fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly
 in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from

sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for
 died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
 sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - - rec - tion, for the

us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
 raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God
 break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -

Mar - - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
 right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 last - - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Prayers of the People (all read the bold text)

Leader God of strength and resoluteness, you have sought to make yourself known to us and to show us your loving care. Hear our collective hopes and prayers as we say, **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

Leader Encourage the truth speakers and prophets of your church, that we might see the Christ in our midst. **Lord in your mercy,**
ALL hear our prayer.

Leader Be with the leaders of our nation. Hold them accountable to their commitments to liberty, peace, and unity. **Lord in your mercy,**
ALL hear our prayer.

Leader Grant us the wisdom, strength, and perseverance to make difficult decisions for the welfare of creation. **Lord in your mercy,**
ALL hear our prayer.

Leader Heal those in pain or illness. Bring joy to the sorrowful, hope to the forlorn. Grant a path to your promise to all who have lost their way. Especially we pray for... *Antje, Bill, Bob, Brenda, Kelly, Carl, Carol, Charles, Christine, Chuck, Sally, Diane, John, Donna, Mike, Dottie, Emily, Frances, Gary, Ina, Isabel, Janice, Jean, Jesse, JoAnn, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn, Ajit, Margaret, Maria, Martha, Rita, Angelia, Rudy, Savany, and Vanita.* **Lord in your mercy,**
ALL 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, and our Priest in Charge, Karla.* **Lord in your mercy,**
ALL hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; *especially, in our Anglican community, The Province of the Anglican Church of the Congo; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, St Paul's in Edneyville, Morganton, and Wilkesboro, and in our Alleghany Community, Woodruff Primitive Baptist Church.* And *please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...* **Lord in your mercy,**
ALL hear our prayer.

Leader Guide us as we seek to become icons of Christ and builders of the kingdom of God in all the places our lives take us. **Lord in your mercy,**
ALL hear our prayer.

Leader Bring peace to the dying and comfort to those who grieve. *We pray especially for Willie Coleman.* Grant us all a new life in your eternal presence. **Lord in your mercy,**
ALL hear our prayer.

Presider Your Son lived and died as one of us that we might know the surest path to the life we were created for. Let the light of his love shine in our lives, dispelling all darkness and leading us ever forward into your glory. **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.

Offertory Music

Jonathan Halsey

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. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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.

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

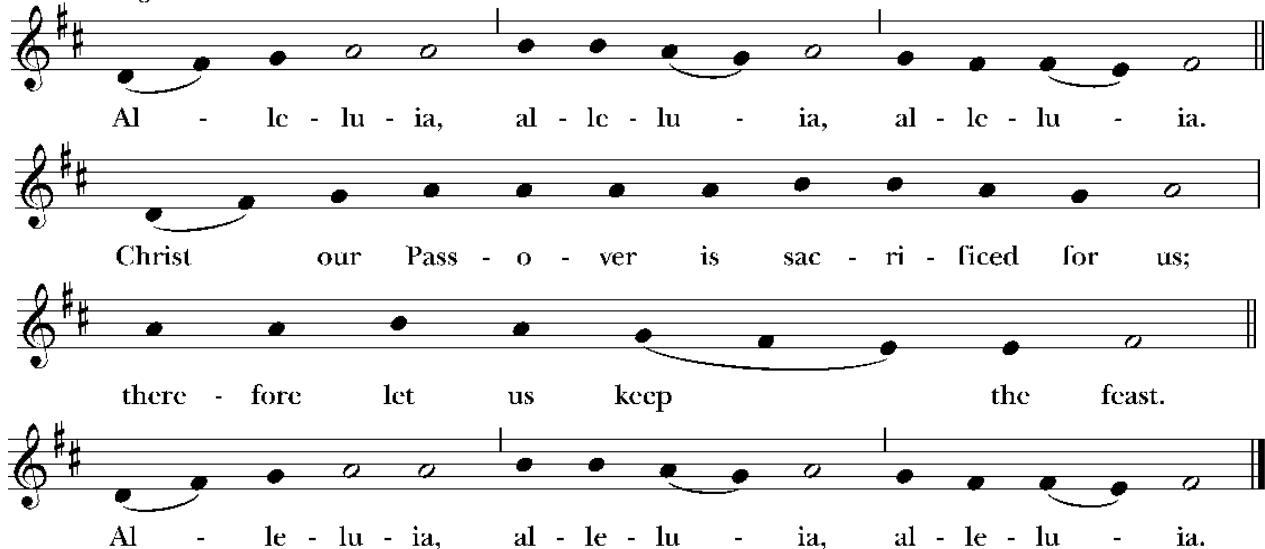
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and 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

Jonathan Halsey

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

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #535

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

The Dismissal

Postlude

Jonathan Halsey

Coming Lessons

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 5-13

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jane Franck	Jane Franck
Chalice bearer	Patti Phelps	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Cliff Hudgins	Jonathan Halsey
Lector II	Cliff Hudgins	Jonathan Halsey
Prayers of the People	Cliff Hudgins	Jonathan Halsey
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Cynthia Grant	Louise Law & Rod Pace

If you would like a copy of today's sermon, please ask Karla or Mary Lee and they'll make a copy for you.

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bill, Bill Bedrossian, Bob Bamberg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chuck & Sally Besaw following health issues & the death of Sally's mother, Diane & John, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Dottie Maddock, Emily Buck, Frances Huber, Gary Medley, Ina (Ann Hazard's cousin), Isabel Tomé, Janice Harrison, Jean Callison, Jesse James, JoAnn Andrews, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rudy McKnight, Savany Demmink, and Vanita. We also pray for local neighbors that fear detention, the inmates & staff at River North Correction Center, Covenant House, and we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed: Willie Coleman, Sally Besaw's mother

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah, **Presiding Bishop**, Sean, **our Bishop**, José, and **our Priest-in-Charge**, Karla

In the Anglican Community: The Province of the Anglican Church of the Congo

In the Diocese of WNC: St Paul's in Edneyville, Morganton, and Wilkesboro

In Alleghany County: Woodruff Primitive Baptist Church

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
Jan 18	Ken & Janice Kleva	Annual Congregational meeting
Jan 25		Wanda McKnight
Feb 1		Cynthia Grant
Feb 8		

Schedule

Sunday, January 18 – The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Lunch & Annual Congregational Meeting following the service

Monday, January 19

10:00 am – Altar Guild meeting

Tuesday, January 20

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, January 25 – The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Coffee hour follows the service

10:00 am – Worship team meeting following coffee hour

Tuesday, January 27

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, February 1 – The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, February 3

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Announcements

Please plan to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting & lunch after today's service. This is a great way to hear what's happening in our church, to ask questions, and to think about the new year ahead. We encourage all members & friends to join us in the Parish Hall for lunch and reports from our priest, wardens, and ministry team leaders following the service. *Everyone is welcome!*

Intergenerational Confirmation classes led by The Rev Karla Woggon The classes will be held following worship services, and will be a place to ask questions about what it means to be an Episcopalian. Do you have questions about something that happens during the Sunday worship services? Most of us came from different denominations so whether or not you're actually being confirmed, you're encouraged to attend. **The classes will be held monthly beginning February 15th and will run 12:00 – 1:30 pm.**

If you have a pastoral need or would like home communion or a visit when you are sick or homebound, please contact Karla at priest.christchurchpartanc@gmail.com or 828.638.0533.

Office hour changes: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. On Wednesdays, Mary Lee will work from home and can be reached by email or text.

The first Sunday of each month, we take donations for the Solid Rock Food Closet. If you're able to contribute, please either write a check to "Christ Church" with SRFC on your memo line or if you prefer to give a cash donation, please use one of the envelopes in the pew backs and write your name & SRFC on the envelope. Any amount is helpful! We also encourage you to bring non-perishable food and/or personal care items to donate. If you decide to do that, just place your donated items in the red wagon in the narthex. Jeanne Green, our long-time liaison to SRFC picks up the donations and delivers them each week. Again, anything you can give will help our local community.

Important dates as we look ahead:

- **Sunday, Feb 15 – Confirm not Conform Intergenerational class 12:00-1:30 pm**
- **Wednesday, Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday service at noon**
- **Sunday, Feb 22 – First Sunday in Lent, Taizé service at 5:30 pm**
- **Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday**