

Christ Episcopal Church
Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 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 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:

Kathy Sugishita for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,

Jim Halsey for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee,

Wanda McKnight for providing the beautiful flowers at the altar, and

Mary Lee Joines for providing coffee hour refreshments.

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.

Christ Episcopal Church

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

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00-1:00, Wednesday remote

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Cover – The Sower, from Landscape Series, 1985 by Roy Lichtenstein

The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Frank Hazard

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #440

Blessed Jesus, at thy word

Remain standing, as able.

Opening Acclamation

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

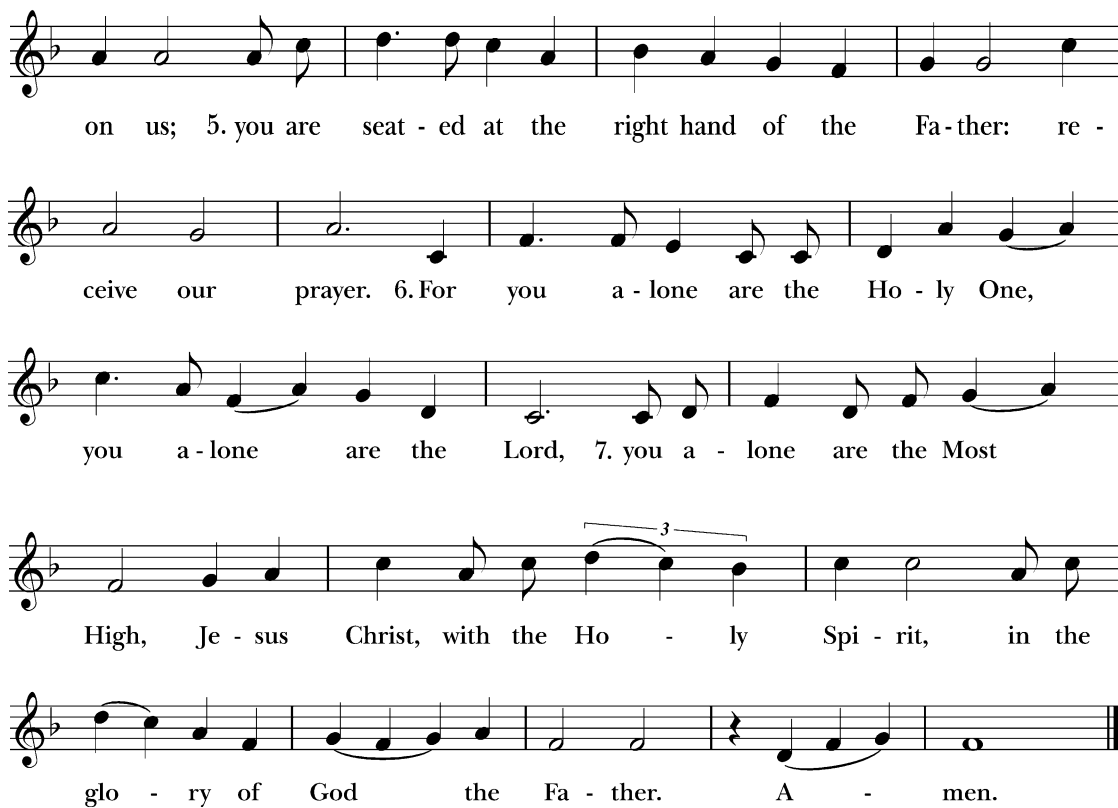
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant 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 - mighty 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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray,

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: A reading from Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
 and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
 the one shall be stronger than the other,
 the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 119:105-112

Your word is a lantern to my feet *

and a light upon my path.

I have sworn and am determined *

to keep your righteous judgments.

I am deeply troubled; *

preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.

Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, *

and teach me your judgments.

My life is always in my hand, *

yet I do not forget your law.

The wicked have set a trap for me, *

but I have not strayed from your commandments.

Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *

truly, they are the joy of my heart.

I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *

for ever and to the end.

The Second Reading: A reading from Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is

life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law~ indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

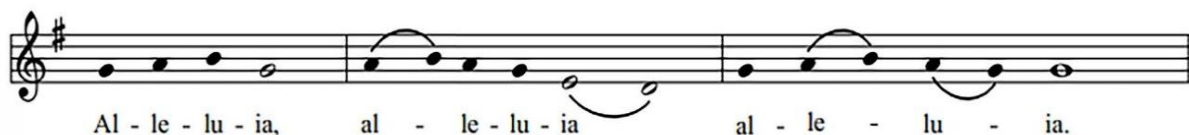
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #628

Help us, O Lord

Proulx Alleluia (sung twice)



Please remain standing, as able.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

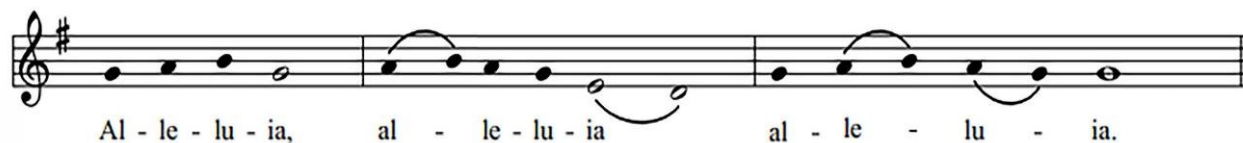
"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one

who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Proulx *Alleluia* (sung once)



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

BCP, Form III, pg 387

Leader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah, our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop, José, and our Priest in Charge, Karla.

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest.

People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud.*

Silence

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Silence

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

Celebrant 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

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please greet one another in a way that is comfortable as a sign of our participation in Christ's reconciling work in the world.

Please be seated.

Offertory Music

Kathy Sugishita

Please stand, as able.

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP, Eucharistic Prayer A, pgs 361-365

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 God thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of

everlasting life. 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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G-clef, treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. There are three triplets marked with a '3' and a bracket. The first triplet is on the second staff, the second on the third staff, and the third on the fourth staff. The score ends with a double bar line.

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

Please stand or kneel, as able.

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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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 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.

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

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.

If you are gluten allergic, please ask for a rice wafer at the distribution.

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.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant 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.

Blessing

The Rev Karla Woggon

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #679

Surely it is God who saves me

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-11, 22-23

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Allan Joyce, Antje & Bill, Bob Matthias, Brenda Weems, Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Charles McKelvy, Chris, Cliff & Kathy Hudgins, Coralie & Mary, Cynthia Grant, Denise & Larry's friend, Diana Asher (Les' friend), Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin, Erin Mohr, Gary Medley, Inza & Blair, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Karen & Dick Dewald (Jann & Les' friends and Erin's parents), Linda/Cindy/Trent (Ann's friends), Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Pete & Chasten & their 4 year-old twins, Raymond Hindman (Cara Todd's father), Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rudy McKnight, Sue (Nancy's friend), Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev), Terry & Bess, Tom & Kate Warndorf (Denise & Larry's friends), and Vanita. We also pray for all those impacted by the earthquakes in Venezuela, violence & war, natural disasters, and our local neighbors that fear detention, and we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed:

Birthdays: Sabrina Blevins (July 14), Roddy Dixon (July 17)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

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

In the Anglican Community: the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

In the Diocese of WNC: St Alban's in Hickory

In Alleghany County: Little Pine Church of the Brethren

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jeanne Green	Jeanne Green
Chalice Bearer	Jeanne Green	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Jonathan Halsey	Les Colvard
Lector II	Jonathan Halsey	Les Colvard
Prayers of the People	Jonathan Halsey	Les Colvard
Greeter/Usher(s)	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell

Schedule

Sunday, July 12 – The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Philadelphia 11 will be shown following the service during coffee hour

Tuesday, July 14

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, July 19 – The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, July 21

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, July 26 – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, July 27

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

1:00-3:00 pm – Golden Gamesters meets at the Social Scene

Tuesday, July 28

1:00-4:00 pm – a deep dive into the enneagram with Julie Smith

Announcements

Philadelphia 11 will be shown during coffee hour TODAY Sunday, July 12th. We hope you'll join us in viewing this documentary film about the eleven women who defied Episcopal church leadership in the early 1970s and proceeded with their ordination service. At the time, the church system was still patriarchal and women were not considered appropriate or able to be called to the priesthood. These women followed their call and paved the way for others who came after them.

The Centering Prayer/Book Discussion group will be hosting, Julie Smith, an Enneagram Consultant and someone who works at the Center on Action and Contemplation. She will lead a workshop for us on Tuesday, July 28 from 1:00-4:00 pm. This workshop is for

those who know the type they identify with and who are committed to growing using the Enneagram. After the workshop, the Centering Prayer group will use *The Enneagram of the Soul* by Nhien Vuong to continue this path. We're hoping that participants will attend as many book discussion sessions as possible, and of course, read the book. If you are interested in attending, please let Patti Phelps know – frankandpatti@yahoo.com. *The registration is limited.* For more information, read the GNN.

Christ Church volunteers at SRFC in August! If you have not already signed up for a shift, please do. We volunteer **every Tuesday and Wednesday in August** and our hours are **9:30-2:00**. We need to wear closed-toe shoes for safety purposes and while we don't have a lunch break, they do have a refrigerator if you want to put a snack or drink in it. The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex on Sunday mornings and then in the Parish Hall during coffee hour and the week ahead. If you have any questions, contact Wanda McKnight at 615.707.0266 or wandagmcknight@gmail.com.

Our Annual Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, Sept 13 here at Christ Church following the service. *Details and a sign-up sheet will follow in August.*

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.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com or 828.638.0533.

Centering Prayer group meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and the Book Discussion group meets on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. The book group is finishing up Richard Rohr's book, *Falling Upwards*.

The Prayer Shawls & Lap Blankets are available for you to give someone who needs our Christ Church love and support. *For more information, read the GNN.*

The first Sunday of the month, we collect for our local food closet, Solid Rock Food Closet (SRFC). You can share non-perishable food, personal care items (most in need right now are toilet paper, laundry detergent, and/or sweet individually-wrapped treats for the Summer Backpack Pals Program). All donated items can be put in the red wagon in the narthex and they'll be delivered the following week. **We also accept and encourage money gifts on this Sunday.** If you opt to give cash, use an offering envelope (in the pew back) and make sure to write SRFC on it. If you write a check, make sure you write SRFC on the memo line. Every gift helps so give as generously as you're able!

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Guild	Coffee Hour
July 12	Wanda McKnight	Jim Halsey	Mary Lee Joines
July 19	Jann Boggs	Rod Pace	Patti Phelps
July 26	Mary Lee Joines	Rod Pace	
Aug 2		John Franck	