

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 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:

Victoria Fischer Faw for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,

John Franck for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee,

Nancy Wilson for the beautiful flowers at the altar, and

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

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Cover art: King of Glory by Yongsung Kim, 2021

The Gathering

Prelude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Announcements

Larry Seckel

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #490

I want to walk as a child of the light

Remain standing, as able.

Opening Acclamation

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

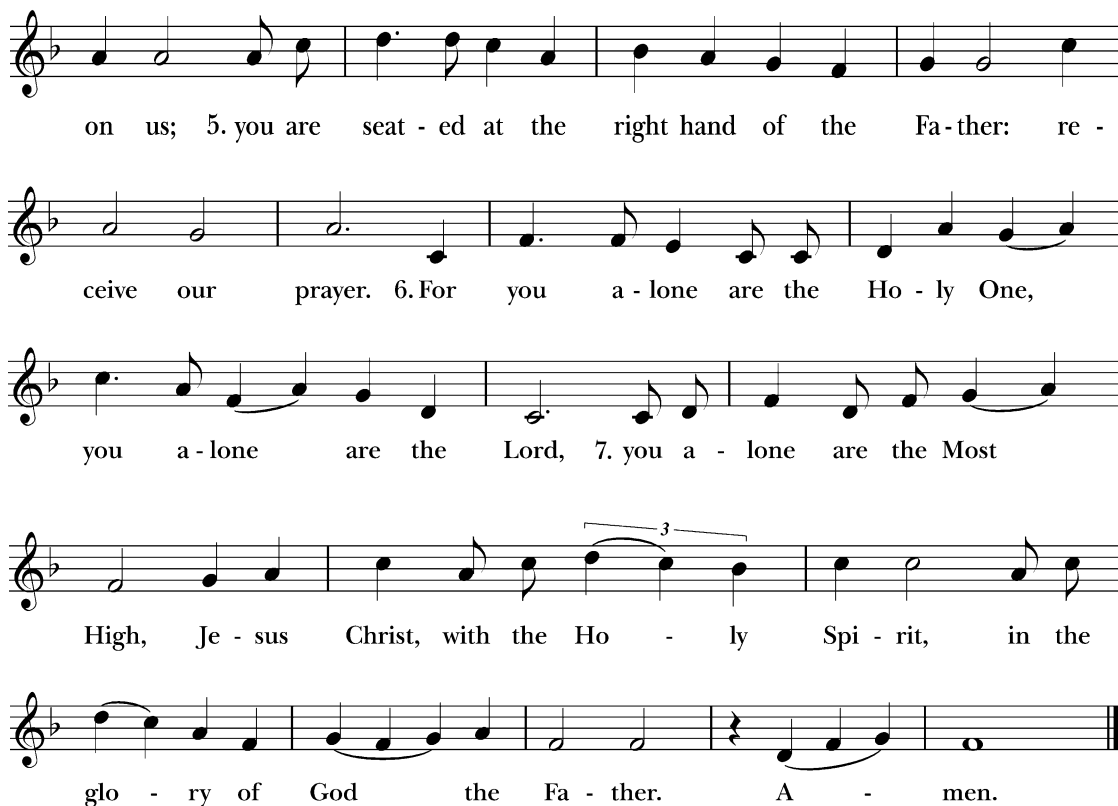
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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,

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: A reading from Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered,

“Here I am.” So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.” So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, “What are you seeking?” “I am seeking my brothers,” he said; “tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.” The man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.” But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him” —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

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

The Response

Psalm 105, 1-6, 16-22, 45b

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

Then he called for a famine in the land *
and destroyed the supply of bread.

He sent a man before them, *
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
 They bruised his feet in fetters; *
his neck they put in an iron collar.
 Until his prediction came to pass, *
the word of the LORD tested him.
 The king sent and released him; *
the ruler of the peoples set him free.
 He set him as a master over his household,
as a ruler over all his possessions,
 To instruct his princes according to his will
and to teach his elders wisdom.
 Hallelujah!

The Second Reading: A reading from Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
 on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #472, vss 1-3

Hope of the world

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 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

Confession of Sin

Celebrant 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.**

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

Victoria Fischer Faw

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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Proper Preface of the day

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.

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

Victoria Fischer Faw

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 #565

He who would valiant be

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Coming Lessons

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm 133

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Nancy Wilson	Nancy Wilson
Chalice Bearer	Jonathan Halsey	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Patti Phelps	Jann Boggs
Lector II	Patti Phelps	Jann Boggs
Prayers of the People	Patti Phelps	Jann Boggs
Greeter/Usher(s)	Jane & John Franck	Cynthia Grant

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Allan Joyce, Buck Hunnicutt, Chris, Denise Seckel, Diana Asher (Les' friend), Donald & Audrey Carter (Denise & Larry's friend), Edwin (Nancy's brother), Erin Mohr & her family, Gwen (Ann), Jeff (community friend), John & Pat Bassett, Karen & Dick Dewald (Erin's parents), Leann & Hywel & Emrys & Lillwen (Ann), Linda Williams & David Williams & family, Mindy (Vanessa's friend), Rita Woodruff, Shannan Roark, Steve (Vanessa's friend), Terry & Bess (Ann's BIL & sister). We also pray for all those impacted by violence, war and/or weather disasters, our local neighbors that fear detention, and Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Long-term prayers:

Angelia Miller, Antje & Bill, Brenda Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Coralie & her mother, Mary, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Gary Medley, Inza & Blair, Isabel, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Linda/Cindy/Trent, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Raymond Hindman, Rudy McKnight, Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev), Tom & Kate Warndorf, and Vanita.

Departed:

Birthdays: Betty Upchurch (Aug 11), Shelley Jones (Aug 12)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

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

In the Anglican Community: the Episcopal Church

In the Diocese of WNC: La Capilla de Santa Maria in Hendersonville, St Mary of the Hills in Blowing Rock, and St Mary's in Asheville

In Alleghany County: Macedonia Union Baptist Church

Schedule

Sunday, August 9 – The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Worship team meets

Monday, August 10

10:00 am – 25th Anniversary planning meeting in the Parish Hall

Tuesday, August 11

9:30 am – 2:00 pm – Volunteers are at SRFC

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

3:15 pm – Outreach meeting

Wednesday, August 12

9:30 am – 2:00 pm – Volunteers are at SRFC

Sunday, August 16 – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

2:00 pm – Graveside service for Jesse Williams

Monday, August 17

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

Tuesday, August 18

9:30 am – 2:00 pm – Volunteers are at SRFC

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Announcements

The Worship Team meets TODAY after coffee hour.

The 25th Anniversary Planning Team meets tomorrow, August 10th at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall.

The Outreach Team meets THIS Tuesday, August 11th at 3:15 pm.

The Centering Prayer/Book Discussion groups continue on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm. The Centering Prayer group will use *The Enneagram of the Soul* by Nhien Vuong to continue learning more about the enneagram. If you have any questions, contact Patti Phelps at frankandpatti@yahoo.com.

Living & Dying Well – Sundays: Aug 30, Sept 27, and Oct 25 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm
What does it mean to live well, even as we near the end of life? Have you made arrangements for your funeral? Does your family know where all your important documents are? Do you know where your parents' or loved ones' important documents are? Or what their wishes are?

Join us for a three-week series exploring the acclaimed PBS Frontline documentary *Being Mortal*, based on surgeon and writer Atul Gawande's bestselling book. Through intimate stories of patients, families, and doctors, the film asks hard but important questions about aging, illness, autonomy, and what truly matters when time is limited. The first two sessions include a portion of the film followed by open, faith-grounded conversation. The third session will include practical handouts for planning your funeral and making sure your family has all the documents they need. You're welcome to attend one or all three weeks. This is a gentle, thoughtful space to reflect on mortality, care for loved ones, and hope. Led by The Rev Karla Woggon. *Please sign up for each session so we can plan accordingly.*

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.

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 money gifts, nonperishable food and/or personal care items for our local food closet, Solid Rock Food Closet (SRFC). You can share non-perishable food and/or 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
Aug 9	Nancy Wilson	John Franck	Jane Franck
Aug 16		Marybeth Lentz	Arnold & Rebecca Gain
Aug 23		Jim Halsey	Barbara Halsey
Aug 30	Cynthia Grant	John Franck	Cynthia Grant