



*a diverse, inclusive church experiencing and reflecting the love, hope and joy of Jesus Christ
to each other and our community*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP | 11am | sunday | april 26, 2026

WELCOME | Pastor Doug Johns

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER

WAYS TO CONNECT | christchurchfl.org/ways2connect

Please see below.

PRELUDE

He Leadeth Me | arr. Albin C. Whitworth

Chuck Stanley, organ; Doug Friend, percussion

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*** CALL TO WORSHIP** | Susan Spragg, liturgist

Come, people of God—called not only to receive grace, but to share it.

We come as partners in God's work of salvation.

God's love is not meant to be held, but to be offered freely.

We will open our hearts and our hands to our community.

Where there are barriers, God calls us to build bridges.

We will act as God acts—welcoming, healing, and restoring.

This is our calling: to reflect God's grace in word and deed.

We come ready to serve, ready to love, ready to worship.

*** GATHERING HYMN**

God, Whose Love is Reigning o'er Us | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 100 (verses 1,2,4,5)

God, whose love is reigning o'er us, source of all, the ending true;

hear the universal chorus raised in joyful praise to you:

Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship new.

Word of God from nature bringing springtime green and autumn gold;

mountain streams like children singing, ocean waves like thunder bold:

Alleluia, Alleluia, as creation's tale is told.

Covenant, new again in Jesus, Starchild born to set us free;

sent to heal us, sent to teach us how love's children we might be.

Alleluia, Alleluia, risen Christ, our Savior he!

Lift we then our human voices in the songs that faith would bring;

live we then in human choices lives that, like our music, sing:

Alleluia, Alleluia, joined in love our praises ring!

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* OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, you have not only saved us, but invited us into your saving work. You call us to be more than recipients of grace—you call us to be vessels of it. Trust us with the sacred task of carrying your mercy into our neighborhoods, of offering welcome where there has been exclusion, and of opening doors where others have found only walls. Shape us into a people who act as you act: welcoming the stranger, lifting the burdened, and offering hope to those who feel forgotten. Give us the courage to remove obstacles that keep others from your love. Send us out as instruments of your salvation, so that our community may experience your love through our lives. Amen.

* AN EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who astounds us! God created towering mountains, sparkling sandy beaches, lush green meadows, and dazzling wonders in the night sky. From the hummingbird to the whale, all creation sings your praise. God surprises and astounds us in places where we expected God was absent.

We believe in Jesus, the Son of God, whose life, death, and resurrection transforms the world with the power of God's love. His body, crucified and buried, was placed in a tomb. Three days later, he rose from the dead. Jesus, our Risen Savior, embraces us with new life saying, "Because I live, you also will live."

We believe in the Holy Spirit who empowers us to be an Easter people, calling us to be witnesses to the resurrection. The Spirit fills us with strength and sends us out into the world to proclaim the good news: Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

* GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

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MUSIC MINISTRY

Beautiful Savior | arr. M. Ryan Taylor

Michael Marks, tenor

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SCRIPTURE

Matthew 20:1-16 | New Revised Standard Version, updated edition

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

These are the words of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Signs of the Kingdom | The Laborers in the Vineyard | Pastor Doug Johns

OFFERING

worshiping through the offering of our lives and gifts

- Place offerings in the plates or wooden boxes
- Give online at christchurchfl.org/give
- Text GIVE to 954.880.3885
- Mail a check to Christ Church, 4845 NE 25th Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

Connect cards may also be placed with your offering. Christ Church is a congregationally supported ministry. We thank you for your faithfulness as we reflect the love, hope and joy of Jesus to our community.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Make Me an Instrument | Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir

O Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith, where there is despair, hope, where there is darkness, light, where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that we might not seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying we are born to eternal life. Amen.

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* DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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MORNING PRAYER

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Christ, You Call Us All to Service | HYMN TO JOY

**Christ You call us all to service, call us all who follow you;
Plant in us a deep commitment all your work and will to do.
Fire a passion for your justice, in us kindle love of peace,
Help us heal the brokenhearted, to the captive bring release**

**Teach us how to work together, brothers, sisters side by side,
Equal partners in the struggle, in the cause of truth allied.
To each one some gift is given, man or woman young or old,
Help us use each skill and talent your great purpose to unfold.**

**Let us be a servant people reconciling ending strife,
Seeking ways more just of sharing, and of ordering human life.**

**Fill us with a glowing vision of this world as it should be;
Send us forth to change that vision into blest reality.**

Joy F. Patterson | © 1994 Hope Publishing Company | CCLI License # 487103

* SENDING FORTH

* RESPONSE

He Lives (refrain) | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 310

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.

He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know he lives. He lives within my heart.

Alfred Henry Ackley | © words & music: 1933 Homer A. Rodeheaver | renewed 1961 Curb Word Music | CCLI License # 487103

MUSIC FOR CLOSING

Voluntary in F major | Phil Lehenbauer

Chuck Stanley, organ

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* ***please stand in body or spirit.***

Join us next Sunday as we continue the series, *Signs of the Kingdom*, with the message, *Agents of Love*, based on Matthew 15:21-28.

WAYS TO CONNECT | christchurchfl.org/ways2connect

TODAY

CONNECT CARDS We want to know how you're doing. Please fill out a Connect Card, to tell us that you are here, how we can pray for you, and which ministries you're called to. We'd love to hear your ideas also. You'll find paper Connect Cards in the worship space and digital cards at christchurchfl.org/connectcard.

HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE TIME Coffee and snacks are available before the 9am and 11am services. Join your friends for coffee and conversation outside the kitchen window in the gym lobby.

AT THE TABLE today | 10:05am | fellowship hall 1 *At the Table* is a time to explore the scripture of the day and meet new people as you do. Invite friends and newcomers to join you. Plan to stay after the 9am service or come early for the 11am service for this time together; you don't need to hear the day's message to participate in the conversation. Holy Grounds will be open, so plan to grab a snack and coffee, and join us.

SERVE

JESUS WAS A MIGRANT SCREENING & DISCUSSION thursday | april 30 | 6:30pm | fellowship halls 1-3 The Anti-Racism Task Force will sponsor a free screening of the documentary, *Jesus was a Migrant*, on Thursday evening, April 30. The film follows Dr. Jemar Tisby to the U.S.-Mexico border to examine a theological tension at the heart of American Christianity: the asylum seekers and the people who turned them away share the same faith. It addresses immigration and Christian Nationalism in light of the January 20, 2025, shut down of CBP One app and canceling asylum appointments at the southwest border, affecting thousands of immigrants. A community discussion will follow the film. Popcorn and beverages will be ready at 6pm, before the film begins at 6:30.

PART-TIME OUTREACH COORDINATOR application deadline | april 30 Christ Church is seeking a dedicated individual with a passion for outreach ministry to coordinate the ministries of Christ Church at the Parkway campus. The Coordinator of Outreach and Parkway Pantry will oversee daily pantry operations and community outreach initiatives to foster a welcoming, hopeful, and loving environment. This role includes managing volunteers, ensuring smooth pantry processes, maintaining compliance with supporting agencies, and implementing impactful community events and meals. The position is part-time, 24 hours per week. Please email your letter of interest and resume to Rev. Doug Johns, djohns@christchurchfl.org, by April 30. Find a complete description at christchurchfl.org/jobs

BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY Thank you for your donations to the Blessings Food Pantry. The Blessings Food Pantry welcomes donations any time. The following items would be greatly appreciated: canned tuna and chicken, canned or boxed soups, cereals, instant potatoes, tomato sauce, rice, pasta, mac-and-cheese, canned beans, saltine crackers, jelly, peanut butter, coffee/tea, canned fruit, canned ravioli, canned meat such as Spam, and cereal bars. If you'd like us to do the shopping, donations can be made at christchurchfl.org/give, with Blessings Pantry in the notes field, or make out a check to Christ Church and write Blessings Pantry on the memo line. Learn more at christchurchfl.org/blessings

ZOE EMPOWERS We support the Arise and Shine Kironya Empowerment Group of 24 orphaned and abandoned teens and young adults as they learn the skills to be self-supporting through Zoe Empowers. Our partnership with them runs through December 2027. The skills taught by Zoe will help each young adult support themselves and their families in their context. You can learn more at christchurchfl.org/zoe

PREPARE BREAKFAST FOR PARKWAY The Parkway community breakfast is prepared in the Fort Lauderdale kitchen early Sunday morning. This is a great opportunity for families to serve together. Students can earn service hours. Send an email to info@christchurchfl.org if your family or group can help.

HEAT DINNERS FOR PARKWAY On Wednesdays, we're preparing Christ Church's famous and tasty meatloaf and side dishes in the Fort Lauderdale kitchen for our guests on the Parkway Campus. Flex volunteer time 2-4pm. This is a great opportunity for families to serve together after school. Students can earn service hours. If you are interested, please send an email to info@christchurchfl.org

JOIN THE WELCOME TEAM Do you enjoy greeting your church family and welcoming guests? The Welcome Team would be a great place for you to serve. Welcome Team members also help serve communion and collect the offering. Some welcome team members serve as ushers and greeters for memorial services and other special events. Michele Apple and Jeanne Deinken lead this team. Serving with the Welcome Team is a great way to get to know your church family. Sign up at christchurchfl.org/serve

BE PART OF THE WORSHIP TECH TEAM Put your tech skills to work for God. If you would like to be part of the team that helps run the cameras and visuals for worship, send an email to info@christchurchfl.org

CONNECT

SHARED MEALS You are invited to share a meal and community twice each week on the Parkway Campus. On Wednesday, 4:30-6pm, dinner is served to all who come. On Sunday, breakfast is shared 9-10am. This is a great way to build community with our neighbors. The Parkway Campus is located at 100 NE 44th Street, Deerfield Beach.

CHRIST CHURCH AT TRIVIA NIGHT **mondays | 7:30pm | Funky Buddha Brewery** Join us as we play trivia. It's an informal gathering of folks who have fun trying to answer the questions and catching up on one another's lives. Look for the Christ Church team at the Funky Buddha, 1201 NE 38th Street, Oakland Park, on Monday nights.

GROW

LAY SERVANT MINISTRY CLASSES **saturday | may 2 | 7:30am-6pm** Lay Servant Ministries is one of the most impactful lay leadership development programs within the United Methodist connection. It equips and empowers laity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ—and to lead others into discipleship through service, teaching, and witness. Three courses will be offered: Lay Servant Ministry Basic Course; Each one a Minister (Using God's Gifts for Ministry); and Afire with God (Becoming Spirited Stewards). The course fee is \$50 and includes course materials, light breakfast and lunch. For additional information, email Connie Bookholt, cbookholt@nationalgroup.com

MORNING PRAYERS Join your church family for morning prayers Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30am. Begin the day praying with your church family on the Christ Church Facebook page, [@christchurchfl](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchfl). If you can't be online at 7:30, a recording of morning prayers is available on Facebook.

HEALING

FAITH CARING GROUP **mondays | 1pm** The Faith Caring Group reflects and addresses the need for caring and assistance as well as grief support. The group meets on Zoom every Monday of the month, except the second Monday when members have lunch at H2Ocean, 5975 N Federal Hwy #103, Fort Lauderdale. For more information, send an email to info@christchurchfl.org with your contact information. A Faith Caring Group leader will get back to you.

STUDENTS

FOOD. FUN. FRIENDS. returns **sunday | may 3 | 10am | fellowship hall 4** Sixth- to 12th graders, plus Christ Church School and Christ Church fifth graders, are invited to play games, enjoy snacks and just hang out with other students after the 9am service on Sunday morning. If you have questions, please contact youth ministry leader Phil Woodard, known as Mr. W, at pwoodard@christchurchfl.org

FREEWAY'S FIRST EVENING EVENT **sunday | may 17 | 6-8pm** All 6th through 12th graders, plus fifth-graders from Christ Church School and Christ Church, are invited to Flagged Manhunt & Food. Gather in the gym lobby at 6pm before we head to the lawn around the pavilion for manhunt, then break out the pizza. If you have questions, please contact student ministry leader Phil Woodard, known as Mr. W, at pwoodard@christchurchfl.org

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

LEAD THE LORD'S PRAYER & APOSTLES CREED **first sundays** Children are invited to lead the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed in the 9am and 11am services on the first Sunday of each month. Email Pastor Monique to volunteer, mmcbride@ccsfl.org

i9 SPORTS AT CHRIST CHURCH Soccer, flag football, basketball and multi-sport programs are open for children age 3 and up. i9 is a community-based program devoted to helping children succeed. Learn about all of the opportunities on the i9 website. i9sports.com

CHURCH BUSINESS

PASTORAL TRANSITION ANNOUNCED On Sunday, April 12, 2026, Holly Aragon Jones, chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee, announced that Rev. Dr. Cathy Johns and Rev. Doug Johns will retire this June. Rev. Jad Denmark will become lead pastor of Christ Church in July 2026. Pastor Jad served as Director of Student Ministry at Christ Church in the early 2000s; his wife Shelly was a teacher at Christ Church School, before they both attended Candler School of Theology at Emory University. You can read a letter from the Johnses and watch a greeting video from the Denmarks at christchurchfl.org/pastors We are grateful to the Johnses for their joyful service the past two years, and we look forward to welcoming the Denmarks this summer.

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CHURCH CONFERENCE monday | may 11 | 6:30pm | sanctuary Church members are invited to a church conference for the final vote to add a middle school to Christ Church School. Members will consider architectural plans, projected costs, and financial plans for the middle school at Christ Church School. If you have questions about your membership at Christ Church, please contact membership secretary Claudia Bhatt, cbhatt@christchurchfl.org.

MAY COUNCIL MEETING The next Church Council meeting will be Monday, May 11, after the Church Conference in Fellowship Halls 1-3.