

THE COMMUNICANT

Christ Church Episcopal

A ministry of the Diocese of Ohio

*Seeking to be a welcoming community of faith, grounded
in the gospel of Jesus Christ, serving Hudson and beyond.*

March



2026

A season of letting go
to make room for

grace

L E N T

Praying

Fasting

Almsgiving

Join us on our Lenten journey, a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a period of personal preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

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VECTOR OF THE RECTOR – Pointing somewhere vaguely spiritual



Photo credit: Andrew Le

As I write this, I've just brought my seven-week-old to the cathedral for Ash Wednesday. She had no idea what was happening, of course, but she received a tiny smudge of ashes on her forehead—a little reminder of our mortality, and of God's love that meets us even in the smallest, most bewildered moments. And that's exactly where Lent begins: 40 days in the wilderness, with Jesus, facing temptation.

Jesus is thirty, newly baptized by his cousin John, and stepping into his ministry. If most of us were starting a world-changing mission, we'd go on a speaking tour, hold press conferences, and get as much visibility as possible.

Jesus? He goes into the wilderness. Forty days. No food. No water. Just fasting and prayer. And the devil shows up.

Now, I get tempted. Lazy moments, gossip, late-night Amazon splurges. But Jesus' temptations? Strange. Rocks into bread. Worship Satan to become Caesar. Jump from a pinnacle and have angels catch you.

Hebrews 4:15 says, "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who... has been tested as we are, yet without sin."

How can we relate? The key isn't the odd acts themselves—it's the pattern. The devil doesn't just offer sin; he offers *excuses*.

- "I may have gossiped, but it was for someone else's good."
- "It's harmless flirting."
- "I deserve this drink after my day."
- "I fudged the numbers, but my competitor lies worse."

Excuses. Rationalizations. That's the devil's best-seller. And that's what he offers Jesus:

- "Turn this stone to bread—you'll need energy for ministry."
- "Worship me—you could rule like Caesar and enforce God's law quickly."
- "Jump—the angels will prove you're the Messiah and silence critics."

The real danger isn't an outside tempter waving sin in front of us—it's the little voice inside whispering, "It's okay, because..." Our strongest temptation is *self-justification*: convincing ourselves we're good enough, lovable, worthy... even when we know we're not perfect.

So what do we do? First, notice. Pay attention to the excuses you tell yourself. Ask, "Would a neutral observer accept this?" That's useful, but any therapist could tell you that. The Gospel offers more.

Jesus responds to temptation immediately. No hesitation. Why? Just before the wilderness, God said to him:

Continued on next page...

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“You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well-pleased.” Jesus didn’t need to justify himself. He knew he was loved.

God says the same to us: “You are my beloved; with you I am well-pleased.” Not because we’re perfect, not because we earned it, but because we are loved. Through Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven and free.

We no longer need to justify ourselves. We don’t have to live by bread, coffee, money, ego, or shortcuts alone. God’s love has already made us whole.

So let’s be honest about our temptations. Let’s notice our self-justifications. And let’s remember the truth: We are beloved.

Charlie+

HOLY WEEK 2026

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
HUDSON

29
MARCH

PALM SUNDAY
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

3
APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY
NOON & 7:00PM

2
APRIL

MAUNDY THURSDAY
W/ FOOTWASHING
7:00 PM

5
APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY
8:00 AM & 10:30AM
EGG HUNT
11:45 AM

ENTER THE STORY OF HOLY WEEK. COME, PRAY, AND
WALK WITH US AT CHRIST CHURCH.



Help Make Palm Crosses Friday, March 27th at 1:00 p.m.

Christ Church will be making Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday on Friday, March 27 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. No experience? No problem! There will be people available to teach you. Many hands are needed, so please plan on joining us for this annual tradition at Christ Church. Contact Jane Harrison to let her know you can help at decojane@gmail.com.

HEALING SERVICE

Thursday, March 5th at 9:30 am



Once a month, a healing service is offered at 9:30 in the Chapel for all who would like to ask prayers for themselves or others. The service lasts about 30 minutes and includes Holy Eucharist. Join us for this quiet, yet powerful service.

COMPLINE

Sunday, March 15th

Dinner - 5:30pm

Candle Lighting - 6pm

Quiet Time - 6:15pm

Service Starts - 6:30pm



Join us for a time to unwind after a long week. This brief, candle filled, and fully chanted service is led by the Adult Choir. Compline allows us to tune out the busy world and sit quietly in a holy space, surrounded by candlelight.

BOOK STUDY & CONVERSATION

Join us this spring as a small group of us gather in the Parish Hall for a guided conversation around *Decolonizing Palestine* by the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, a Palestinian Christian theologian in the Lutheran tradition. Rather than approaching the Israel–Palestine conflict as a simple two-sided debate, the study introduces participants to the perspective of a Palestinian Christian theologian, reflecting a minority Christian experience that is often overlooked in broader public discourse.

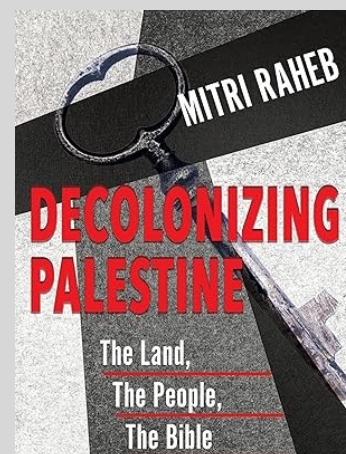
Participants will engage Raheb’s work as one theological lens among many, exploring how history, scripture, identity, and power shape biblical interpretation and contemporary Christian thought. The emphasis will be on careful listening, critical reflection, and respectful conversation, without the expectation of agreement or consensus. Discussion will follow a structured, circle-based format that invites active listening, brief reflections from each participant, and encourages thoughtful engagement rather than debate.

Saturday: March 14 from 2-4pm

Wednesday: Mar 25 and Apr 8 from 7-9pm

For more information or to register, contact Rowan Wehrmann at 440-263-7362 or email rowansattva@aol.com.

Virtual participation will also be available.



Celebration of New Ministry

Tuesday, April 21st at 6pm

Bishop Anne Jolly will join us on April 21 to install Fr. Charlie as our rector and celebrate our ministry together. More details will be forthcoming this month, but please save the date and plan to attend this special service!

Regional Confirmations and Rites of Initiation: May 30th at 3:00 PM

This spring, Christ Church will be welcoming our bishop twice in the span of two months—something that usually happens only once every two years. On Tuesday, April 21 at 6pm, the bishop will be with us to install Fr. Charlie as Rector and to celebrate our new pastoral relationship together. Then, on Saturday, May 30 at 3pm, Christ Church will serve as a host site for regional confirmations, welcoming candidates from across the area. If you'd like to be baptized, confirmed, received, or have questions, please reach out to Fr. Charlie at Charlie.knuth@christchurchhudson.org.

March Adult Forum: The Gospel and Anglican Identity

What does it actually mean to be Anglican—and why does it matter? This Lent, Fr. Charlie will offer a four-part Adult Sunday School series exploring the history, theology, and spiritual instincts that shape our life together. Whether you're new to the Episcopal Church or have been here for decades, this series is designed to deepen understanding and spark thoughtful conversation. We will meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall:

March 1 – Features of the Anglican Church

Why do Anglicans care so much about bishops, the Book of Common Prayer, and the “middle way”? We'll explore the three defining features that set Anglicanism apart—and why no one in our tradition ever quite gets everything they want.

March 8 – Pre-Reformation History of the English Church

Before Henry VIII and the Reformation drama, there were Celtic monks, political intrigue, mystics, martyrs, and missionaries. This session traces the surprising and colorful roots of English Christianity long before it became “Anglican.”

March 15 – Episcopal Church Identity

How did a church tied to the English crown become the Episcopal Church in a brand-new republic? From revolution and apostolic succession to lay governance and American adaptation, we'll look at how Anglicanism took on a distinctly American expression.

March 22 – What is in the Prayer Book?

Spoiler: it's not just prayers on paper—it's your cheat sheet for living an Episcopal life, from baptism to burial, with theology, history, and enough holy wisdom to keep you out of trouble (mostly).

A Thursday evening Zoom option will be available for those who can't attend Sunday mornings. Same subject matter different time: **March 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 7pm**. Links for the Zoom sessions will be sent out in the weekly Collect.

Participation is not required for any rites—this series is simply an opportunity for learning, reflection, and discernment.



Ladies Night Out!

TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH AT 5:30 P.M.

Join us for another evening of food, fun, and fellowship! We will gather at Steele House Kitchen and Bar in Stow on Tuesday, March 17th at 5:30. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/CCEHLadiesnight> or through the office or by March 13. Questions? Contact RuthAnne Belton at therevmrs52@gmail.com



MEN'S NIGHT OUT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4TH | 6:00 PM | LAGER & VINE

Join us for Men's Night Out—an evening of good food, hearty conversation, and a chance to connect outside of Sunday morning. We'll gather at Lager & Vine in Hudson at 6pm on Wednesday, March 4. No sign up required. Just come hungry and bring a friend! ! Questions? Contact Lee Carpenter at lbcarpen@gmail.com.



Easter Egg Hunt

**EASTER SUNDAY
AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE**

For children in 5th Grade and under

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BASKET!



Birthdays and Anniversary PRAYERS

You have probably noticed that we pray for those who are celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries each week during our Sunday morning services and include those names in the bulletins. If you are a newer member to Christ Church (within the last two years) we may not have your birthdays or anniversaries in our database and we would love to include you in our prayers. If you would like to be included, email Kathy Garber at Kathy.garber@christchurchhudson.org and we will add you!



Coffee Hour

Coffee + snacks + conversation = a great way to serve! Hosting Coffee Hour is simple and fun—whether solo or with a friend. We'll walk you through the process, and costs can be reimbursed. Sign up through the office, or at tinyurl.com/CCCoffeeHour. Contact Maryanne Buchanan at bmarcap567@gmail.com with any questions.



Youth Group
March 1st and 15th
For students in 6th-12th grades

The youth group has two unique gatherings coming up in March!

On Sunday, March 1, we'll meet at the church at 3:45 pm to carpool to Grace House Akron. (We were snowed out last month, so we're grateful for a second chance to go!) Grace House is a hospice ministry offering compassionate, dignified end-of-life care and support to individuals who are homeless or lack adequate resources.

Our youth will spend the afternoon assisting with volunteer tasks, learning more about this unique ministry, and reflecting on the ways we are called to serve Christ in others. We'll return to the church later that evening.

On Sunday, March 15, we'll gather in the youth room at 4:30 pm for a hands-on rosary bead-making workshop with Fr. Charlie and Mother Mikayla before heading upstairs for dinner together. It will be a creative and prayerful time as we learn about this devotional practice and make something meaningful to take home.

Ohio-Montana Youth Group Gathering
Summer 2026

Youth Exchange | August 8–16

While we had budgeted for a youth mission trip this year, the lack of a youth ministry point has made that difficult. Fortunately, St. Peter's Episcopal Church is hosting a youth exchange with the Episcopal Diocese of Montana (Fr. Charlie's old stomping grounds!), and we've joined the planning team, opening this opportunity to our parishioners.

The exchange will include a youth-appropriate Habitat for Humanity build, service at a large men's shelter, interfaith learning at a mosque and synagogue, exploration of Midwest industrial history, and visits to Bellwether Farm, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Science Museum, and Cedar Point. We anticipate offering the program at no cost to participants.

If your teen is interested in attending, please talk to Fr. Charlie.

Aug 8: Arrival; host pick-up & dinner.

Aug 9: St. Peter's worship (MT hosts coffee hour); Rocky River picnic, games & compline.

Aug 10: Habitat Playhouse Work Day; Evening Prayer & dinner.

Aug 11: Magnet Program (10–1:30); Community Meal prep/serve.

Aug 12: Cedar Point (all day).

Aug 13: West Side Market; cathedral healing service; Science Museum.

Aug 14: Muslim service; CMA & Cultural Gardens.

Aug 15: St. Luke's Work Day; Temple services; Lake-wood/Edgewater sunset & fellowship.

Aug 16: Depart for home.

Sunday School Update

Thank you for your continued patience during the hiring process. Since December 23, the parish has received 28 applications for Sunday School Coordinator and 13 for Youth Minister. The search committee (Cathy Agnor, Tom Wise, Theresa Edwards, Sallie Bear, and the Rector) has another interview scheduled the first week of March, with what appears to be the strongest candidate yet. Please keep this process in your prayers; there is hope that more concrete news will be shared soon.

Deep gratitude is extended to Courtney Bixby, Linda Pitz, Lisa Ciocia, Carmella Jackson, Megan Repko, and Marcie Harvey for stepping forward to form a new Sunday School rota. The parish asked, and they said yes. Their generosity and commitment have made weekly Sunday School possible during this interim season and are laying a strong foundation for when a new coordinator begins. Sunday School continues to meet weekly throughout the program year, with plans to transition to Children's Chapel during the summer.



Photo credit: Andrew Le

Notes from the Director of Music

Mario Buchanan

Director of Music and Organist

mario.buchanan@christchurchudson.org

As Episcopalians and Anglicans, choral music sits in a place of great importance in our regular worship. Just think about worship on major services in the church, ranging from Advent to the crowning of the King of England, what would these liturgies be without choral music? Our tradition comes out of a centuries long tradition dating to the Anglican Church with various monarchs. Each monarch had their own court choir called the “Chapel Royale”, which would travel with them.

Medieval Cathedrals also had their own choirs which would sing for various services. In many respects the choir was a place of refuge and support for those it served: boys who were orphaned found a home in the church and men found an outlet to be active in worship. Also true today, members of these choirs who sing services (often many times a week) have a special bond that unites them in purpose but also acts as a way of fellowship. Community building.

So, you might wonder: what with all the bother? Why have choirs? What return on investment do we get? Like I tell the choirs here, choir is a team sport. There are no losers, only winners. Choir grants opportunities for forging new friendships, nurturing lasting relationships, and learning mentorship. Choirs require many resources to run smoothly, but so do any healthy relationships. It is that constant communication that builds. The benefits are incalculable.

Finally, there is one choir that is the most important in any church and it involves all of you: the congregation. It is always the largest choir in the building because it is *everyone* in the church. Our singing not only is an external representation for our combined love of God but it is also an internal representation of that same love. As William Byrd said, “The honor indeed be to God, but your pleasure.”

Blessings,

Mario

MUSIC FROM THE WESTERN RESERVE

The nationally acclaimed Capital University Chapel Choir, led by Dr. Lynda R. Hasseler, performs a powerful program featuring Alex Berko’s moving work Sacred Place in an evening of inspiring choral excellence. A pre-concert talk begins at 4:30 pm with a reception following the concert. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.musicwr.org/tickets>.

March 29th | 5pm
CAPITAL UNIVERSITY CHAPEL CHOIR
at Christ Church Episcopal



EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS



Donations for sanctuary flowers are welcome from all in celebration, as a memorial, or in thanksgiving.

Your gift will be noted in the Easter bulletins provided the necessary information is received in the church office by

Monday, March 30th

Christ Church 2026 Easter Flower Donation

NAME(S): _____ AMOUNT: _____

In memory... In celebration of... In thanksgiving for...
(please circle one of the above and provide the details below)

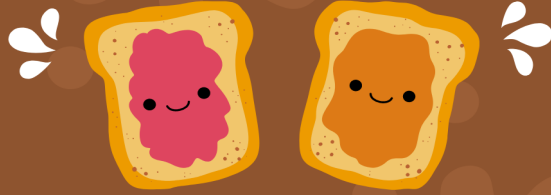
Please send with your check payable to Christ Church with "Easter Flowers" on the memo line or scan the code to submit your dedication electronically by **Monday, March 30th**.





OUTREACH MINISTRY

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY BRIGADE



PB & J WITH A PURPOSE

Please join the Outreach Committee in the Parish Hall at 10:00 AM on March 21 as we come together to make 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the unhoused ministry out of St. Bernard's Church in Akron. We urge anyone and everyone to volunteer at some point, for every month we will put out the call to get to know each other, get sticky, and do good! For more information, contact Judy Brookhart at judyots@gmail.com.

Hudson Food Pantry



Laundry Detergent Collection

Christ Church continues to provide laundry detergent for the Hudson Food Pantry each month. The Food Pantry is requesting **45** jugs of detergent, or packs of pods/sheets by March 26 for the next distribution. Please place your donations on the metal cart in the coatroom or outside the back door if it is locked. Thank you!

Expanding our Monthly Food Bank Collection

The Hudson Community Service Association Food Pantry, located at Rejoice Lutheran Church on Stow Road, is unique in that it is an open pantry where our neighbors can shop and choose what they want and need, instead of getting prepackaged items. We currently contribute laundry soap, which is much appreciated. However, the requests for food assistance from this pantry have steadily increased, and they have added a second distribution day each month on a trial basis. Given this fact, we are increasing our monthly donations to include items that are needed the most each month. The Food Pantry has indicated that there continues to be a need for canned salmon. Donations can be placed in the white wooden box in the coat room. Thank you!



2026 Outreach Allocations

The Outreach Ministry met on February 22 and agreed to continue to provide support to the same organizations that funds were allocated to in 2025. If you would like more information about these organizations, please reach out to Judy Brookhart at judyots@gmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity:	\$2500	Open M:	\$1000
Akron-Canton Food Bank:	\$1000	Family Promise:	\$1000
Hudson Community Resource Coordinator:	\$1500	First Serve:	\$1000
Rift Valley Children's Village in Tanzania:	\$1000		

Bellwether Farm Summer Camp

Experience one of the Episcopal Church’s newest and most exciting camp adventures! Nestled on a 137-acre sustainable farm outside of Oberlin. Bellwether Farm combines faith, nature, and hands-on learning for an unforgettable summer.

Visit bellwetherfarm.com to learn more and register.

If you have questions, Fr. Charlie will be serving as camp chaplain from July 19–24 and would be happy to chat. Our camp is truly a gem—let’s make the most of it!

We’re also thrilled to welcome Renzi Ricketts, Bellwether’s Director of Program Innovation, after services on March 15. Renzi will meet parishioners, families, and youth, answer any questions about camp, and share some camp swag. Rumor has it, the Bellwether Airstream might even make an appearance!



2026 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

	FAMILY CAMP (ALL AGES)	JUNE 5-7
1	RISING 9-12 GRADE CAMPERS	JUNE 7-12
2	RISING 6-9 GRADE CAMPERS	JUNE 14-19
3	RISING 1-5 GRADE CAMPERS	JUNE 21-26
	MINI CAMP: RISING 1-3	JUNE 21-23
4	RISING 3-9 GRADE CAMPERS	JULY 5-10
	MINI CAMP-RISING 2-4	JULY 5-7
5	RISING 3-9 GRADE CAMPERS	JULY 12-17
	MINI CAMP-RISING 3-5	JULY 12-14
6	RISING 4-6 GRADE CAMPERS	JULY 19-24
	FAMILY CAMP (ALL AGES)	JULY 24-26



Bellwether
FARM

CAMP • RETREAT • EDUCATION CENTER



Jordan Repko ~ 3/1
 Maria Metoki ~ 3/1
 Tom Clark ~ 3/3
 Pat Schron ~ 3/3
 Marleigh Bowen ~ 3/5
 Isabelle Guglielmi ~ 3/7
 Colvin Barnhardt ~ 3/8
 Flint Barnhardt ~ 3/8
 Ella Harvey ~ 3/9
 Abigail Bailey ~ 3/10
 Tracey Vaughn ~ 3/10
 Katie Barger ~ 3/11
 Christopher Guglielmi ~ 3/14
 Gretchen Green ~ 3/15
 Maxwell Rees ~ 3/15
 Daniel Grossoehme ~ 3/20
 Matthew Le ~ 3/21
 Ed Wiles ~ 3/21
 Greg Schumacher ~ 3/21
 James Boazzo ~ 3/22
 John MacMillan ~ 3/22
 Sara Althouse ~ 3/24
 Ruth Anne Belton ~ 3/28
 Sarah Fulytar ~ 3/31



Peter & Nan Ryerson ~ 3/30



Thank you to....

... Rev. Allan Belton for leading the February Healing Service
 ...Courtney Bixby, Linda Pitz, Lisa Ciocia, Carmella Jackson, Megan Repko, and Marcie Harvey for stepping forward to form our new Sunday School rota.
 ...All who helped with the memorial service for Jack Brookhart
 ...All who helped with the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper
 ...Our February Coffee Hour hosts: Susan Arnold, Tom Dukes, and Deb Carpenter
 ...Linda Irving for providing dinner for February Compline
 ...Lori Metoki and Theresa Edwards for making care packages for our college students for Valentine's Day
 ...Tina Monreal for her help with the 2025 parochial report



February Vestry Meeting Highlights

- The Vestry met on February 24, opening in prayer with the Tuesday Midnight Office and a brief reflection on fixed-hour prayer in the Anglican tradition.
- Fr. Charlie reported that while January attendance was slightly down, parish life remains active. He will return from parental leave beginning March 1, resuming Sunday worship and adult formation, along with a part-time office schedule during a brief transition.
- Preparations are underway for the bishop's visit, including opportunities for baptisms, confirmations, and receptions.
- The search continues for a Youth Minister and Sunday School Coordinator. A summer Youth Exchange is being planned with St. Peter's, Cleveland, and the Episcopal Diocese of Montana.
- Treasurer Ann Kirk reported a strong January financial position due to prepaid pledges and early 2026 contributions. The Vestry approved the 2026 Parochial Report and diocesan assessment.
- The Vestry also addressed staffing changes. After seven years of service, bookkeeper Susie Vanaman has resigned. The Vestry voted to engage Millette and Company, a CPA firm, for bookkeeping services and to contract with Paycheck for payroll processing. The transition will involve additional coordination from parish staff.
- Outreach allocations were approved at last year's levels, supporting Hudson Community Resource Coordinator, First Serve, Family Promise, Akron-Canton Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Open M, and Rift Valley Children's Village in Tanzania.
- Plans are underway for the Celebration of New Ministry on April 21, which will formally welcome Fr. Charlie.
- The next Vestry meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00 p.m.




Christ Church Episcopal

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801-635-5162

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The Rev. Dr. Daniel Grosseohme, Priest
The Rev. Gretchen Green, Deacon

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Mario.buchanan@christchurchhudson.org

Russ Gaippe, Sexton
Norma Harbison, Housekeeping
Marcena Brown, Housekeeping
Matt Baker, A/V Technician
Jada Chapman, Nursery Attendant

Vestry

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Sallie Bear, Jr. Warden:
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Cathy Agnor
Susan Arnold
Lee Carpenter
Lori Metoki
Malcolm Robbie
Rich Wilson
Thomas Wise

**Christ Church Hudson
is a Parish of the
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
www.dohio.org**



Spring forward in faith!
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and
join us on time for worship.

**Daylight Savings begins on Sunday, March 8th.
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour
before you go to bed on Saturday the 7th,
so you're not late for church on Sunday!**