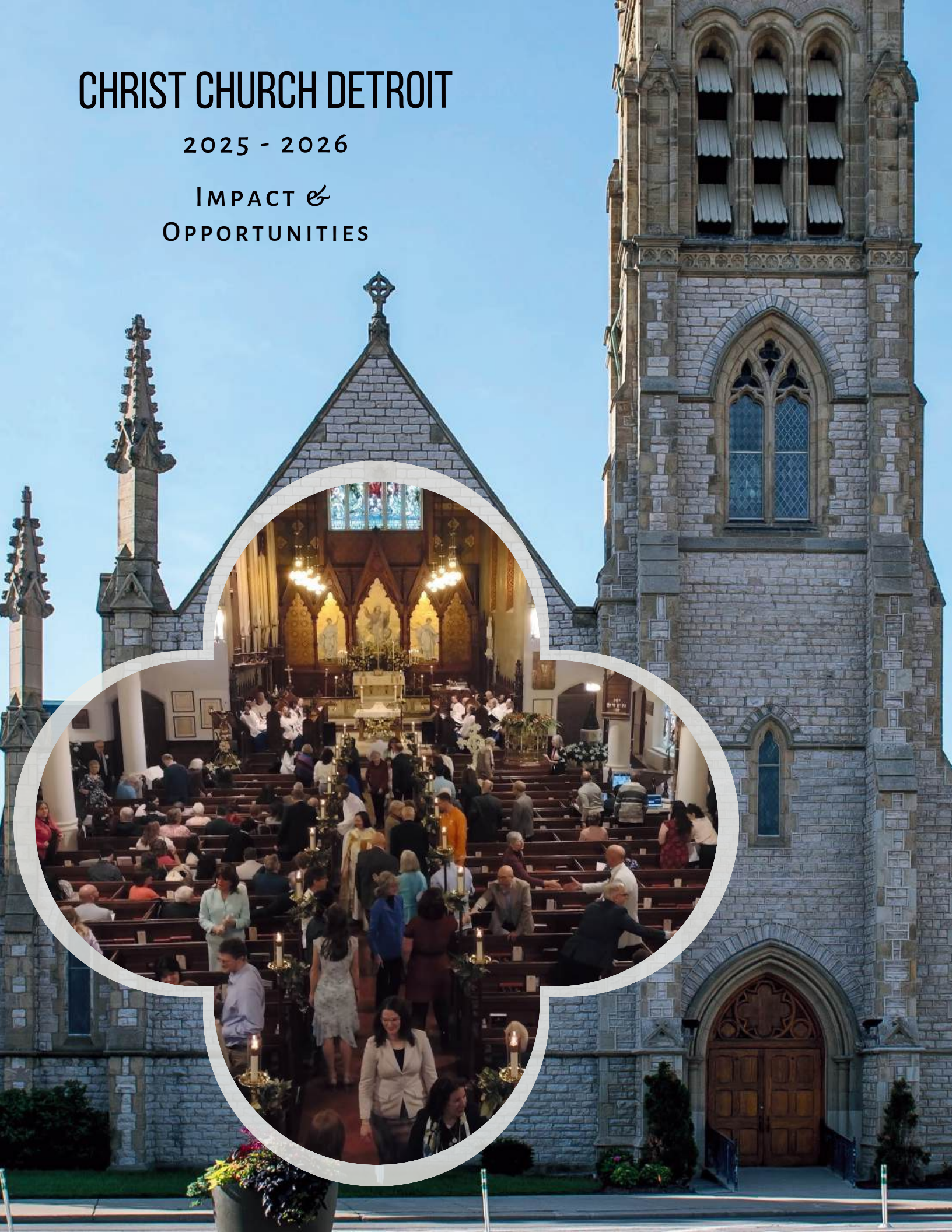


# CHRIST CHURCH DETROIT

2025 - 2026

IMPACT &  
OPPORTUNITIES





960 E. Jefferson, Detroit MI, 48207  
313-259-6688 | www.christcd.org | @christchurchdetroit

*The mission of Christ Church is to be a diverse, inclusive community, which, through its lively worship of Jesus Christ and witness in His name, serves the Christ in all persons and shines as a beacon of hope throughout the heart of Detroit.*

Christ Church strives, today and always, to be a beacon of hope especially through outreach, worship, and hospitality. We are a contemporary, open and affirming, multi-racial, multi-ethnic congregation, enlivened by the Holy Spirit to serve Christ in the world around us.

Some of us were just born into the Episcopal Church, some were received into it as adults, and some of us are just discovering or exploring it now. We are straight and LGBTQIA+, single, married, divorced, and remarried, with and without children. We hail from all over Detroit and the metro area, and across the Canadian border.

We cling to one another because prayer and worship strengthen us in our daily lives, and because together we find community, acceptance, mission, and love.

We hope that in these pages, you will learn more about our church and some of its ministries, and how you can be involved and make it stronger and more beautiful with your presence.

May the peace of Christ be always with you!

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# FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey  
emily@christcd.org

Rev. Emily joined us in 2018 as our 19<sup>th</sup> rector, or priest in charge, and is the first woman to hold the position.

She grew up in the area and loves music, teaching, community development, and parenting.

Welcome to Christ Church Detroit!

I'm so glad that you are here and that this little booklet has made its way into your hands. I hope that in these reflections from 2025 and opportunities in 2026, you discover ways to grow in faith, to meet people, to make friends, learn deeply, to share of yourself even in ways that may feel awkward at first or sometimes tiring, and always to know that whatever you do or whatever you leave undone, as the prayer says, you belong here and you are treasured, just as you are.

And to those of you whose hands are already full with ministries, whose cups and calendars overflow, I hope that you, too, see how important your efforts and energy are to all of us, including me.

No Christian is solitary; no follower of Christ could ever be or work alone. I am so grateful to work with some of the best people ever, and wish to recognize our staff with whom I have the honor of working closely.

February 2026 marks Dr. Edward Maki-Schramm's tenth anniversary as our Director of Music! His profound virtuosity, constant dedication, ready collaboration, and especially his heart for hospitality and refuge strengthen who we are and grow our faith. Katrina Van Maanen, Soprano & Youth Choir Director, inspires our children with boundless energy, poise, and skill. Robyn Campagne, Bookkeeper, quietly and skillfully keeps financial ducks in a row. Beth Ann Tesluk, Associate for Communications, creates thoughtful messages, has an eagle-eye for detail, and shares her compassionate heart with community near and far. 2025 marked the first full year for both Joshilyn Hoisington, Parish Administrator, and Artur Kolc, Facilities Manager, and what skill, diligence, and warm camaraderie each of them bring, in their own ways.

Gabby, Ari, Dahlia, Brandon, and Ashlynn each help host events and/or staff the nursery, and we're grateful for the consistent care and energy that they bring to our community!

Basically, I'm inspired every day by the faith of this church, for the forbearance so graciously afforded, the wonder and joy in true beauty, the pursuit of the kingdom ever near, the trust in the communion of saints; the offering of myriad skills and interests, the emergence of new ministries, the renewal of relationships, and for the practice and art of leadership. Thank you, simply, for the opportunity to be among you.

Together we frequently pray the "Restore, Renew, Rejoice" prayer and seek to live it:

*Faithful God,*

*you call us to be living stones in a spiritual temple.*

*Bless the mission and outreach of Christ Church Detroit.*

*By the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us to restore its fabric,  
trustfully renew our vocation, and boldly rejoice in our ministries.*

*Make this place a house in which your love dwells and in which all people find welcome and strength.*

*Grant this, we pray, through the One who leads us ever onward in your service,*

*Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*



# WELCOME COMMITTEE

Paul Abdullah, Chair  
abdullah.paul@gmail.com

Committee members connect with visitors, newcomers, and seasoned parishioners alike. If you love to meet people and help make connections, and especially if you feel new-ish yourself, this is a great ministry for you!



In 2025, the Welcome Committee continued many initiatives from its start the previous year, which are now becoming traditions! Committee members provide welcome gift bags to newcomers at worship services, and help follow up with them afterwards if contact information is known.

Committee members also help to host social gatherings for newcomers and assist with Inquirers' courses. The courses highlight both the rich tradition of the Episcopal Church and the rich gifts our newest members bring from their varied backgrounds. During the annual Pentecost & Parish Anniversary services each May or June, the Committee joyfully assists the Vestry in officially welcoming new members!

The name tag initiative continues as well. If you haven't received a name tag yet or need a replacement, we would love to make one for you! Just ask any member of the Committee or the staff. Not only do name tags make it easier for new members to get to know us, but long-time members also benefit from occasional help putting the right name to a familiar face. Make wearing your name tag a part of your Sunday routine and an act of hospitality for your neighbors, old and new.

We have been blessed with many new faces this year, and it's a joy to get to know our newest members and visitors, who always impress me with their energy, faithfulness, and gifts. If you haven't gotten to know any new members lately, introduce yourself or ask a Committee member to make an introduction for you.

Thanks to our 2025 Committee members: Paul Abdullah (chair), Mary Brown, Mary Herring, Hope Hoffman, Lauren Leney, Carolyn Maher, Kevin Maher, Greg Sivi, Jim Treece, and Sandra Zull.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Say hello and introduce yourself to anyone who's new to you
- Introduce visitors to others at church
- Invite someone to join you in a project or ministry
- Wear your name tag as an act of hospitality
- Ask a staff or Committee member if you need a name tag
- Share your gifts and ideas with the Welcome Committee
- Attend Welcome Committee meetings (quarterly on Zoom)

The Stewardship Committee encourages all members to practice generosity by giving their time, talents, and treasures to the congregation. The Committee leads the annual campaign and coordinates opportunities for members to get to know one another.

# STEWARDSHIP

*Dean P. Simmer, Chair*  
[me@deanpsimmer.com](mailto:me@deanpsimmer.com)



The Stewardship Committee invites parishioners to embrace a spiritual discipline of gratitude and generosity, encouraging us all to serve Christ with our time, talents, and treasures. In practice, the Committee works to raise the pledges that allow the Vestry to prepare a realistic and sustainable budget for the coming year.

The 2025-26 campaign centered on the theme “Tell Out My Soul”, inspired by the hymn that calls us to proclaim the greatness of the Lord. We invite the congregation to reflect on what makes Christ Church Detroit special, whether it’s the welcoming community that greets newcomers, the outreach ministries that put faith into practice, the recovery meetings that offer hope and healing, the music that fills our sacred space, or the Sunday School volunteers who help us all grow closer to God.

In Fall 2025, several parish families hosted fellowship meals where we continued to build our relationships in the Christ Church community, discuss what brings us to the parish, and talk about the importance of our pledges to keep our ministries and campus running. The response from our parish family has been encouraging. As of January 24, 2026, we have received pledges from 73 households for a total of \$397,104. This represents a decrease in participation but higher average gifts compared to the previous year’s campaign, when we received pledges from 84 households totaling \$403,140.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who has participated in the 2025-2026 campaign: those who have increased their pledges, those who maintained their giving, and those who returned to pledging or began pledging for the first time. I recognize that each pledge represents a personal act of faith and commitment, made within the context of individual circumstances that only you and God fully understand. Whether your pledge increased, decreased, or stayed the same, your faithfulness and your willingness to do so helps our Vestry plan responsibly for the year ahead. If you haven’t yet pledged, or have never pledged before, I invite you to consider it. Please let me know if you’d like to chat about what that might look like for you in 2026.

- Pledge your support at [christcd.org/pledge-card/](http://christcd.org/pledge-card/)
- Give at [christcd.org/online-giving/](http://christcd.org/online-giving/), by mail, or in the offering
- Volunteer your time and skill in ministries and projects
- Host or attend a Stewardship Gathering
- Join the Stewardship Committee (meets periodically)

## OPPORTUNITIES

# VESTRY

Jim Treece, Secretary  
treece2jb75@gmail.com

The Vestry is the governing council of the parish, charged with the temporal affairs (e.g., money and buildings) of our congregational life. It is comprised of twelve members, serving overlapping 3-year terms. It typically meets on the fourth Thursdays of the month.



Vestry meetings begin with dinner, gathering time, prayer, and Bible study, building ties of community and faith so that, in the meeting that follows, we are prepared to seek and follow God's will for Christ Church.

While Rev. Emily has charge of our church's spiritual life - including worship, our growth as Christians, and leading us as we find new ways to serve God and our neighbors - the Vestry's key responsibilities are for the temporal affairs of the church. The Vestry also purposely sets enthusiastic examples of leadership involvement and participation in the church's ministries and activities.

It's thus no surprise that, aside from the Rector's monthly report, probably three quarters of our business meetings are devoted to oversight of a few key committees, including Finance and Buildings & Grounds, and currently the Capital Campaign, Renovation Action, and Resilience Hub efforts as well.

We regularly address Finance Committee resolutions on procedures to ensure that our church's funds are handled properly. We review whether the budget and its line items accurately reflect what is happening in the church's finances and how to improve transparency. We oversee the Capital Campaign and Renovation Action Committees' work toward the much-anticipated kitchen renovation.

Importantly, we talk frequently about how to provide hospitality through the church to neighbors, including concert guests and people we meet at Motor City Pride, reflecting especially on how to welcome people who have been hurt, often deeply, by the church in the past. And in 2025, we have tried to support those affected by ICE; several of us along with other members have been attending hearings for an attendee who was detained.

We laid plans for a Mutual Ministry Review with Rev. Emily, with a focus on organizational structures, and for the launch of a Congregational Assessment Tool. We want to learn more about where we are and want to be.

Many, many thanks to each member of the 2025 Vestry for your faithful and joyful service:

- *Class of 2026:* Paul Abdullah (*Treasurer*), Mary Brown, Hope Hoffman (*Senior Warden*), Greg Siviyy
- *Class of 2027:* Sonia Charron-Jones, Jennifer Collard, Roberta Gaspar, Jim Treece (*Secretary*)
- *Class of 2028:* Caleb Barger (*Assistant Treasurer*), Jennifer Inchiostro (*Junior Warden*), Kevin Maher, Sue Webb-Dickson

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Let Vestry members know of any particular concerns or ideas you have for the church, especially regarding buildings or funds
- Attend Vestry meetings - just let Rev. Emily know in advance
- Offer your gifts of leadership and encourage others to do so, too

The Finance Committee assists the Vestry in managing the financial resources of the church. The Committee generally meets on Zoom one evening per month, and handles special projects as needed.

## FINANCE

*Jane Forbes, Chair*  
*janeforbes432@gmail.com*

The active members of the Finance Committee in 2025 included Treasurer Paul Abdullah, Assistant Treasurer Caleb Barger, the Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, Senior Warden Hope Hoffman, John Leney, Seth Lloyd, and Secretary Jim Treece. During the year, the Committee assisted the Vestry by reviewing financial statements and reports, overseeing receipts and disbursements (both for the regular parish activities and the capital campaign), preparing and revising proposed budgets, monitoring cash needs, endowments, and special purpose funds, and arranging for the short-term investment of general and capital campaign funds.

The Committee also takes on special projects when needed. In 2025, those tasks included:

- Working with the Capital Campaign Steering Committee in a successful effort to raise the additional pledges needed to be able to begin renovation of the Ledyard Hall kitchen;
- Preparing and reviewing agreements for roofing, equipment, and other building work provided to the church as part of the federally-funded Resiliency Hub program;
- Preparing church financial records for audit and working with auditors on the 2022, 2023, and 2024 financial statements; and
- Drafting a Manual of Business Methods to help guide the management of parish finances.

Thanks to each of the members of the Committee who served in 2025, and especially to Paul Abdullah for his help with banking, investment, and financial day-to-day management.

The Counters meet in the church office once per week to count the money received during the previous week. Each session is brief, and at least two people work together at the same time.

## COUNTERS

*Sheila Sweeny & Jim Treece, Leaders*  
*treece2jb75@gmail.com*

The Counters work as a team to count and record the checks and cash that the church receives during a given week, whether by mail or in the offering plate, including pledge payments, vendor payments, flower and memorial dedications, and other gifts. The work requires both precision and discretion, and the processes protect the financial integrity of the church.

Current group members are Jim Treece, Kerry Crenshaw, and Sheila Sweeny, with the assistance of staff members Joshilyn Hoisington and Beth Ann Tesluk.

- Like numbers? Have any business or legal expertise? Join the Finance Committee! Attend meetings or help with projects
- Like quiet, behind-the-scenes, administrative work? Have an hour on Monday or Tuesday mornings? Volunteer as a Counter
- Give at [christcd.org/online-giving/](https://christcd.org/online-giving/), by mail, or in the offering to sustain the ministries of the church

## OPPORTUNITIES

# WORSHIP

The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey  
emily@christcd.org

The worship life at Christ Church is a team effort. Many people assist before, during, and after services, and lend extra hands during special seasons. Assisting with worship is a deeply spiritual and foundational act: beautiful, joyful, and life-changing.



We strive to offer creative, timely, and compelling services of worship, grounded in the ancient, durable traditions of the Episcopal Church. In 2025, this included a number of special services, such as the diocesan Feast of Absalom Jones (1746-1818), the first African-American Episcopal priest; welcoming Bishop Bonnie Perry for her triennial official visit, as she confirmed and received Alice and Mary into the Episcopal Church; Pentecost & Christ Church's 180<sup>th</sup> birthday & annual celebration of new members; LGBTQIA+ Pride Eucharist; Rogation services (garden blessings) at Knagg's Creek Farm; Blessing of the Animals, including our beloved pets; Feast of Christ the King, offering our pledges and gifts; All Souls' Evening Eucharist featuring Fauré's *Requiem*; Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols, celebrating our diverse community, and more.

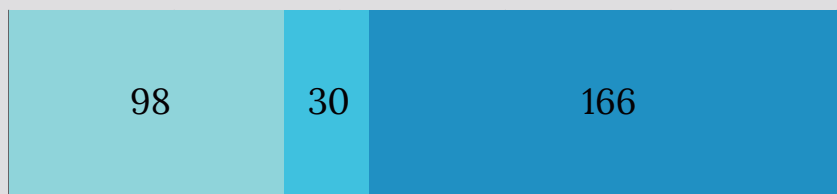
Woven throughout the special services are, of course, our weekly ones, the "bread and butter" - or bread and wine - that sustain us day to day. So many faithful people pour their hearts, hands, souls, and minds into these services week after week, loving God and neighbor with their whole selves (Matthew 22:37-39).

Pastoral Assistant Sandy Zull preaches periodically, sometimes with her dear husband the Rev. Aaron Zull presiding. Sandy often assists as a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) and offers trainings along with Anthony Mitchell, who also frequently serves and who schedules Lectors and LEMs.

As you will read throughout these pages in various ways, our worship together - liturgy - is the work of the Body of Christ, by the Body of Christ: the gifts, actions, memories, and hope of God, for the People of God.

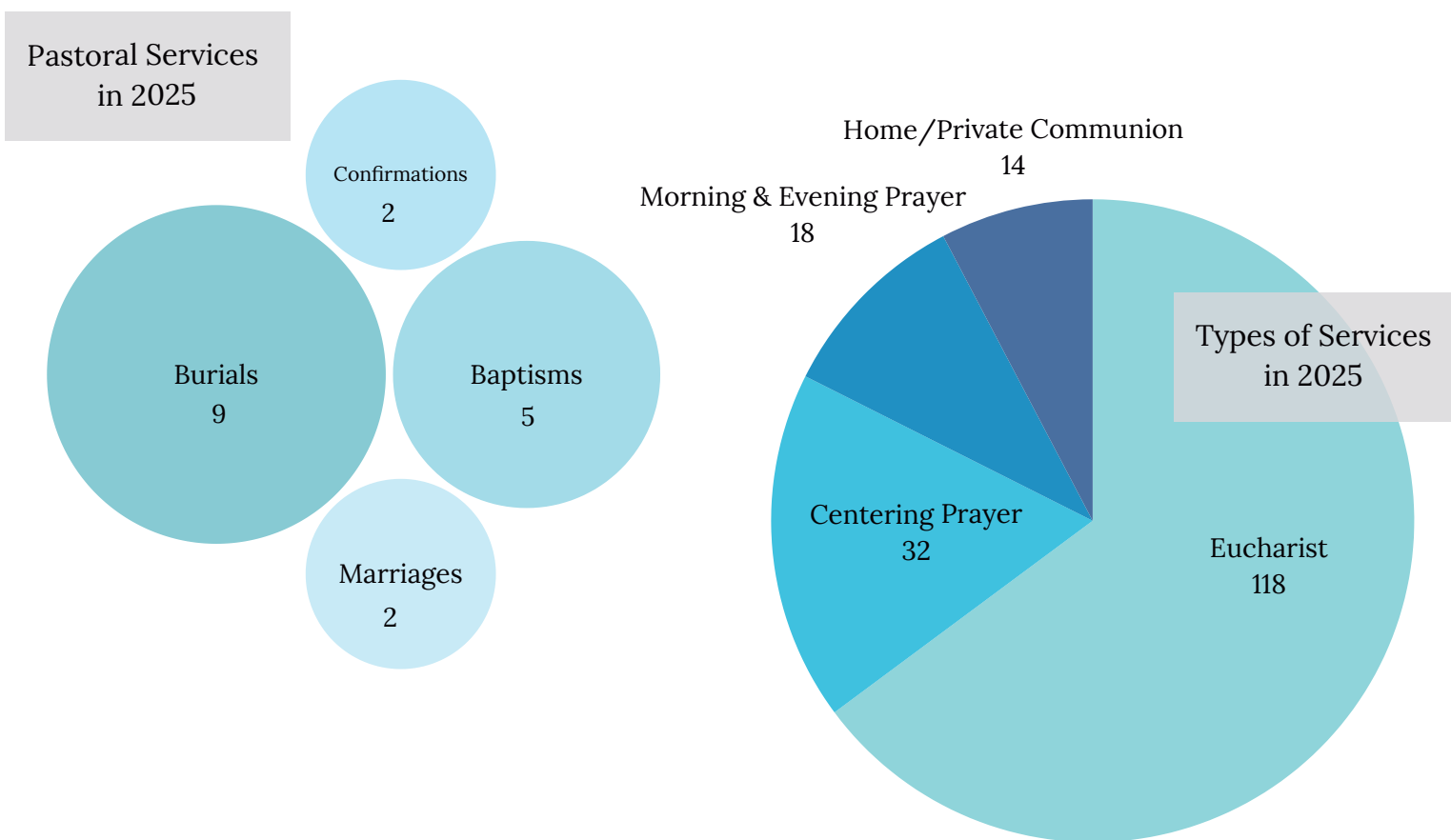
Average Attendance  
at Sunday Services  
in 2025

- Avg Sunday In-Person
- Avg Sunday Online
- Avg Views of Sunday Service During Rest of Week



In 2025, we celebrated the **baptisms** of Azalea Brown, Margaret Wilbert, Rosemary Wilbert, Sydney Moosekian, and Kiaan Lynch, and the **weddings** of Marisa Sophiea & Alex Blee, and Sydney Moosekian & Alex Walli. Liza Parkinson, Darlene Jackson, and Joshilyn Hoisington assisted at the weddings.

We mourned the **deaths** of beloved friends and relatives, including Frances Trix (February 8), Jan Weir (March 22), Bob Brown (March 25), Phil Campbell (March 30), Phil Brown (April 20), Tom Nihem (April 26), Pat Ald (June 24), Chris Beck (August 14), Edward Deeb (September 2), and Carl Pfadt (September 30), and we remembered and celebrated their beautiful lives at funerals and memorial services.



- Attend worship service in-person whenever possible, or online
- Train as a Lector or Lay Eucharistic Minister - it is meaningful!
- Participate in other worship ministries - you, yes you, are needed!
- Let Rev. Emily know of any special interests, questions, or ideas

## OPPORTUNITIES

# MUSIC MINISTRIES

*Dr. Edward Maki-Schramm, Director of Music*  
*emakischramm@gmail.com*

The music ensembles of Christ Church include the Choir, Youth Choir, Bell Choir, and Beginner Bell Choir. Christ Church supports and celebrates community ensembles, and is a sought-after venue for concerts and rehearsals.



2025 was a year of continued joy and gratitude in our music ministries. I continue to be so grateful to the choirs, who commit themselves to the work of the liturgical season where our music is an essential part of our worship, and to the Rev. Emily who supports our work and is a great partner in the creativity of our services. The Choir, Bell Choir, Youth Choir, and Beginner Bell Choir continue their regular rehearsals in praise of God who calls us together in community to worship and have music that reflects our faith in some of the most creative ways.

The Community Chorus of Detroit and the Detroit Women's Chorus began their second full season with Christ Church Detroit as their home. As the Music Director of both CCDs and a big fan of the DWC, it's a thrill to have everyone under one roof at the corner of Jefferson and I-375. We also welcomed a new choir, Crossroads, to Christ Church with their director, Mike Rowan, who is a member of the church choir. Rehearsals and performances for all three groups take place here at the church, which helps widen our reputation as a great place to be. The concerts for all three groups fill the church with joy and excitement.

On April 6, 2025, we welcomed VOCES8, who sang in our Sunday morning service and presented a concert that evening. Our friendship with VOCES8 allows us to continue to be at the national forefront of this internationally recognized singing foundation.

In June 2025, Christ Church served as the Michigan testing site for people seeking certification exams by the American Guild of Organists. Since our pipe organ is in great working order and has multiple levels of digital memory to record the players' stop combinations, we were the perfect choice, and two young people came weekly to practice and have their examination digitally recorded and adjudicated in New York.

More reasons to celebrate:

- In Lent 2025, we hosted our seventh season of Deep River: An Exploration of Spirituals.
- In June, I was honored to represent Christ Church Detroit at the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM) national conference in Cincinnati.
- In July, I attended the vocal arts academy in rural England run by the VOCES8 Foundation at Milton Abbey, and what a thrill it was to be there with approximately 125 singers from all over the world.

In late October, the clergy and choir presented a choral Eucharist featuring the *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré to honor All Souls' Day. In mid-December, the full music ministry celebrated our place in the community during Advent Lessons & Carols. Featured groups were the Christ Church Choir, the Christ Church Bell Choir, Crossroads, the Community Chorus of Detroit, and the Detroit Women's Chorus.

Last but not least, I would like to draw some attention to a silent partner in all of our work: our music library. There are almost 500 titles in our choral library, with another 100 or so handbell works, plus various pieces for the Youth Choir. Some of our music dates to our church's very early days, and you can tell that by the listed composer as well as some dated language and theology. I am constantly looking for and listening to new anthems, and adding to our library annually. It's a joy to purchase new works that include women composers, thoughtful new texts and poetry, and stunning new arrangements of some of our favorite hymns. My commitment to African American spirituals is as strong as ever, and we now have 30 spirituals in the library, as well as other new works by our leading African American composers. I am so grateful to Mary Brown, who not only leads our Beginner Bell Choir, but also helps organize our library. Thank you!

These are just the highlights over the past year of so much work by individuals and the collective groups to provide a reflection of our parish, a vibrant and living beacon of hope in the city of Detroit. Thank you, choirs!

### **Parish Choir**

Paul Abdullah, Anna Barger, Anna Baseley, Bryson Beaver, Alice Bell, Ruth Boeder, Mary Brown, Joy Crawford, Lily Belle Czartoski, Dorian Dillard II, X. Alexander Durden, David Faust, B. G. Hodge, Kenneth Keel, Sally LePla, Eileen MacDonald, Roger Maki-Schramm, Howard Matthew, Kade McKay, Dahlia Medvinsky, Elizabeth Medvinsky, James Moore, Jr., Megan Norris, Michael Rowan, Loretta Ryder, Dylan Slamka, Mariyon Turner, Katrina Van Maanen, Greg Williams

### **Bell Choir**

Anna Baseley, Mary Brown, Jocelyn Burrell Buglione, Joy Crawford, Bobbi Gaspar, Dennis Parker, Vickie Rice-Parker, Sue Webb-Dickson, Greg Williams, Mary Ann Williams

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Sing out! The congregation is Christ Church's primary choir!
- Attend and invite friends to services at which music is featured
- Attend and invite friends to concerts at the church
- Join the Choir, which rehearses most Sundays at 9:00 a.m. & sings in the 10:30 service, September to June
- Join the Bell Choir, which rehearses most Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., September to June, and plays at several services during the year. Handbell experience is not required and training is provided. Music experience is helpful.
- Offer to play piano, guitar, or other instruments at services
- Sponsor a new piece for the music library. It is a beautiful and enduring way to honor a special person or occasion
- Make gifts to the Special Music Fund at Easter, Christmas, or other occasions, to provide for guest musicians

# YOUTH CHOIR

Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, Rector  
emily@christcd.org

The Youth Choir meets on Sundays before the 10:30 a.m. service to foster musical confidence, spiritual growth, and social connections. The youth sing at several Sunday services per year. All youth ages pre-K through teen are invited to participate!



Director Katrina Van Maanen led the youth beautifully and energetically throughout 2025, before welcoming her own child and beginning maternity leave at the end of the year. Ms. Katrina creates a welcoming and joyful environment for youth of all ages to lift their voices and develop musical confidence. The Youth Choir sings in several services per year. Their enthusiasm is infectious, and anyone who listens can't help but be inspired!

The focal point of the Youth Choir's season is the pageant at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Eucharist. Throughout the fall, the youth rehearse their lines and music, and their hard work shows! We're particularly grateful for all of the parents who assist, especially in Katrina's absence, including Lurdes, Jenn, Jen, and Dean.

Youth of all ages and backgrounds are warmly invited to participate at any time during the year, and we especially enjoy welcoming friends, cousins, and siblings to drop in! No music experience is needed. Rehearsals take place in the sanctuary or in the Lower Level music room.

The Youth Choir provides a platform for our youth to shine, as demonstrated by their participation and performances. We remain committed to nurturing the voices of our young performers and fostering an environment where they can engage meaningfully in their spiritual journeys.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### *For youth:*

- Drop in to Sunday School and sing along!
- Offer to play a piece on piano or another instrument
- Ask Ed for lessons on piano or organ

### *For parents and other adults:*

- Lend your music or teaching expertise to the youth, especially during Katrina's absence
- Applaud and compliment the youth when they sing and play

This ensemble welcomes all kids & adults who are new to music, or to handbells specifically, and provides training. It rehearses periodically, often on Sundays at 12:00 p.m., and plays in several services during the year.

# BEGINNER BELL CHOIR

Mary Brown, Director  
maryb8673@aol.com



The Beginner Bell Choir, which started in 2024, has gained confidence in playing skills and camaraderie. In August, we had a few days of Bell Retreat at Christ Church, which helped the group to take hold more quickly in the fall. We have performed several times with different groups of players, depending on their availability. The congregation has been asked to sing along, and Ed Maki-Schramm has supported us with piano accompaniment, helping the players to feel more comfortable. We've had continued help from Betty Warner when she's in Michigan, and the parents are indispensable! Thank you to all! Most recently, we played at the 5:00 p.m. Family Eucharist on Christmas Eve, and we're looking forward to having more learning and playing opportunities.

- Let Mary know of your interest in trying the bells
- Look out for the next rehearsals and plan to attend
- Encourage the Choir members when they play!

## OPPORTUNITIES

# ACOLYTES

Cathy Berlage, Coordinator  
cathy.berlage@gmail.com

Acolytes are primarily older children and teens who assist in worship services by carrying the processional cross, Gospel book, torches, banners, and festal ribbons. The word “acolyte” comes from the Greek *acolytos*, which means “helper”. Training is provided throughout the year.



Christ Church is truly blessed to have dedicated young people taking part in our Acolyte Program. They serve our church in several capacities, some of which include Crucifer, Gospel Server, and Torch Bearer. Many have also served as teacher and/or mentor to our newcomers over the past few years. Student acolytes range in age from college graduates down through our youngest lower elementary school members. Children who fall within this age group are always welcome to participate in this ministry.

In 2025, the following dedicated youth participated as Crucifer, Gospel Server, Communion Assistant to the Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs), Torch Bearer, Ribbon Bearer, Banner Bearer, Lily Cross Assistant, and Children’s Bell Ringer: Alex, Alexander, Cedric, Ezra, Isadora, Lucy, Marleen, Olive, Owen, Stella, and Tommy. We are also blessed and grateful for the johnnie-on-the-spot acolyte assistance from our college students/graduates: Adilem, Ava, Brenna, Mira, and Olivia.

*Heartwarming Note:* Two of our youngest Sunday School students, Ellie and Juniper, have demonstrated joyous enthusiasm at the prospect of becoming future acolytes. Our future is bright!

*With Great Thanks:* I am so very grateful to Gwen Ald for her assistance, whenever the call arises. Lurdes Arambula has stepped in on several occasions to assist with the Torch Bearers. Anne Hughes and Lauren Leney have also answered the call to assist. Boundless thanks to these gracious ladies!

The Acolyte Ministry is a visible reminder of the importance that children have in the ongoing life of our parish. Please join me in thanking these wonderful young people for their service to Christ Church!

## OPPORTUNITIES

*For youth:*

- Ask Cathy for training as a Torch Bearer (carry the candles)
- After learning this role, learn to serve as a Banner Bearer, Ribbon Bearer, Gospel Server, and Crucifer, too

*For parents and other adults:*

- Help acolytes get ready for services

Ushers greet people as they arrive for services, provide hospitality, guide congregants through communion, and collect the offering. If you like to say hello to people, this is a great role for you! Ushers sign up to serve whenever available. It's a great way to "drop in"!

# USHERS

*Sonia Charron-Jones, Coordinator*  
*soniacj62@gmail.com*



The ushers welcome *all* to our beautiful sanctuary. Our band of happy troopers continue to navigate the long-lasting effects of the pandemic, aging parishioners, and the choice to livestream by always serving with a smile and attending to the needs of the congregation.

A very big thanks to all who served and will continue to do so at funerals, special events, the annual picnic, and regular services, namely: Chuck Atwater, Caleb Barger, Roger and Mary Basse, Albert Dib, Allan Dib, Joshilyn Hoisington, Hope Hoffman, Desmond Jones, Matthew Kunjummen, John and Lauren Leney, Kevin and Carolyn Maher, Terry Lloyd, Clarke Mason, Jon Miller, Jen Sainte-Laurent, Dean Simmer, Jim Treece, and Patrick and Betty Warner. We remember with great affection Chris Beck and Bob Brown, who died this year and had served faithfully for many years.

- Sign up on the Atrium bulletin board to serve when available. No prior experience is needed. New volunteers are paired with seasoned ushers, and all training is provided "on the job"

## OPPORTUNITIES

# ALTAR GUILD

Liza Parkinson & Josephine Powell, Co-Chairs  
liza.parkinson@gmail.com, license123@aol.com

Members of the Altar Guild set up the worship spaces according to the liturgical season. This behind-the-scenes ministry requires no previous experience, just a desire to serve. Women, men, and teens are welcome.



*Heavenly Father, we praise you for the joy of ministering at the altars of this parish.  
Grant us the grace of humility that we may honor you. Amen.*

The mission of the Altar Guild is to prepare all things necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist and any of the other sacraments and offices of the church, including flowers and decorations. The Altar Guild serves under the direction of the clergy, who have overall responsibility for determining how Altar Guild duties are performed.

Members of the Altar Guild quietly support the sacraments of baptism, marriage, and burial for our congregation. Candles, greens, ribbons, and bows have all served to enhance our services as we celebrate All Saints', All Souls', Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. The joint efforts of the Altar Guild and Flower Guild especially enhance our worship and are offered to the glory of God.

We have continued to assist our rector, Rev. Emily, as she has ensured that the sacrament of communion is accessible to all who desire and are prepared to receive it. We continue the inclusive practices we began in fall 2022, which involve several ways to receive wine or grape juice, and to share communion at the floor level as well as at the high altar.

Members of the Altar Guild and our congregation have shared their expertise to ensure that the church brass and silver shines. In addition, special thanks go especially to Richard Thomas and John Booth for their meticulous work polishing our pulpit, lectern, crosses, and various memorials around the church.

In advance of Easter, Mira Hughes designed and fashioned a custom paschal candle for 2025, which features custom images from her spiritual journey. We are so grateful for her artistry!

We are indeed grateful for the work of our members: Gwen Ald, Jane Forbes, Roberta Gaspar, Hope Hoffman, Terry Lloyd, Carolyn Maher, Liza Parkinson, Josephine Powell, Alma Simmons, Letha Ann Steward, and Richard Thomas, and all who helped at polishing sessions and the Hanging of the Greens.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Ask Liza, Josephine, or Rev. Emily for training on altar set-up
- Help set the altars before services, and cleanse them after
- Attend brass & silver polishing sessions before holidays

The Flower Guild decorates the church with flowers and greens throughout the year, as the season warrants. Previous experience is helpful but not required, as instruction is provided.

# FLOWER GUILD

*Richard Thomas, Floral Iconographer*  
313-575-9932



Parishioner Richard Thomas practices the art of floral iconography. Inspired by Scripture, he crafts, or more properly writes, floral icons, taking flowers and plant material and transforming them into sculptural interpretations of the Word, in light of liturgical seasons or events in the life of our community. These visually arresting arrangements very often include local or native plants, and parishioners have come to treasure Richard's descriptions of the work almost as much as the works themselves. There have been icons to celebrate individual feast days and special occasions, such as weddings and funerals, and series of icons that evolve over a season. Richard's deep love of liturgy informs and inspires his craft as does his deep knowledge of the plant world.

What began as a way to celebrate occasional feast days is growing into a consistent Flower Guild. Hope Hoffman, Barbara Perez, and Ruth Boeder have contributed to numerous floral icons and arrangements, and friend of the parish John Booth contributes by stopping in to polish brass and bronze on a regular basis. Members thoughtfully place and tend fresh, potted plants such as orchids and peace lilies in the Atrium, and prepare vases for Ledyard Hall as gestures of hospitality. After some services, members break floral icons down into small bouquets that clergy or other visitors can deliver to parishioners at home or in the hospital.

We are so grateful for the Flower Guild's ministry and the congregation's generosity, as together we connect through the beauty of the natural world, our sanctuary, and our relationships, and bear one another's joys, wonders, and sorrows.

- Sign up in the Atrium to dedicate flowers for a special occasion
- Submit flower dedications at Christmas and Easter
- Participate in flower work sessions, such as before Easter
- Ask Richard or Hope how to help with weekly or seasonal projects

## OPPORTUNITIES

# AUDIO VISUAL

Desmond Jones, Leader  
desjones1@gmail.com

The Audio Visual Ministry, or the “Livestream Team”, volunteers their time and skill to livestream and video-record services and special events at the church. Any teens or adults who are curious about this ministry are invited to join! All training is provided.



The Audio Visual Ministry, which started 2022, extends our church’s worship and outreach beyond the physical sanctuary, serving those who are sick or shut-in, travelers, and other individuals unable to attend in person, while also reaching people beyond our local community. With improved sound equipment, expanded capabilities, and renewed focus on online engagement, the ministry is positioned to grow and serve even more people in 2026.

The five current volunteers, who normally work in groups of two, include Chuck Atwater, Caleb Barger, Taylor Matthew, Jim Treece, and Desmond Jones. From time to time, we have received assistance from Sonia Jones and technical support from Dean Simmer, which have made the work much easier to execute.

In 2025, we performed public and private livestreaming and, in some instances, just video recording, for 80 events: 51 Sunday services, 10 special services (e.g., Christmas Eve), 5 funerals, 1 wedding, 3 meetings, and 10 choral concerts. This represents a 3% overall increase over 2024, and a 13% increase in concert activities.

All worship services, which were streamed on both YouTube and Facebook, provided reliable access for online worshippers. The average number of online viewers during a Sunday service is 30, with several services having upwards of 70 viewers at a time. During the week after a service, videos get an average of 100-150 more views as people catch up or watch again. The views reflect a steady and engaged online congregation over various types of events, from Sunday services to concerts to weddings and funerals, and demonstrate the importance of this ministry. The online participants do have some limited engagement/greetings through live chat; this is one activity that could be used to reach more online viewers. This interaction could help foster a sense of connection and community, allowing online worshippers to feel more included in the life of the church.

2026 goals include: acquiring additional wireless microphones, replacing the sanctuary’s main speakers and associated wiring, acquiring a sound mixing control unit for the sanctuary, replacing the audio system in Ledyard Hall to properly support church and community events, and developing improved ways to serve online viewers and increase livestream engagement and viewership.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Contact Desmond to join the Audio-Visual Ministry
- Volunteer to be an online greeter, chatting with virtual attendees
- Watch the livestream videos whenever you’re not in church
- Share the videos with friends and family, so they can see, too

We don't want Christ Church to be a best-kept secret! The goal of communications ministries is to share the good news of Christ Church so that visitors and parishioners alike can find belonging, refuge, inspiration, and faith.

# COMMUNICATIONS

Beth Ann Tesluk  
[bethann@christcd.org](mailto:bethann@christcd.org)

As the Associate for Communications, it is my task to support the mission of Christ Church through a variety of ways, including email, social media, and advertising.

Email continues to be the primary vehicle for communication for the parish, with 434 email subscribers, a net gain of 29 over 2024. Open rates for the weekly eNews is close to 60%, well over industry standards, which is to be expected as folks are interested in staying connected to what's happening at Christ Church. The weekly eNews is also mailed to several parishioners who prefer to receive a hard copy. Thanks to Sheila Sweeny for providing volunteer support and getting the print version to those who prefer the offline edition. We also send out incidental emails to promote events or encourage folks to volunteer, and those are all well-received, too. In total, we sent 143 emails over the course of the year, for a total of 48,990 individual emails sent!

Social media platforms extend the ministry of Christ Church by giving us the ability to share worship through the livestream of the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist and other services. While Facebook remains popular, YouTube may feel like a better option for those who do not wish to engage with social media, as you don't need an account of any kind. Weddings and funerals contribute significantly to our viewership, and we are grateful to be able to provide families and friends a way to be present when they cannot be with us in person. Through livestream we can not only invite loved ones into our life together, but also give the wider world a way to experience Christ Church. The videos archived on YouTube allow those who may be looking for a new church home, or who may not be ready to commit to in-person attendance, to get a feel for what Christ Church is like. And with improvements to YouTube's interface, it's easier than ever to create sermon snippets, which are also available on our channel and on our website (with transcripts) so that you can revisit Rev. Emily's sermons whenever you like!

Rev. Emily maintains the church's Instagram presence, telling the story of Christ Church with beautiful images and short videos. By mentioning friends and neighbors in our feed and commenting on theirs, Rev. Emily continues to foster and nourish community relationships. 2025 brought us to a significant milestone: we now have over 1,000 followers!

In 2025, we branched out our advertising to include PrideSource publications, both digitally and in print. This was a significant shift of investment, but an important one, as it lets the LGBTQIA+ community see us, and hopefully recognize us as a safe, joyful space. We continue to advertise in the Detroit Monitor, a free paper distributed to local businesses, as well as provide underwriting support to WRCJ. This underwriting is a cost-effective way to promote concerts to the classical music community and lets us support local public radio, too.

Vital elements to our communications are handwritten notes, including memorial gift acknowledgments and birthday cards. We couldn't do this without the help of Sheila Sweeny (memorials) and Terry Lloyd (birthdays). Make sure your birthday (no year required!) is up to date with the Office so that you might be included!

- Sign up to receive the eNews: [christcd.org/contact-us/](http://christcd.org/contact-us/)
- Follow @christchurchdetroit on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram, and share content with your friends
- Visit [christcd.org](http://christcd.org) regularly for updates
- Let the Office know your birthday and any changes in contact info

## OPPORTUNITIES

# CENTERING PRAYER

*Kathryn Treece, Coordinator*  
[treecekat@gmail.com](mailto:treecekat@gmail.com)

Centering Prayer is a form of Christian contemplation that offers an opportunity in our fast-paced lives to sit quietly in God's presence. This group at Christ Church began over twelve years ago and continues to meet online on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

Based on instructions from the 14th century, Centering Prayer was developed for modern practice by Fr. Thomas Keating and others. It's a way to cultivate a deeper relationship with God, beyond thoughts, words, and feelings.

This hour-long gathering and liturgy consist of an opening with twenty minutes of silent centering, followed by intercessory prayer, a brief reading, informal sharing, and closing. It's our privilege to pray for any special requests from the prayer box at church or which the office receives.

The experience of most members is that meditation is easier to do with others. If you're new, the instructions are very simple. Please feel free to give Centering Prayer a try and practice with us. For more information, check out Contemplative Outreach at [www.contemplativeoutreach.org](http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org).

# PASTORAL CARE

*The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey*  
[emily@christcd.org](mailto:emily@christcd.org)

Pastoral care includes visits, calls, notes, prayers, and other kind words of support and presence during difficult and discouraging times. Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) and Prayer Shawl Ministers play special roles in this community of mutual care and concern.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are lay parishioners who take communion or otherwise visit church members who are homebound or in health facilities. Special training, including the "Safe Church, Safe Communities" curriculum, is offered by our clergy, diocesan leaders, and by other LEVs. It is a deeply important and rewarding ministry. Whether bringing communion or not, homebound parishioners are often visited by dedicated friends from church, and some keep in touch by bringing flowers from church, calling or sending bulletins, *Day by Day* devotional booklets, cards, texts, or emails to those who can't get to church regularly. Mary Brown and Sandy Zull, Pastoral Assistant, help to coordinate lay pastoral ministries such as these.

Pastoral care also takes shape through the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Knitters knit small blankets (or squares which are then combined into blankets), so that pastoral visitors can provide them to friends in need of a "hug" from church. In 2025, friends at Parker Avenue Knits ([parkeravenueknits.com](http://parkeravenueknits.com)) on Franklin St near the church have started making beautiful prayer shawls for our members and donating yarn to our collection, and often write thoughtful cards for the recipients. In spring 2025, we were able to give shawls to Shelter Week guests, too.

There are many pastoral needs in our congregation and in our communities of family and friends, and all of us are called to extend care and encouragement in every way we can.

# OPPORTUNITIES

- Zoom in to the Centering Prayer sessions on Thursdays at 11 a.m.
- Call or visit church friends who you haven't seen in awhile
- Let Rev. Emily know if you or someone you know is ill, having surgery, or is otherwise in need of support
- Attend LEV or Pastoral Visitor trainings when scheduled
- Make prayer shawls or squares with the yarn in the Atrium

Christ Church provides a loving, inclusive community in which to raise our children and grow in faith, joy, and wonder. Families of all kinds, from all backgrounds, are warmly welcomed and invited at all times.

# YOUTH FORMATION

*The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey*  
[emily@christcd.org](mailto:emily@christcd.org)



It truly takes a village to raise our children, and our children grow up here at Christ Church with peers and adults who look out for them and love them for exactly who they are and are becoming. In 2025, 20 youth, from infants through high school, participated regularly in ministries and activities, while another 6-7 (IYKYK) visited or participated occasionally. We love to meet people, especially friends and relatives who come along. Invite yours!

We celebrate that a child's place is always in worship. Children of all ages are joyfully welcomed in services; babies' cries and toddlers' candid comments are among our favorite sounds! To make the sanctuary more accessible for children and their families, we continue to provide a "play table" just inside the doors, with comfy cushions, compelling books, fidget toys, coloring pages, and fresh markers and colored pencils. And with the help of wonderful young adults, the Nursery is staffed as many Sunday mornings as possible.

On Sundays during the school year, children & youth gather at 9:30 a.m. for a series of offerings that includes Youth Choir, Godly Play (a Montessori-style curriculum for grades K-8), visual art projects, LEGO-based Bible study, packing bag lunches to serve to neighbors, and acolyte training.

We also observe beloved traditions throughout the year, including a bowling party in March, making palm crosses on Palm Sunday, filling the lily cross and searching for eggs on Easter Sunday, applauding high school seniors as they give Senior Speeches on Mother's Day, celebrating the Blessing of the Animals with visits from Party Animals and Dan the Creature Man, wearing costumes and getting candy on Halloween Sunday, and preparing and performing the pageant on Christmas Eve!

- Invite friends and neighbors to attend - it's fun!
- Train to be a Godly Play leader - it is inspiring and nourishing!
- Volunteer to help supervise a classroom for 30-60 minutes
- Contact Rev. Emily or other parents with questions or ideas

## OPPORTUNITIES

# ADULT EDUCATION

The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey  
emily@christcd.org

As Christians, we are lifelong learners! We seek to  
“be transformed by the renewing of our minds”  
(Romans 12:2) with a mix of regular and  
occasional opportunities to learn together.



On Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m. at the church, Sandy Zull leads a session called “Preparing for Sunday”, a time to read and reflect on the appointed scriptures for the upcoming Sunday, according to the lectionary, or calendar of scripture readings. The conversation is deep, informal, and welcoming. Zoom is provided upon request.

Sandy, Anthony Mitchell, and Paul Abdullah are mentors in the annual Inquirers’ Course, which typically takes place during Lent. Other regular offerings - Creation Continues & Adult Bible Study - are mentioned below.

Various instructors and I offer periodic classes on special topics. In February 2026, I am starting a Bible study on Tuesday evenings, designed especially for those who seek support navigating and interpreting the Bible in a world when its words are taken and wielded out of context. How might we grow in love of the Word?

In Summer 2025, we had the delight and privilege of hosting & learning from seminarian Felicity Thompson!

## CREATION CONTINUES

Sally LePla, Leader  
sallylepla5283@gmail.com

This fun art fellowship meets most Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m on Zoom. At each session, Sally teaches the group how to make a certain watercolor painting, and all create it at home using their own materials. Anyone can drop in any time!



Led by Sally LePla, *Creation Continues: Art Fun* really took on creative challenges throughout 2025, culminating in a few beautiful church angel-filled and joyous Christmas cards worthy of framing! Although each class continued (and will continue) to start at the watercolor beginner level, seasoned students were also able to grow their skills into the next level with tips offered at each session. The group is loving and welcoming. New students are always encouraged to drop in and try it out. No stress. Just fun!

This class meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. from September to June, and explores wide-ranging portions of the Bible.

Barbara prepares readings and lectures for each class. There is no homework and all are welcome to drop in at any time!

# ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Dr. Barbara Cushing, Leader  
[barbara.cushing@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara.cushing@yahoo.com)

In 2025, beginning with the season of Epiphany through Palm Sunday, we read the *Book of the Prophet Ezekiel*, perhaps the most bizarre of the “writing prophets” in the Old Testament. To serve as a counter-balance to this prophet’s exotic visions of Jerusalem while living in exile in 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE Babylon, we also spent a few minutes each week reflecting on the colorful lives of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Church of England priests, John and Charles Wesley. Although their style of Evangelical ministry placed them outside the mainstream English Church, appointing lay clergy to reach the vast numbers of churchless people in England’s new industrial west, in Wales, and in the expanding American frontier, they themselves chose to remain faithful priests within the Anglican Church throughout their lives. On Sunday mornings during our worship service, we sometimes find ourselves singing one of Charles Wesley’s joyful hymns.

During the “Great 50 Days of Easter” until mid-June, we read *1 Maccabees*, a Jewish text from what is referred to as “Second Temple Literature”. Many Christians recognize this literature as part of “The Apocrypha”. This book tells of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE struggles of three generations of the rightful Jewish priestly Hasmonean dynasty against the Greek Seleucid ruler Antiochus IV, Epiphanes, his descendants, and the “renegade Jews” led by an illegitimate high priest. In place of prayer at the beginning of these sessions, we listened to small excerpts from George Frideric Handel’s 1746 oratorio *Judas Maccabeus*.

Gathering again in mid-September, we began reading the *Gospel of Luke*, which we were hearing each Sunday morning until the arrival of Advent 2025. In early 2026, we are launching into Luke’s second volume, the *Acts of the Apostles*. In his gospel, Luke included some very distinctive stories not found in Mark, Matthew, or John: Luke’s author has his account begin in the Jerusalem Temple with the priest Zechariah, and end in that same Temple as the disciples continue to worship there following Jesus’ ascension, an event told only in Luke and Acts. Luke’s Gospel is recognized as his story of Jesus; Acts contains the stories of the apostles, mainly Peter and Paul, and the spread of Christianity westward during the first century CE.

- Drop in to Adult Bible Study on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
- Drop in to the “Preparing for Sunday” lectionary studies on Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m.
- Drop in to the “Creation Continues: Art Fun” Zoom sessions on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.
- Attend the Inquirers’ Course in Lent (early spring) to explore the Episcopal Church and Christ Church specifically
- Keep your eye on the eNews ([christcd.org/contact-us/](http://christcd.org/contact-us/)) and parish announcements for additional courses
- Suggest ideas for more classes to Rev. Emily

## OPPORTUNITIES

# BREAKFAST TEAMS

Betty Warner, Coordinator  
bettywarner48@gmail.com

Breakfast Teams serve meals each Sunday at about 8:45 a.m. Volunteers are organized onto teams, each of which serves once per month. Not everyone needs to be a cook! There are roles for grocery shopping, setting up, and cleaning up, too.



The Christ Church breakfast cook teams continue to thrive, arriving around 7:30 a.m. to prepare a variety of delicious dishes. From scrambled eggs, sausage, and biscuits to each team's unique specialties, their dedication ensures a hearty breakfast for attendees of the well-attended 8:15 a.m. service and early arrivals for the 10:30 a.m. service. Each team serves about once per month, September-June.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the dedicated Breakfast Team ministry volunteers, with special recognition to grocery shopper Letha Ann Steward.

The teams look forward to cooking in a newly renovated kitchen in 2026! We sincerely thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we navigate the temporary period of providing continental breakfast while the kitchen is renovated.

Breakfast Team Ministry members: Jon Miller, Eamon Harnois, Lurdes Arambula, Lisa Jones, Clarke Mason, Ryan Tyler, Anthony Mitchell, Edwina Simpson, Seth Lloyd, Hope Hoffman

Fall/Spring Cooks: Gary MacDonald, Letha Ann Steward, Betty Warner, Patrick Warner

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication in making this ministry a success!

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Sign up with Betty to join a monthly cook team. It's fun!
- Sign up with Betty to bring continental breakfast items
- Make gifts to help with costs (suggested donation: \$5/person)
- Enjoy breakfast and conversation with friends each Sunday!

Coffee Hour after the 10:30 a.m. service is an important and joyful part of our Sunday morning ritual. It is a time to connect in an informal atmosphere. All are invited to sign up to bring treats on a given Sunday, which can be a meaningful way to celebrate special occasions.

# COFFEE HOUR

Kathryn Treece, Coordinator  
treecekat@gmail.com



Coffee Hour provides an easy opportunity for parishioners to connect after the Sunday 10:30 a.m. service, and for visitors and potential members to get to know us better in an informal atmosphere. Thank you to every person who contribute great food throughout the year, to those who help in the background with set-up and clean-up, and those who host more simple “Lemonade in Ledyard” during the summer.

In Fall 2025, to get ready for the kitchen renovation to start in December, we began to clean out of the kitchen area. We cleared the pantry shelves, emptied the storage areas, composted expired food, tossed broken items, packed up *so much* china, and took unwanted stuff to the Salvation Army. In addition, we created new spaces for the things we would need in the interim. Thank you to the many people who contributed to this enormous job!

During the kitchen renovation in early 2026, we are “Coffee Hour Lite” as a reminder that our facilities are limited during this time. This is a challenge but do-able. We offer hot drinks in Cary Lounge where there are electrical outlets, and simple snacks in Ledyard Hall where we can spread out for conversation.

Other notes:

- Sign-ups for food and help slowed considerably in 2025, even though bringing snacks has become easier than ever during the kitchen renovation. If you have ever enjoyed a welcome treat after worship or felt a warm glow with good conversation over coffee, consider doing your part to keep the hospitality going.
- Huge thanks to Jon Miller for arriving early every Sunday to get the coffee brewing, and also for taking care of coffee logistics during the renovation.
- We’re also grateful to Patrick and Betty Warner, Hope Hoffman, and Richard Thomas for often providing beautiful flowers at the tables; to Beth Ann Tesluk for timely updates; to Joshilyn Hoisington for hands-on support; and to anyone who has laundered dish towels and tablecloths.
- Jon Miller and Jim Treece continue to faithfully remove a large amount of paper, plastic, metal, cardboard, styrofoam, and glass for recycling each week. These materials shouldn’t go into the trash stream, so please be aware of this issue. Remember: *no* plastic bottles or pop cans in the garbage.

- Sign up on the Atrium bulletin board to contribute treats
- Sponsor a Coffee Hour in honor of a special occasion
- Learn how to set up and clean up, in the new kitchen!
- Take tablecloths home to launder
- Let Kathryn know of any ideas to improve our social time

## OPPORTUNITIES

# ANNUAL PICNIC

Mary Brown, Coordinator  
maryb8673@aol.com

The Picnic Committee facilitates the logistics for the annual parish picnic & outdoor Eucharist at Belle Isle each August. This beloved event feels like a family reunion!



The 2025 picnic was, as always, a good time. At Belle Isle, we were back at Shelter 9 on the Detroit River. We appreciated the breeze! There were also a number of young anglers trying to “learn the ropes” from definitely knowledgeable, well-worn experts who were available to help. We missed Phil Brown, of blessed memory, who had taught kids how to fish at the river for years.

Everyone - committee members and others - did a great organizational job! The crowd was large, about 100 people again, and all of them had been inspired, sung hymns, listened to music, and been fed before they left. The amount of food is usually an expanded miracle.

Many thanks to Betty Warner, who is a great co-chair - a meticulous keeper of spreadsheets and a crystal-clear communicator - excellent attributes for this job. We’re looking forward to next year. See you then!

## OPPORTUNITIES

- In the summer, look out for many ways to contribute to the Annual Picnic, from bringing a dish to grilling the burgers
- Mark your calendars for the next picnic on August 23, 2026
- Invite friends and family to the picnic - it’s a great time for all!

Christ Church seeks to share and use its facilities to support community growth and celebration, and to host gatherings on and off the campus to build relationships.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Beth Ann Tesluk  
bethann@christcd.org



A theme for 2025-26 is definitely *community*. In addition to our own activities, beloved community partners joyfully hold events in our spaces: the American Legion Honor Guard, Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous, Detroit Women's Chorus, the Community Chorus of Detroit, the Madrigal Chorale, Crossroads: A Detroit Choral Project, the youth of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, the Detroit Grand Prix, Preservation Detroit, Detroit History Tours, the Churches of Ohio historical society, Candlelight Concerts, and elected officials' community meetings. These organizations and their events bring thousands of people to Christ Church, and we are grateful for and energized by the opportunities to host them!

The Detroit Grand Prix roared back into Ledyard Hall in June 2025, making Christ Church their hospitality headquarters. They prepare and serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner for all the teams, which turns out to be about 600 meals a day! Since the church is literally in the center of the course, we move worship out to Knagg's Creek Farm, where Jon Miller's family and the Warners grow vegetables, fruit, and flowers. It is always a joyful service, and a beautiful way to experience the abundance of God's creation.

One of the most meaningful ways we engage with our broader community is to participate in the Motor City Pride Festival in June, staffing a booth and sharing welcome materials and cards of blessing with attendees. It's a great way to let folks know that Christ Church welcomes them, just as they are, fearfully, wonderfully made.

Each October, we celebrate a season of Creation Care, which includes the Feast of St. Francis, Blessing of the Animals, and a second opportunity to worship at Knagg's Creek Farm. Bob Brown was very sorely missed, and Claire Brown was missed while out of town, but she managed to orchestrate the animal fun before traveling. Dan the Creature Man and friends were a big hit - this year's guests included an incredibly vibrant chameleon! Our barnyard buddies from Party Animals petting zoo made themselves at home on the Woodbridge lawn, and we had plenty of cider and donuts to enjoy. Next year, we hope that more of our neighbors will take part!

In 2026, we look forward to adding new events and new ways to encourage our neighbors to experience Christ Church. We anticipate the celebration for the new kitchen, as well as bringing back the Fireworks Party (which was derailed by excessive heat) and exploring a reinvention of Advent by Candlelight, a December celebration.

- Let the office know if you or your organization would like to rent or reserve space for meetings, events, etc
- Respond to calls for volunteers to help set up for events
- Let Beth Ann know of your interest in party planning!

## OPPORTUNITIES

# BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Teresa Lloyd, Chair  
tsllloyd@comcast.net

This Committee oversees the maintenance & condition of the church's property, collaborating with staff and vendors to facilitate repairs, and volunteering their own time and skill on projects. It meets on Zoom monthly.



The Buildings & Grounds Committee's work is a mix of routine maintenance and any larger, often unforeseen problems that arise during the year. The committee works in conjunction with the Climate Resilience Hub and the Capital Campaign's projects and work crews. B&G Committee members include Ruth Boeder, Jane Forbes, Desmond Jones, Roger Maki-Schramm, Howard Matthew, Patrick Warner, Sue Webb, and Caroline Widak.

The Committee thanks Artur Kolc, Facilities Manager, for all of the excellent work he does. He is very dedicated to the care of our facilities, keeps a watchful eye on minor problems before they escalate, addresses urgent repairs, ensures that that our aging boiler is working properly, and many more daily tasks.

## Completed in 2025:

- Volunteers maintained the exterior gardens and mowed the lawns over the summer
- Wayfinding (signs to help visitors find their way on campus) project options are being explored
- Artur maintained and repaired HVAC systems as needed, repaired leaks in Ledyard Hall, and addressed various other electrical and plumbing issues

## On-going projects being considered for 2026:

- Prepare protection for the stained glass windows on the north side of the church in anticipation of the I-375 rebuild along East Jefferson Avenue
- Update the Ledyard Hall interior with fresh paint and AV upgrades, such as a sound system & projector
- Repair the Sibley House porches and repaint where needed
- Refresh Cary Lounge after the kitchen renovation
- Decide upon a plan and begin implementing wayfinding improvements
- Address the damage caused by contractors' heavy equipment to the walkway leading to the Atrium
- Update Woodbridge St parking lot fencing and parking striping
- Implement plan to remove front pew in sanctuary for more flexible seating and movement

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Are you handy? Interested in buildings? Join the B&G Committee! Attend meetings or help with projects
- Respond to calls for volunteer help with gardening, weeding, mowing, painting, organizing, and more

The purpose of the Climate Resilience Hub project is to provide refuge - food, shelter, electricity - in times of natural disaster. It involves the installation of solar panels and the dedication of many volunteers and resources.

# CLIMATE RESILIENCE

*Jim Treece, Coordinator*  
*treece2jb75@gmail.com*

In December 2024, Christ Church was one of fifteen Detroit houses of worship chosen to receive a federal Climate Change Grant so that we could become a “resilience hub”: if natural disaster strikes, we could still open our doors and provide a heating or cooling center, and a place where folks can charge phones or put insulin in our refrigerator, because we would still have power from our solar-charged storage batteries and an energy-efficient kitchen to serve those in need. The grant, from the Environmental Protection Agency, is overseen by Detroit’s EcoWorks, a Detroit environmental organization which subcontracted part of the task to Solar Faithful and Michigan Interfaith Power & Light.

The Resilience Hub project dovetails with our Capital Campaign projects. Now that Ledyard Hall has a new roof, we can put solar panels on it. The grant bought energy-efficient freezers and other appliances for our new kitchen. In addition, the grant paid for: a) destratification fans in Ledyard Hall to push hot air down from the ceiling to boost air circulation and heating there; b) new roofs for Sibley House and much of the Atrium; c) solar panels to go on the new roofs--Ledyard’s, the Atrium’s, and the south-facing Sibley House roof; and d) related electrical equipment, including inverters, energy-storage batters, and a back-up gas-powered generator. In all, the church has received more than \$483,000 in grant funding for this project, with the bulk going towards roofs (\$247,000), solar equipment (\$154,000), and kitchen gear (\$58,000). The installation of solar panels and equipment is anticipated in early 2026, and once in place, it will slash the church’s electric bill, leaving more money for mission.

The operational side of this project has been relatively straightforward, but there is also a political side to the grant. The new administration in Washington rescinded the grant, even though the money had already been allocated by Congress. Lawsuits ensued, but long story short: only \$7.5 million of an originally \$20 million grant is available for the grant cohort.

How did the change in the grant affect Christ Church? First, at every step, we had to ensure that Christ Church would not be left on the hook for costs that the grant was supposed to cover. Second, some initiatives that were part of the original grant won’t happen, including purchase of an electric vehicle for church/community use and implementation of a stormwater drainage plan.

I sometimes feel like Christ Church won the lottery with this grant. The Capital Campaign got extra money for the kitchen. We got a new roof on Sibley House. We will get solar panels which will both reduce our ballooning electrical bills and demonstrate our commitment to care for God’s creation. Out of the blue, we got nearly half a million dollars, partly for improvements we knew we needed, partly for upgrades beyond our dreams. Wow!

But nothing comes for free. In accepting this grant, Christ Church Detroit is committing to service in ways and at a level far beyond what we do now. We are agreeing to be a safe haven for our neighbors in times of climate disasters. Indeed, if a storm causes a power outage, the City of Detroit will direct people to come to our doors.

How might that play out? Much remains to be clarified, but the City plans to visit each resilience hub site to assess and support its capacity (physical space, materials, staff/volunteers).

This project and its implications parallel our new kitchen. Lots of excitement. Lots of possibilities. Lots of unknowns. Over the next year and beyond, we all will need to weigh in on possibilities and decide how best to use Christ Church’s new resources. We’ll need to determine what kind of mission-driven church we can and want to be. I pray that we will follow Jesus and love our neighbors as ourselves.

# RENOVATION ACTION

Laura Sanom, Chair  
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The Renovation Action Committee oversees the capital projects day-to-day, working closely with contractors, architects, and other vendors.



When the Renovation Action Committee (RAC) reported in early 2025, Phase 1 of the Christ Church Detroit (CCD) renovation project - the exterior restoration - was 99% complete, and planning for Phase 2 of the project - a new commercial kitchen - was well underway. Since then, the RAC can report that Phase 1 was completed in spring 2025 **within budget**, and construction of the new kitchen began in December 2025 and is scheduled for completion in early spring 2026.

In January 2025, we received a kitchen design from our architect Quinn Evans that contained all the elements we requested and deemed necessary for our many future plans for the kitchen. For the next couple months, the RAC along with multiple stakeholders who use the kitchen - in consultation with other churches who provide food services, event planners, caterers, and chefs - analyzed the design. By early spring, the RAC had a well-vetted design that all participants agreed best met the anticipated goals for the kitchen.

With Vestry approval, the kitchen design was sent to five contractors who had been selected by our owner's representative, BDC Consulting, for bid. Three of the contractors actively attempted to bid the project. Only two contractors ultimately submitted bids. The RAC, in consultation with our owner's representative, chose Interior Space Management of Michigan, LLC (ISM) based on its size (the smaller of the two bidders) and price (due to its smaller size, ISM had less overhead and administrative costs in its bid).

In summer 2025, the bids received were substantially higher than CCD and its professional consultants had anticipated, in part due to the economy. The Capital Campaign Committee and the RAC thus went to work on two fronts: the Capital Campaign Committee worked to obtain additional donations for the kitchen, and the RAC worked to "value engineer" the project to reduce the cost to the extent possible. As a result of those efforts, and with the continued generosity of this parish, we were able to close the budget gap such that the RAC and the Finance Committee could recommend the ISM contract to the Vestry for approval in August.

Two more steps were required before construction could begin. First, we had to submit our contract with ISM and final design documents to the National Fund for Sacred Places for approval to receive our \$100,000 grant, which they approved in November 2025. Second, our application to the Wayne County Health Department regarding CCD's processes for operating a certified kitchen had to be submitted for approval along with our construction permit application. The construction and health permits were approved by January 7, 2026.

While permits were pending in December 2025, ISM was able to start demolition and pre-construction. With permits in hand, construction is underway in January 2026 and completion is anticipated in the spring.

The *Restore, Renew, Rejoice* capital campaign seeks to care for our historic buildings in ways that support our community. 100-year-old Ledyard Hall has received a new roof, new windows, and new waterproofing, and soon a new kitchen!

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

*Lisa C. Jones and Seth Lloyd, Co-Chairs*  
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In early 2025, we celebrated raising three million dollars in this capital campaign, and noted that the one remaining project was the renovation of the kitchen. We noted that we had reserved what we believed to be sufficient funds for the renovation. That belief was subject to, of course, our receipt of bids from contractors, which we anticipated in the spring of 2025.

The bids turned out to be much higher than anyone expected. This occurred primarily because of inflation and the increased cost of the appliances required for the new kitchen.

Laura Sanom and her Renovation Action Committee set out to determine if we could modify the renovation plans to reduce the cost. This effort was aided by our Owner's Representative (BDC Consulting) and our architects (Quinn Evans), and it resulted in reduced costs. At the same time, Jim Treece was working on a Climate Resilience Hub project which would provide grant funding for most of the necessary appliances.

The result of these efforts by Laura and Jim narrowed the gap between the projected cost and the available funds to approximately \$125,000. The Capital Campaign Committee accepted the challenge to close this gap, and appeals went out to members and friends of the parish.

As has repeatedly been the case, the parish responded wonderfully to a challenge, and we received gifts and pledges which allowed us to sign a contract in the summer of 2025, for a commercial-grade kitchen. Our expectation is that we will have by April 2026 a beautiful, functional new facility to serve the needs of the parish and allow us to expand our feeding ministries to the community.

The motto for our campaign has been "Restore, Renew, Rejoice". We have restored and renewed. Even though we are not finished with these first two goals, it is time to REJOICE in the incredible generosity of our members and in the wonderful, historic buildings we call our church home.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Give at [christcd.org/online-giving/](http://christcd.org/online-giving/), by mail, or in the offering
- Celebrate the new kitchen when it opens!
- Volunteer for the feeding ministries in the new kitchen

# OUTREACH

Seth Lloyd, Chair  
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The Outreach Committee coordinates and increases the church's opportunities to serve its neighbors, largely through providing food and other basic means. It runs and supports various efforts throughout the year, and meets periodically on Zoom.



In 2025, the Outreach Committee continued work sessions at Gleaners Food Bank once every six weeks. The sessions generally involve 8-12 parishioners & friends who pack food boxes to be distributed to individuals who lack nourishing food. The sessions last about 2.5 hours and involve light work. They are fun and very satisfying!

The Committee also continued our Sunday bag lunch program. This effort involves the preparation of sandwiches and other items and the distribution of these lunches to our food-insecure neighbors. While the number served week to week varies by the season (60-70 in warmer weather and 40-50 when the temperature drops), this program fills an unfortunate gap in feeding our brothers and sisters in the downtown area. In 2025, we appealed to the congregation for additional volunteers to make and distribute lunches, and a number of you volunteered!

The Advent Diaper Drive collected 19,000 diapers in 2024, and, quite frankly, we didn't think that total could be met again in 2025, much less surpassed. To our great joy, the parish responded to the appeal & collected 26,000 diapers & related items. Thanks to our new leaders of this great, annual effort, Eamon Harnois & Lu Arambula!

We resumed in March 2025, after a year's gap when the Cass program didn't operate, our participation in the Cass Community Social Services Rotating Shelter program. Over 80 parishioners and friends worked to feed, house, and otherwise care for our homeless neighbors. Sadly, because of the reconstruction of the kitchen and related work in Ledyard Hall, we are unable to participate in this program in early 2026, but look forward to resuming in 2026-2027. Mary Basse, Jared Inchiostro, and Carolyn Maher took over leadership of this program in 2025 and have agreed to continue in that role.

The Outreach Committee is a dedicated group. It is not exclusive, however, and new members are warmly invited!

- Sign up in the Atrium to help pack food at Gleaners
- Sign up in the Atrium to help with Sunday bag lunches
- Contribute to the Advent Diaper Drive in December
- Make gifts to support these efforts (put "Outreach" in memo)
- Attend Outreach Committee meetings - open to all!

## OPPORTUNITIES