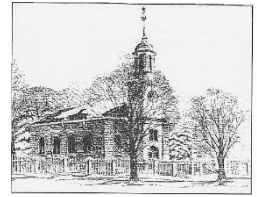


THE CROWN

The Newsletter of Christ Church Shrewsbury
Christ Church is a community committed to exploring the reality of God in today's world



Volume XXV Issue VIII

August 2025

YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE GATHERING
OPEN HOUSES AT CHRIST CHURCH

OUR MISSION

To create a welcoming and inclusive interfaith prayer community where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities can explore their spirituality, share in communal worship, and find belonging and joy.

WHO WE SERVE

We particularly craft THE GATHERINGS for those adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who may live in group homes, attend respite programs, or live at home, and who may not have the opportunity to participate in a traditional prayer service. But **ALL** are welcome at THE GATHERING! Our time together will include singing, discussions about the topic of the day, prayers for those gathered, celebrations of birthdays and other special events, and time for light refreshments and fellowship. Those who gather will be included in all aspects of our time together; it is meant just for them!

OPEN HOUSE DETAILS-TWO CONVENIENT SESSIONS

Session 1-Tuesday, August 19, 10:00 am **OR**

Session 2-Saturday, August 23, 10:00 am



*See flyer at the end of the Crown for more information on how to get involved!



WONDER



LOVE



PRAISE

Dear Friends,

Wonder, Love, and Praise. That sums up the Christian Faith, doesn't it? The Wonder of this most beautiful and wonder-filled life given us by God. The Love of God which compels us to likewise share love. And then, Praise: our collective response to all that God has made known to us, most especially God manifest in Christ Jesus. Praise is our communal *Amen* to all that is and all that will be.

LOVE is the focus for this month. **LOVE:** how it is shown to us, how we cultivate it, how we share it with others. After all, why do any of the "churchy" things we do, if it doesn't make a difference in our day to day lives? Love is our response to the love that God lavishes on us each and every day.

There are many ways we exercise **LOVE**. We do so when we bring a canned good to add to the pantry for the hungry. We do so when we bring a backpack full of brand-new school supplies for young students who do not have the means to start school with everything they need. We do so when we pull together to help homeless people get off the street and back on their feet, as we have been so fortunate to be able to do this summer. We also do so when we **LOVE** one another, showing kindness to those who are grieving, and praying for our fellow sojourners in faith during difficult illnesses or strained circumstances.

It is all about **LOVE** when we kick off a new and much-needed ministry, as we are doing this month. ***The Gathering*** has been in the works for several months and we are finally ready for an open house and a launch later in the fall. ***The Gathering*** is an interfaith ministry that provides a safe, caring place for adults living with disabilities to gather and explore their faith together. You can read about it in the pages of this Crown. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to be a welcoming, loving faith community; you are invited to come, learn, and experience what this is all about.

Mostly, I want each and every person who enters our doors or sits in our pews to answer their own call to **LOVE**, for **LOVE** is not just the domain of our church life, but of our everyday life. **LOVE** is far more than an ooey-goey feeling. **LOVE** stretches us in ways that may surprise us. It calls us to see the world through the eyes of the Christ, to remember his words when he said, '*when you do it to the least of these, you do it for me.*' **LOVE** requires that we let down our guard, and **LOVE** requires that we allow the Holy Spirit to work in the most unusual and unexpected of circumstances. **LOVE** demands all we have and all we are and calls us to be who we are in Christ Jesus.

We will explore all about **LOVE** this month! In our worship, it will be the focus of our "Let's Talk" sermons that will continue through August. So, start thinking about where you have seen **LOVE** lately. Who has shown you kindness and generosity, who has taken the time to listen. Pay attention to when you yourself show **LOVE** – you do, you know! Even if you may not be aware of it. But when you are tuned in, I am sure you are bound to find it everywhere. Let's encourage one another to nothing less than **LOVE**. After all, it is why we are here.

Peace,
Mother Lisa+

PARISH NEWS & NOTES

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish office summer hours are Tuesdays through Fridays, 8 am to 12 pm.

IN REQUIEM

Laurence Nibbling passed away on July 4th, 2025. A funeral service was held on July 12th, 2025.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon them. Amen

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED



For the sick and suffering, and those in any need

or trouble: *Anderson Pedalino, *Bill Balmer, *Carolyn, *Cassie Reagan, *Dianne Regiec, *Halina Nibbling, *Jim Miller, *Joan, *John Smalls, *Judi Buncher, *Julia Walsh, *Mimi Brown, *Pam Diamond, *Brother Richard Biernacki, *Richard Brugger, *Rod Webster, *Sarah Schmid, *Tia LaPiana, Victoria Cuff, Bob Bark, Diane Smith, Doris, Greg Shaljian, Heather Forrest, Jack Sauber, Jocelyn, John Veil, Kathy Hynes, Linda Forrest, Lynn McKittrick, Meriwether Schmid, Mignon Williams, Pam, Pat & Bob Rivenes, Peddy, Roger Cuthbert, Todd Diamond

**Denotes members of Christ Church*

PARISH LIFE

ATTENTION ST. MARY'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR!



I am looking forward to seeing all of you, as we look to the new "season" of making music for the Lord and His Church. If you are new to the choir, welcome! We need more singers, especially young ladies! Please join us for a fun time of learning and singing. Come see me at the piano after Mass any Sunday.

Br. Richard

CHRISTIAN ED HAPPENINGS

Just because we do not hold church school classes during the Summer, doesn't mean that no one is thinking about what's next. Because our church school is growing, we are going to be making a move across the hall from the yellow classroom into the space commonly referred to as "the choir room". It is much larger and will give all of us more room to stretch out, add tables and move around more freely. That said, I am seeking volunteers to help with the following projects:

1. Painting the room. This is the only room that was not painted after the Great Coffee Machine Flood, so it really needs to be freshened up. If you like to paint, I'd be glad to hand you a brush or roller.
2. Prior to painting, the baseboards, bookcases, and trim could use a good scrubbing.
3. The floor also needs to be swept and well wet mopped.
4. The beautiful altar and benches in the room need to be gently washed and polished.
5. The needlepoint kneeler and seat cushions could use a good vacuuming and airing.
6. Once we get the physical space ready, there is furniture to move into the room – tables, chairs, some bookcases, supplies, small rug.

There is no start date at this time. That depends on whether or not a work force can be mustered. Right now I'm just lining up volunteers. Most likely it will be later August, early September. We can be flexible on time, so it does not necessarily have to be a Saturday. If you would like to join in the project, please reach out to me. My cell is 732-272-5135. Or email me at susienap@yahoo.com. It's a good way to fellowship while getting a needed job done. There might even be snacks. On another note, if you have a child or children that you would like to have participate in our church school and they are not currently enrolled, please don't hesitate to contact me or the office. The more, the merrier. Jesus loved children and so do we.

Faithfully, Sue Napoletano / Ms. Nap

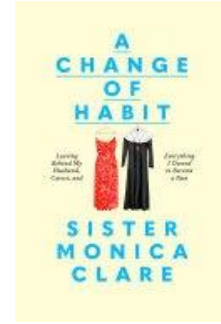
HERITAGE ROSE GARDEN

A variety of annuals added to the Rose Garden in June are now in full bloom. These include golden yellow Lantana, pink Supertunia, and purple Heliotrope. Members of the Shrewsbury Garden Club weed and water this garden throughout the summer. Stop and enjoy this beautiful garden on your way into church.

Nancy Stewart



GETTING A JUMP ON PEAK IN THE WEEK!



It's not quite time to start Peaking, but you know what they say about birds and worms. Peak in the Week will begin again on Wednesday, September 10th - 9:30 in the parish house - but first - heads up about our next book.

September's book is called **A Change of Habit** and it's written by Sister Monica Clare. She is the sister superior at the Community of St. John Baptist, an Episcopal convent in Mendham, New Jersey. She is also a spiritual counselor who specializes in religious trauma, mental illness, and addiction. Before she became a nun (1912) she was a photo editor in Los Angeles, performed in an acoustic rock duo and an improv comedy troupe.

Didn't know there were Episcopal nuns? Check out *A Change of Habit* and see what other things you might not know about the Episcopal Church. Sister Monica Clare's early life is recounted in an honest and straight forward way and will inspire readers. All net proceeds from *A Change of Habit* go toward the ministries of the Community of St. John Baptist

BLUE CLAWS AT SHORETOWN BALLPARK!

This year, we will not be going to the Blue Claws Faith and Family Night as a group, but if you want to see a game, the Faith and Family Night is a great day to attend. Faith and Family Night is August 7th and the game starts at 7:05. Purchase your discounted ticket with the optional \$5 food add on for a hot dog, soda and novelty ice cream sandwich.

[HERE!](#)

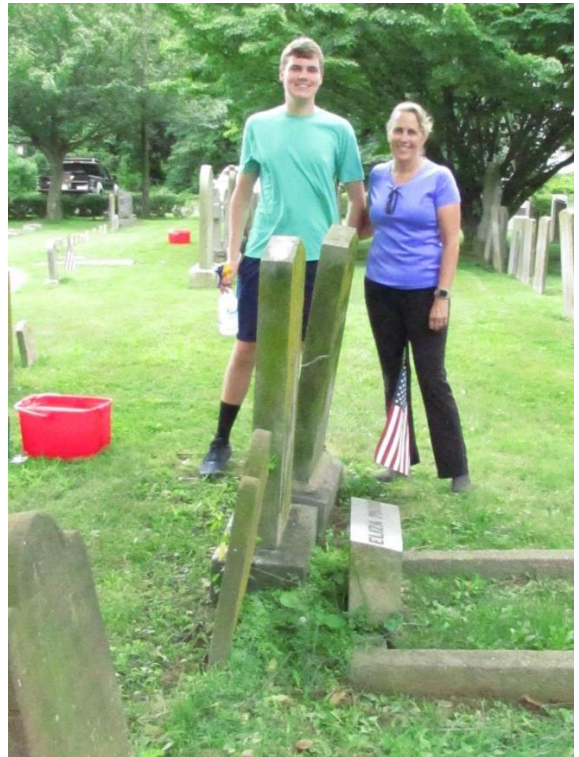
A GREAT DAY FOR GRAVEMARKER CLEANING

Several parishioners showed up on Saturday, July 19th, for a lesson (and some practical experience) in how to clean a gravemarker. The event was Organized by members of the local DAR, who are working to spruce up the cemetery in preparation for the sesquicentennial next year -- nearly two dozen men who fought in the revolution are buried in our graveyard. Thanks to Walter Dein, George Edwards, Matthew and Tara Dunford, plus Robin Blair and I who showed up to work, as did a half dozen members of the DAR. Gordon and Mimi Brown came by to cheer us on. Those who missed this event will have another opportunity on Saturday, September 13th.

Thanks, Connie



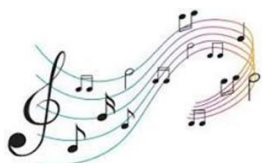
George Edwards works on cleaning a marker with Don Allas, whose wife Karen is the local DAR's marker cleaner in chief.



Matthew and Tara Dunford, pausing for a smile!

BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS

Once again, this year we will help children here in Monmouth County begin the school year with needed materials and supplies by participating in our backpack program. There are children who come to school without the needed supplies such as pencils and notebooks, delaying or impeding their fresh start to the new school year. We hope to make a difference for some of these children. Please consider providing a child with some needed supplies such as: Sturdy backpack; pencils, pens, crayons, markers, colored pencils, highlighters, zippered pencil case, spiral notebooks (no binders), homework notebooks, child scissors, glue sticks, marble notebooks, erasers, and other young child specific supplies. The target grade levels are 1st to 5th grades. Please bring your donations to church any day before Sunday, August 31st, when they will be blessed. They will then be delivered to the school guidance counselor during that first week of school. Please help us help some children again this year. Your generosity is appreciated.



LOOKING AT AUGUST

For an Organist and Choirmaster, the Summertime is a time of planning - looking ahead to the hymns, anthems, and organ music for each Sunday up until Advent, and beginning to plan the larger services, such as Christmas Eve and yes, even Holy Week!

Along with that, in July I had the wonderful opportunity to be one of the guest conductors for the 71st Annual Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association Choir Festival. (Some photos are attached!) This long-time festival welcomes guest conductors each year to lead hundreds of singers who come together to worship God through song. This is the third time I've been given this honor, having conducted works at Ocean Grove by Felix Mendelssohn, Gwyneth Walker, and this year a wonderful piece called "The Ground" by Ola Gjeilo with string orchestra.

There's still a lot going on in August, such as our **"Hymn Request Sunday" on August 10th** where everyone can choose their favorite hymns to sing during the worship service! If you have a hymn that you love which is not in the Hymnal 1982, please reach out to Fiona (sutherlandfi815@gmail.com) - that way we can have copies ready for everyone! In August, we will also have another **"Pop-Up" Summer Choir**, singing on **August 24th** with the rehearsal following the Holy Eucharist the previous week on **August 17th**.

Pax et bonum,
Fiona Smith Sutherland, Director of Music



KIDZ CLUB

The children of Christ Church were invited to join our Presbyterian neighbors for an evening of fun on Thursday, July 17th. Dinner was served, games were played, music and crafts were had. What more could you ask?

Be sure to have your children join for the next night of fun on **Wednesday, August 13th from 5:30 to 8 pm** at the Presbyterian Church.

*See flyer at the end of the Crown



“IT TAKES A VILLAGE”

**Phoenix and Julien Canoy are Philippine students Christ Church supplies a scholarship for college.*

**Queenie Caay lives in the Philippines and Christ Church sponsored her college education.*

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

- Proverbs 11:25

Dearest Christ Church Shrewsbury family,

Now that I'm 26, I tend to think deeply about life more than I ever did when I was younger. Maybe because society and the internet have so much to say about how we should live our lives. Or maybe it's also the pressure of getting compared to people my age who are doing better in life than I am. Society tends to tell us who and what we should have been at a certain age. Some people would say that before mid-20s, you should have finished college, at 25, you should have a stable job, and at 30, you should have your own house and a car, then aim to get married and start a family before your egg cells start to feel weary.

I respect their opinion and I don't let it get into me, but I won't deny that in the quiet hours, when I would space out just sitting on the bench or when I lay in bed mindlessly staring at the ceiling, I also question myself.

"Am I not doing enough?" "Am I running out of time?" "Should I be worried that I am just a few years away from turning 30, and yet I am still lacking by a lot?"

But then I tell myself, no one has life all figured out. Many people are struggling with something, and your current struggle might just be a fraction of theirs. It doesn't mean that you are not allowed to worry or feel sad, because it's good to feel all these emotions while reflecting on yourself. But staying true to your faith and keeping a positive outlook in life does wonders than overthinking things too much. When you meet new people, hear different stories, and observe strangers, you realize that each of us is journeying through life at different paces. Thus, we should enjoy the journey at our own pace. And this is my pace; we are not facing the same circumstances. Just because others are taking big

leaps ahead doesn't mean that you are lagging behind everyone else. Doesn't matter if you're 26 or you're 62, for life is not a competition. Our small but "trying to keep up" steps are not lacking, and so our efforts shouldn't be undervalued.

And dearest ones, as I was writing this, I stumbled upon this quote on the internet that says, "Your direction is more important than your speed." God indeed works in mysterious ways because I'm sure there is no internet in Heaven, but he found a way to tell me to calm down. We might sometimes feel troubled, but eventually we will find the peace that we seek. For as long as we believe in Him, everything will be just fine.

With love, always,
Queenie



Here's a picture of me back in May during my Japan trip. Just a girl trying to slow down while looking over the bustling city of Tokyo.

Good day to everyone, especially to Mother Lisa!

I hope this message finds you well and safe. I am truly excited to share with you one of our recent school projects which is my coffee painting. I created this artwork using instant coffee as my medium. It features a serene forest, inspired by my deep love for nature. Although I don't consider myself very artistic but I did my best and I truly hope it makes you proud.

Our classes began on June 16, 2025 and our preliminary examinations are scheduled for July 23

to 25. After the exams, we will be having our acquaintance party. As we prepare for these upcoming events, I am doing everything I can to study hard and perform well in my exams. I want to make sure that all your support and kindness are not in vain.

I would't have made it this far without your continuous help and most of all without God's guidance. Thank you so much for believing in me. I will continue to do my best in everything I do. Once again, thank you very much and I sincerely wish safety, good health, and peace for each and every one of you.

Phoenix Canoy



Hello to the members of Christ Church Shrewsbury and families,

It's me again, Julien. It's been a long time since my last letter. I hope everyone is doing well. As for me, I'm fine and happy. This upcoming last week of the month we will be having our orientation for the school year. Thankfully I am now in my third year of college. Thanks for all your support and prayers. Just this week I enrolled. We are also collecting our grades from different teachers and I'm so satisfied with my grades. I can remember all the efforts I

gave and also the struggles I faced. I am not a genius, but I am very happy that I was able to get high grades after working hard. With the help of my family, friends, relatives, Christ Church Shrewsbury family (especially Mother Lisa), and most of all from God who has always been there watching, guiding and protecting me. I know I can make it. This morning when we attended the mass, the priest reminded us to always put God as our first priority. He told us this story of Maria and Martha. It goes like this. Maria and Martha were sisters. One day, God visited thier house so Martha was preparing for the foods and other things to serve God. But Maria

was just sitting there while listening to God. And so Martha was complaining because Maria didn't help her. But God told Martha why would she bother to do all those things when all He asks from her is to listen. This story reminds us that God is asking us to give Him time, in whatever we do, we need to stop, look and listen to Him. Always prioritize Him. Live our life with Him.

Always thankful,
Julien

THE GATHERING MINISTRY

We are thrilled to announce **The Gathering Ministry** at Christ Church Shrewsbury! It is a prayer service designed to meet the needs of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is an incredibly underserved population in churches across America. The committee is working very hard and getting the word out to people who work with this population, have family members in this population, or know individuals with family members in this population. Please distribute the flyer for our Open Houses to everybody who may be interested. If you would like to help with the open house, the committee would be very appreciative! We need to provide some food and drinks for the attendees. We hope you will attend to learn about The Gathering Ministry or speak to one of the committee members about it. Members of The Gathering Ministry committee are: Mother Lisa, Tia LaPiana, Josie Borden, Denzel Donaldson, Susan Sellers, Deacon Magdalena Aders, and Robert Maber.

Sincerely,
Tia LaPiana
tiathegathering@gmail.com

The Gathering Ministry- *Belonging in Faith, United in Love*



THE GATHERING

is having an
OPEN HOUSE

OUR MISSION

To create a welcoming and inclusive interfaith prayer community where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities can explore their spirituality, share in communal worship, and find belonging and joy.

WHO WE SERVE

We particularly craft THE GATHERINGS for those adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who may live in group homes, attend respite programs, or live at home, and who may not have the opportunity to participate in a traditional prayer service. But **ALL** are welcome at THE GATHERING! Our time together will include singing, discussions about the topic of the day, prayers for those gathered, celebrations of birthdays and other special events, and time for light refreshments and fellowship. Those who gather will be included in all aspects of our time together; it is meant just for them!

OPEN HOUSE

We warmly invite you to join us for one of our exciting **OPEN HOUSE SESSIONS!** These events are designed for providers, educators, social workers, group home and respite staff, parents, supporters, and everyone involved with individuals with IDD. This is your opportunity to experience THE GATHERING firsthand, engage in an enriching Q&A session, enjoy some light refreshments, and share your invaluable feedback regarding the scheduling of future Gatherings. Your insights will help us create the most impactful experience tailored to meet the needs of our participants. We look forward to welcoming you!

OPEN HOUSE DETAILS-TWO CONVENIENT SESSIONS

Session 1-Tuesday, August 19, 10:00 am **OR**

Session 2-Saturday, August 23, 10:00 am

Christ Episcopal Church 380 Sycamore
Avenue Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

**Please reserve your spot by 8/12/25 by
emailing TiaTheGathering@gmail.com**

THE GATHERING *Belonging in Faith, United in Love*



**AGE 5-12
YEARS**

FREE



KIDZ CLUB NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13th

5:30 TO 8:00

**A FUN NIGHT OF GAMES, CRAFTS, MUSIC
DINNER, BIBLE STORIES, AND MORE!**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AT SHREWSBURY
352 SYCAMORE AVE
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702
RSVP SHERRI AT
+(732) 904-7273**



Come join us for a reunion, or a first meeting, or an intro to the new curricula, or the kick-off of an exciting and brand-new way of doing things: but **COME** and

CELEBRATE EFM!

1:00 PM-4PM on Saturday, August 9

Crossroads at St. Peter's Church

33 Throckmorton St., Freehold New Jersey

Eucharist at 1:30

Walk a Chartres labyrinth at any time

Share a buffet with friends old and new

Get the low-down on our next 50 years of Efm

CELEBRATE EFM!



Deluxe Family Portrait Session Louise Conover Photography

Photo Package Details:

- Your extended lifestyle family portrait session, group of less than 25, will include a 1-2 hour session, with each family receiving a mini session in addition to a large family portrait.
- Sessions will take place at a location of your choice in Monmouth County-home, beach or park.
- As a special gift, 10 retouched digital files, and up to 75 4 x 6 proofs will be included which will then be presented in a beautiful custom silk album.

PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS:

**1 Ticket for \$7
2 Tickets for \$10
5 Tickets for \$20**

Payment: Cash, Check, or Venmo @KDowns110

Raffle drawing: Sunday, September 7, 2025
during the 10:15am Service at Christ Church.

Winner need not be present.

THOSE WHO SERVE - AUGUST

August 3

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Edgar John, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Robert Maber, Bob Van Valkenburgh
Ushers: Robert Maber, Christine Maber
Pianist: Brother Richard Biernacki
Guest Soloist: John Colon
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster
Iced Tea Hour: Madna Aubry

August 10

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Dexter & Abe Craven, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Peggy James, Carl Alfano
Ushers: Judi Buncher, John Callaghan
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster
Iced Tea Hour: Walter Dein

August 17

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Cassandra Murphy, Josie Borden, Tia LaPiana (CB), Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Connie Goddard, Mark Roth
Ushers: Elaine Feyereisen, George Edwards
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Tia LaPiana, Madna Aubry
Iced Tea Hour: Elaine Feyereisen

August 24

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Seminararian: Denzel Donaldson
Acolytes: Joshua Dunford, Matthew Dunford, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Dash Cassidy, Josie Borden
Ushers: Judi Buncher, Carl Alfano
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher
Iced Tea Hour: Julie Cassidy

August 31

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Madna Aubry, Edgar John
Lectors: Elaine Feyereisen,
Ushers: Peggy James, John Callaghan
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Colleen & Mark Roth
Iced Tea Hour: Craven Family

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>Office Hours:</u> Tue. – Fri. 8 am – 12 pm					1	2
3 <u>10:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist	4	5	6	7 <u>7pm</u> BlueClaws Faith & Family Night	8	9 <u>1 – 4 pm</u> EFM Celebration at St. Peter's, Freehold
10 <u>10:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Choir goes to the Blue Claws Game!	11	12	13 <u>5:30 – 8 pm</u> Kidz Club Night at Presbyterian Church	14	15	16
17 <u>10:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist	18 <u>7 pm</u> Vestry Meeting	19 <u>10 am</u> The Gathering Open House	20	21	22	23 <u>10 am</u> The Gathering Open House
24 <u>10:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 <u>10:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist						

Christ Church Shrewsbury

380 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

www.ChristChurchShrewsbury.org + christchurchshrewsbury@verizon.net + 732-741-2220



"Be friends with Christ Church Shrewsbury" and then invite your friends to be our friend so we all can be informed and connected to events in our community.

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST.
BRING SOMEONE TO CHURCH WITH YOU.

The Reverend Lisa S. Mitchell, Rector
The Reverend William Balmer, Deacon
Denzel Donaldson, Seminarian
Fiona Smith Sutherland, Organist/Choirmaster
Brother Richard Biernacki, St. Mary's Choir Director
Francesca Parker, Office Administrator
Halina Nibbling, Sexton

VESTRY 2025

Elaine Feyereisen - Senior Warden
Peggy James - Junior Warden, Stewardship
Stephen Craven - Treasurer
Lynn Marengo - Asst. Treasurer
Madna Aubry - Stewardship, GFS Representative
Julie Sinn Cassidy - Youth Ministries
Walter Dein - Property
Sue Napoletano - Church School
Bob Stewart - Graveyard
Susan Sellers – ECW Liaison
Dianne Regiec - Food Insecurity
Nancy Stewart - Vestry Clerk

