

# 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 XXVI Issue III

March 2026



<b>Palm Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Palm Sunday with Procession
<b>Holy Monday</b>	12:00 pm	Eucharist for Holy Week
<b>Holy Tuesday</b>	12:00 pm	Eucharist for Holy Week
<b>Holy Wednesday</b>	12:00 pm	Eucharist for Holy Week Tenebrae Evening Service
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	12:00 pm 5:00 pm	Eucharist for Holy Week Maundy Thursday
<b>Good Friday</b>	12:00 pm 3:00 pm	Good Friday Service Stations of the Cross
<b>Holy Saturday</b>		Altar Guild Workday
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Easter Sunday Service Easter Egg Hunt Easter Brunch in Parish Hall

*“I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.”*

I've always found it interesting that on a day when we gather all together, have ashes prominently marked on our foreheads, pray out loud together, and often talk about our Lenten practices—fasting from one thing or another, usually, or giving a little extra—is also the day when we hear Jesus telling us NOT to be so obvious when we fast, give, and pray!

Jesus tells us in the Gospels that when we pray, when we fast, and when we give alms, we are not to draw attention to ourselves. Worship isn't about glorifying ourselves, but about glorifying God and acting as true lovers of God's creation. Don't pray as the hypocrites do. Don't pray only so that everyone else can see how holy you are.

Christ isn't telling us to pray outside of a community, though—Christ drew the community of disciples to him at the beginning of his ministry in preparation for the time when he would no longer be there to lead them. Christ brings us together not because he needs us, but because we need each other.

The Lenten season is a primary opportunity for our own discipleship formation, and while our formation practice is always interwoven with our individual spiritual practices, it begins and ends in community. Lent begins with the prophet Joel and the sounding of the trumpet, calling us together for worship. The prophetic readings are clear in their directive to God's people: our work and worship are stronger when they're done together. And our readings end with Christ's caution NOT to sound the trumpet for ourselves alone. The Gospel reading is set in the context of the Sermon on the Mount—Christ's teachings to the crowds about what it means to be formed as God's gathered people, to pray with those who pray, fast with those who fast, give to those who are in need.

This is our primary opportunity to learn new things about God and about each other, to take on new spiritual practices and to enrich the ones we already have. You're already in the best place to do that. Over the next few weeks, you'll be invited to build up your Spiritual First Aid Kit during our Coffee Hours after the service (including a special Coffee Hour at the Rectory on March 15th!), to join us for our weekly Wednesday Eucharist at 9:30 am and our Peak in the

Week that follows, and to join us every day at noon during Holy Week for a daily celebration of the Eucharist. And your Lenten formation journey can be made deeply complete with our observances of Tenebrae on Wednesday of Holy Week, Maundy Thursday and the Vigil, Good Friday and the Seven Last Words, and Holy Saturday leading up to our joyous Easter celebration.

You've already started your Lenten journey, here with each other. You have a lot to teach each other, and a lot to learn from each other. As we stand together in the darkness of Lent, reach out your hands. You will find each other—and in the community you find in each other, you will surely find Christ.

Faithfully,

Susanna+

## PARISH NEWS & NOTES

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mother Susanna is in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. If you would like to meet with her, please do call ahead to ensure she is in. Office hours are Mondays through Fridays from 2:30 to 5:30.

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### YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED



**For the sick and suffering, and those in any need or trouble:**

\*Anderson Pedalino, \*Bill Balmer, \*Carolyn, \*Cassie Reagan, \*Denzel Donaldson, \*Dianne Regiec, \*Halina Nibbling, \*Jim Miller, \*Joan, \*John Smalls, \*Judi Buncher, \*Julia Walsh, \*Mimi Brown, \*Pam Diamond, \*Paul Murgio, \*Richard Brugger, \*Rod Webster, \*Sarah Schmid, \*Tom Cameron, Anthony Anello, Arlene, Barbara, Bob Bark, Candice, Dave, Doris, Gerard, Heather Forrest, Jack, Jack Sauber, Jocelyn, John Veil, Julien, Linda Forrest, Lynn, Lynn McKittrick, Meriwether Schmid, Mignon Williams, Pam, Roger Cuthbert, Sandy Abdelaziz, Tim, Todd Diamond  
*\*Denotes members of Christ Church*

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### IN REQUIEM



Marjorie Durdack  
Died February 15, 2026

Robert H. Bymers  
Died February 15, 2026

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

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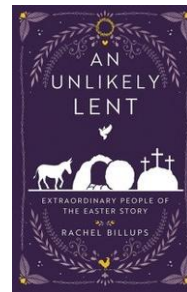
### ANY CHANGES?

Please advise us of any changes in address, e-mail, or telephone number so we can keep our records up to date. Please send us an email or call the Church Office at 732-741-2220.

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## PARISH LIFE

### PEAK IN THE WEEK FOR MARCH 2026



Peak in the Week is ON! The weather is fit for civilized people, my arm is fairly cooperative, I have a car--what else could anyone want?

Our Grand Re-Opening is Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30. There will be Eucharist followed by PEAK IN THE WEEK! We'll talk briefly about *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* and a wee bit of Lent Madness and then we'll jump right into talk of our March/Lent book/series called, *An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story*, a Lenten study series by Rachel Billups. The small booklet can be purchased, or not. If you prefer just to bring your Bible.

I am looking forward to Peaking again with y'all.  
Donna

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### MUSIC IN LENT

At Christ Church, music has always been integral to our worship. As we enter into Lent and prepare for the week that is Holy, we want to involve everyone in our worship. To that end, one of my Lenten goals is our congregational singing. True, our delightful and historic pipe organ does not have the volume, bells, or whistles which help support hearty congregational song, but I hope and pray that you who are worshiping with us will take these familiar

Lenten hymns (e.g. "Ah, Holy Jesus," "Forty Days and Forty Nights") and sing them with intent. Many of the texts are historic, some could be considered ancient! Sing with us as we walk this Lenten journey together.

Choir - we are hoping that some of you will sing with the choir this Holy Week. If the rehearsal time (Thursday mornings at 10 am) is not conducive for your work or personal schedules, please let me know and I will do my best to accommodate. Reach out to Fiona (sutherlandfi815@gmail.com).

Pax et bonum,  
Fiona

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## THE GATHERING



We are pleased to say that the first Gatherings have been held with great success! Two gatherings were held in February, one for the day programs and one for the residential programs. There were 5 attendees from ARC programs at the evening program on February 12<sup>th</sup>, and 12 from ARC day programs on February 18<sup>th</sup>. A few parishioners attended each day, which really helped with setup and leading the singing. Because we sang! Each Gathering begins with, "I Will Sing, I Will Sing a Song Unto the Lord", and ends with "Shalom, my friends," and everyone enjoyed singing LOUDLY and playing their instruments. During the service, everyone was attentive and asked questions, which is great! I hope that parishioners will continue to attend and stay for fellowship time to engage with and welcome our newest members of Christ Church Shrewsbury.

**The Gathering is every 2nd Thursday at 5:30,  
and every third Wednesday at 11:30.**

Sincerely,  
Tia LaPiana

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

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## CHRISTIAN ED HAPPENINGS

Between the snowfall, Mother Lisa's farewell and President's Weekend, we didn't get in much class time in February but that's sometimes how it rolls. Lent has arrived and March is gearing up to be quite busy. This Sunday, March 1, during coffee hour join the children and their parents for the Pancake Breakfast. You won't be sorry you stayed.

Church Classes will continue on March 8, 15 and 22 at 9:00. On Palm Sunday, March 29 the children will join the congregation in church for the service followed by a unique event. Mother Susanna really likes the children to have a birds-eye view of what's happening at the altar. So, the class will continue to sit as a group in the front pews. The kids will also continue to process out with their Cross at the end of service.

On Saturday, March 28, Mother Susanna will be holding an all-ages Communion Class in the Parish House from 10 – 1. It will chock full of hands-on activities – making and baking the Communion bread, designing and creating chalices to keep, all while learning more about this Holy Sacrament. You may have had Communion Class instruction before, but a refresher is always in order. Mother Susanna will bring her own special way to explore this topic which all of us will find fresh and exciting. Then, make sure you show up on Palm Sunday to share the sacred bread and to stay on during coffee hour for Peep Sunday celebration. All are invited!

We'd like to have a head count so if you can let me or the office know in advance if you plan on attending the class, we'd appreciate it.

Faithfully, Mrs. Nap

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## JOIN THE COFFEE CREW!



We are seeking volunteers to host upcoming Coffee Hours. This shared time is truly a gift to our parish community. A host is needed for **March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**. If you're able to help, please sign up on the Parish House bulletin board or contact us, and we'll gladly add you to the schedule.

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## EGGSTRAVAGANZA



I cannot tell a lie. Within the coming days I'll be contacting our partners at Fishing Creek - Salem United Methodist Church to order the chocolate eggs. Keep your eyes peeled for the Marketplace opening soon in the Parish Hall. Filled Milk or Dark Chocolate Eggs in peanut butter, coconut cream, double coconut and vanilla cream and new this year, Chocolate Covered Pretzel bags will be sold on a first come, first serve basis, all \$4.00 each. Checks can be made payable to Christ Church. Cash also accepted. Possibly Venmo.

Eggs-citedly, Mrs. Nap

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### **RECTORY REJUVENATION!**

We are in full swing preparing the Rectory for Mother Susanna, her husband William and their pets.

New appliances have been ordered, and estimates are coming in for painting, cleaning, carpentry work, and more.

Yes, we still have money in the Rectory Campaign fund, but that money is dwindling down! Remember, we have already replaced all the windows and doors and painted the entire 1st floor.

We need to preserve our 200-year-old home, and you can help us do that. Please consider contributing to our rectory fund. Any amount would be appreciated. A few thoughts, you could designate your donation for new light fixtures in the bedrooms (there are 5 bedrooms), new bathroom mirror/medicine cabinet, new flooring in the kitchen and powder room or the painting of a room. Talk to us about how you can contribute.

Thank you,  
Wardens, Peggy & Elaine

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## THOSE WHO SERVE MARCH

### **March 1**

Celebrant: Reverend Susanna Cates  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Edgar John, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Elaine Feyereisen, Carl Alfano  
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster  
Coffee Hour: Pancake Breakfast

### **March 8**

Celebrant: Reverend Susanna Cates  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Dexter, Kodi & Abe Craven, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Robert Maber, Bob Van Valkenburgh  
Ushers: Bramley Maber, Christine Maber  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Madna Aubry  
Coffee Hour: Cassandra & Abigail

### **March 15**

Celebrant: Reverend Susanna Cates  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Cassandra Murphy, Edgar John, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Connie Goddard, Peggy James  
Ushers: Judi Buncher, Carl Alfano,  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Colleen & Mark Roth  
Coffee Hour: At the Rectory

### **March 22**

Celebrant: Reverend Susanna Cates  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Joshua & Matthew Dunford, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Kodi Craven, Tara Dunford  
Ushers: Elaine Feyereisen, Connie Goddard  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher & Tia LaPiana  
Coffee Hour: HOST NEEDED!

### **March 29 – PALM SUNDAY**

Celebrant: Reverend Susanna Cates  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Tia LaPiana (CB), Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Dash Cassidy, Laura Stroebel  
Ushers: Peggy James, John Callaghan  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster  
Coffee Hour: HOST NEEDED!

# MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist Followed by Pancake Breakfast	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	<b>5</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	<b>12</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal  <u>5:30 pm</u> The Gathering	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <u>8:30 - 10 am</u> Men's Breakfast Group
<b>15</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist Followed by Coffee Hour at the Rectory	<b>16</b>  <u>7 pm</u> Vestry Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week  <u>11:30 am</u> The Gathering	<b>19</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	<b>26</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <u>10 am - 1 pm</u> Communion Class for Children + Youth
<b>29</b> <b>PALM</b> <b>SUNDAY</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist with Procession	<b>30</b> <b>HOLY</b> <b>MONDAY</b>  <u>12 pm</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>31</b> <b>HOLY</b> <b>TUESDAY</b>  <u>12 pm</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>1</b> <b>HOLY</b> <b>WEDNESDAY</b>  <u>12 pm</u> Holy Eucharist  Tenebrae Evening Services	<b>2</b> <b>MAUNDY</b> <b>THURSDAY</b>  <u>12 pm</u> Holy Eucharist  <u>5 pm</u> Maundy Thursday	<b>3</b> <b>GOOD</b> <b>FRIDAY</b>  <u>12 pm</u> Good Friday Service  <u>3 pm</u> Stations of the Cross	<b>4</b> <b>HOLY</b> <b>SATURDAY</b>  Altar Guild Workday
<b>5</b> <b>EASTER</b> <b>SUNDAY</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist Easter Egg Hunt Easter Brunch						

# Christ Church Shrewsbury

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Follow our Social Accounts on:



"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 Canon Susanna Cates, Priest-in-Charge  
The Reverend William Balmer, Deacon  
Denzel Donaldson, Seminarian  
Fiona Smith Sutherland, Organist/Choirmaster  
Francesca Parker, Office Administrator  
Halina Nibbling, Sexton

## **VESTRY 2026**

Elaine Feyereisen - Senior Warden  
Peggy James - Junior Warden, Stewardship  
Carl Alfano  
Madna Aubry - Stewardship, GFS Representative  
Julie Sinn Cassidy - Youth Ministries  
Walter Dein - Property  
Bramley Maber  
Lisa Marino  
Sue Napoletano - Church School  
Susan Sellers - ECW Liaison  
Robert Stewart - Historian & Graveyard

Nancy Stewart - Vestry Clerk

Stephen Craven - Treasurer  
Lynn Marengo - Asst. Treasurer

