

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 IV

April 2026



Palm Sunday at Christ Church

“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

Do you know which phrase is repeated in Scripture more than any other? “Do not be afraid! Fear not!”

Even in the depths of our sorrow, even when we seek Jesus and can’t find his presence in our lives, the voices of God’s messengers insist that we take heart, do not fear, and look in the places we last expect!

The women at the tomb—the first post-Resurrection disciples—aren’t there in hope. They’re there to properly care for and bury their beloved dead. They’re looking for Christ crucified, and when they can’t find his body, they grieve all over again. But the angel is waiting. God’s messenger, unexpected and surprising, is there to tell them to look again, and look elsewhere. And he gives them God’s promise that they will see him again, raised from the dead, victorious and eternally alive, just as they will be.

In the past two months with you at Christ Church, I’ve found Christ in all kinds of places: a cross of ashes on our foreheads, the sweet praises of our choir, the generous ministries of everyone here who teaches, feeds, and works for the Church and for each other. And I want to bring everyone’s attention to where our children and families have discovered and re-discovered Christ in the central sacrament of our faith: the Holy Communion.

On Saturday, March 28th, we gathered with those families for our first Family Communion Workshop. Did we have fun? You bet we did! There was plenty of laughter, joy, and liveliness in our time together.

Did we have moments of quiet awe and mystery? You bet we did. Our Christ Church children learned to look for Christ every Sunday, truly present in the gifts of bread and wine on the altar, and truly present in them when they receive those gifts. They witnessed the bread they made with their own hands transformed into that true presence on Palm Sunday—the gifts they so freely offered becoming the gifts of God for the people of God. For them. For their family and friends.

I am so grateful for their love and enthusiasm, for their willingness to ask hard questions (and they did!), and their joy in finding Christ when they’re guided to look for Him everywhere. Scripture reminds us that the little ones will lead us, and that’s exactly what we witnessed when we gathered together.

As Easter approaches, let’s help each other remember that it’s a season, not just one day. Let’s help each other remember where to look for Christ when we don’t find His presence where we expect. I pray that the season of Easter is full of joyful surprises, shown to us by the faithful of all ages, world without end, AMEN!

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. However, during Holy Week, Easter, and Spring Break hours may be different, so it is best to call ahead.

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.

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 Landers, *John Smalls, *Judi Buncher, *Julia Walsh, *Mimi Brown, *Paul Murgio, *Richard Brugger, *Rod Webster, *Sarah Schmid, *Tia LaPiana, *Tom Cameron, Ann, Anthony Anello, Arlene, Barbara, Bob Bark, Candice, Dave, Doris, Gerard, Heather Forrest, Ingrid, Jack Sauber, Jocelyn, John Veil, Julien, Kristy R., Libby Noell, Linda Forrest, Lynn, Lynn McKittrick, Matthew Diamond, Mignon Williams, Robert Spencer, Roger Cuthbert, Sandy Abdelaziz, Scott Diamond, Todd Diamond, The Lam Family

May they be relieved of their distress.

**Denotes members of Christ Church*

IN REQUIEM



Meriweather Schmid
July 16, 1927 – February 20, 2026

Pamela Diamond
December 27, 1944 – March 13, 2026

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

PARISH LIFE

MAUNDY THURSDAY VIGIL SIGN UP

We are preparing to keep our vigil with the Blessed Sacrament after the Maundy Thursday service into Good Friday. There is a sign-up sheet at the church, but we're also offering an online signup. The available slots are in one-hour increments from 7 pm on Maundy Thursday (following the service) until 11 am on Good Friday. Up to 3 people can sign up per slot using the online form, but we can always accommodate more if you'd like to arrange a group. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a spot via phone, please contact the church office. Follow the link to sign up online: [Maundy Vigil Sign Up](#). May we keep vigil faithfully with Christ in the Garden.

FLOWERING OF THE CROSS



On Easter Day, we will once again take part in the beautiful and joyful tradition of Flowering the Cross. As we celebrate Christ's resurrection, children are invited to bring fresh flowers to adorn the cross, transforming it into a vibrant symbol of new life, hope, and resurrection.

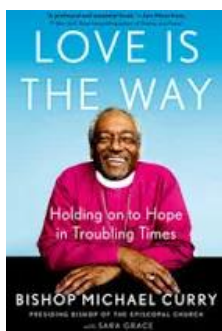
PEAK IN THE WEEK FOR APRIL

It is just amazing to me that Easter will be in a matter of days! But it's true and that means that the April Peak in the Week book selection is due to be announced—right now!

And I can do that—RIGHT NOW!

Drum roll, please—

April 2026 Peak in the Week book is *Love Is the Way* by Bishop Michael Curry. This is our former Presiding Bishop. A charming, funny, always engaged, and engaging, real man who tells it like it is. The story he tells in *Love is the Way* is tried (by him) and true (he'll attest). Won't you join us as we read together this amazing man's amazing book? Come and see if I exaggerate!



Often in March Peakers look at books that are appropriate for Women's History Month. This year, Lent took precedence, but I wanted to share titles of some excellent books for Women's History Month. First is a serious but fun book called *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwich. Bostwich recalls the bad old days when women needed to get their husband's permission and approval to open a store account or get a credit card. Then there is *How We Learn to Be Brave, Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Edgar Budde who is the Episcopal Bishop of Washington (DC). Then there is *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. While this is an historical novel, it is built on the very real character of the women spy who is credited with being the mastermind of the incredibly effective spy network who undermined and overoperated Germany and the Nazi network in WWI and WWII. Absolutely unbelievable action and accomplishments and they're all true!

See ya Wednesdays! Eucharist at 9:30, book at 10:00.

Donna

EASTER BRUNCH & EGG HUNT

Everyone is invited to stay and celebrate after the Easter Sunday service with our festive Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt for the children. We hope you'll join us for a joyful time of fellowship, good food, and Easter fun as we continue our celebration of the Resurrection together.

We look forward to sharing this special Easter morning with the whole parish community!

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild of Christ Church would like to thank everyone for their generous support.

We realize that no flowers during Lent might have interfered with your chosen date. (Feb. 22 to March 29) If you would like to have another date please contact Francesca in the Parish office.

We would like to also thank all the Parishioners who have helped us setup, take down or move things.

Thank you again, for helping to make our Church more beautiful with your memorials and thanksgivings.

Blessings,
Judi & Cindy
Altar Guild

JOIN THE COFFEE CREW!



Coffee Hour is a wonderful time for fellowship, and we're looking for volunteers to help make it possible. Hosting is easy and a great way to serve our parish community. Hosts are needed for April 12th and April 26th.

You can sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish House or call the church office to add your name. Thank you for helping keep this special time of connection going!

CHRISTIAN ED HAPPENINGS

The Church School families kicked off the month of March with a delightful Pancake Breakfast for the whole congregation. Fluffy pancakes and savory sausages were in abundance. They sure do know how to throw a party! In class, our focus has been on the progression of Jesus' ministry as related to us through the eyes of John. Miracles abound. We learned that some people are in awe, though some are not. Jesus is creating quite a stir. We also traveled the path of Palm Sunday in Jerusalem and created a banner. Come check out what we're doing.

On March 28th Mother Susanna held a communion class which was well attended. The kids made chalices, baked communion bread, shared a meal in anticipation of using these items in the Palm Sunday service. And let's not forget the very first Peep Sunday during coffee hour for all families. Will report on those events next month.

Faithfully,
Sue Napoletano
Christian Ed Coordinator

CALLING ALL GIRLS FRIENDLY FOLKS!

I know things have been quiet on the GFS-front for a while, but I have just gotten word that GFS New Jersey is having a weekend camp August 13-16.

It appears that things are still in the planning stages so if you are interested in attending or know someone who is -- please, please, please have them let me know right away so I can tell the coordinators. We are looking to see who is interested so they can run the numbers -- there is not a commitment to attend at this point.

Kindly text me at (732) 859-3585 if you have any questions.

Stay tuned for more news,
Stacy Reagan

SPRING FLEA MARKET



A flea market fundraising event is tentatively planned for June 27th.

First, two people are needed to help co-chair this event. Availability the two weeks prior to this event would be important. Either daytime or evening availability is needed, especially that week before. Sorting, organizing will begin the evening of June 22nd at the Vestry meeting. Each day thereafter there will be a need for pricing, organizing, washing, and other help.

We won't begin the collection of goods until after June 15th, so start considering your donations as your Spring cleaning evolves. No early drop-offs! Again this year, no big furniture or other items since we are limited in the ability to get rid of them if they do not sell. Keep in mind that items that do not sell will be donated to Good Will or other places.

Please e-mail or call me with questions or to offer to co-chair. 732-742-1227

More information will be forthcoming!

Thank you,
Elaine

RECTORY REPAIR PROGRESS

Many big changes and improvements have been made to the rectory in this past month. Previously reported were the doors and windows that were replaced. They are working well and certainly were the first steps needed. Since then, repairs have been made to bathrooms, the kitchen and lighting.

All three bathrooms have had improvements. The downstairs bathroom has a new floor, pipes improved to prevent future issues and esthetic improvements. The small upstairs bathroom has a new shower base, walls and plumbing. It was found that the cracking of the shower base may have been

caused by the one-foot hole in the floor under it! A new floor was needed, trim and a new medicine cabinet and lighting. The main upstairs bathroom needed the seals around the tub cleaned and regROUTED, and new faucets since the old were loose and leaking. In the back bedroom, an old bathroom had been turned into a laundry space for the washer and dryer. Both were found to be in disrepair – one with a cord that was frayed and dangerous. Since it is a small space, it was determined that a new appliance, a stackable washer/dryer would work best.

The kitchen was a big project. First a review of each appliance indicated that there were many issues. The dishwasher, the stove and refrigerator were replaced. The countertop was replaced. The old wall-unit oven was removed, and open shelves were built in its place. Finally, a new floor made it all look marvelous and certainly gave the home a feeling of home.

It was found that in the ceilings, the boxes with the electrical connections were very old, frayed and the boxes for connections were too small so it was time to call in an electrician. New lighting and ceiling fans were added to the bedrooms; old wiring was replaced and new boxes installed where needed. On March 15th, many parishioners came to coffee hour in the rectory, to view the repairs in progress. Feedback indicates that there was approval of the progress to date.

There is still some painting to be done, especially upstairs.

The work completed this year will last for a long time, but we will stay on top of our old 200 year old home and more readily respond to any issues that develop.

We have had several angels readily donate the cost of the appliances. That is absolutely appreciated. However, if there are any other angels in the parish who wish to donate to a specific portion of the renovation, there are several possibilities:
Electrician - \$850; Fans and lights - \$550; kitchen / bathroom floor materials - \$1500; small bathroom shower base and walls - \$800; Small Bathroom wall

tile - \$100; additional miscellaneous expenses - \$400; trash removal - \$250. Please make a check payable to Christ Church and on the memo line state Rectory Fund. We have worked diligently to determine the most cost-effective way to put the house in good working order, and appreciate all donations, both **large and small**. Thank you.

Elaine and Peggy

LET'S GET SOCIAL!



Friendly reminder that Christ Church is active on Instagram and Facebook! We share weekly updates, events, and news from around the parish—so be sure to like and follow us to stay connected.

If you have a program or event you'd like to promote, please contact Kim Roberts-Honecker at kimroberts05@gmail.com or (732) 530-7451.

“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

Hello! Once again, it's me Julien. As I am writing this email, I am also studying our lessons for our examination. These past few weeks we have all been busy with our community service and research. I have a hectic schedule, but I know God will always be there to help me. And I know that you're all praying for me, so I thank you very much for the help.

Always thankful,
Julien

SUCCESSFUL FAMILY COMMUNION WORKSHOP!

On Saturday, March 28th, families came together at Christ Church for our first Family Communion Workshop, marking a meaningful moment of gathering, discovery, and shared faith for children and parents alike.



PANERA BREAD DAY: RAISE THE DOUGH!

Save the date for **Thursday, April 16th** and enjoy a delicious way to support our parish. When you dine at the Panera Bread in Shrewsbury between **4:00 and 8:00 pm**, a portion of the proceeds will be donated directly to Christ Church. Whether you stop in for dinner, dessert, or coffee, every visit helps. Please be sure to spread the word and invite your family and friends to join us!



RAISE SOME DOUGH

Help support us!

20% of sales will benefit
Christ Church Shrewsbury

April 16, 2026
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
1050 Broad Street
Shrewsbury, NJ

In Cafe Drive-Thru

Pick-Up Delivery

Enter promo code **FUND4U** at online checkout.

Panera
FUNDRAISING

LOOKING FOR A FUN, CREATIVE NIGHT OUT?

Join us for a new fundraising event:

Treasures from the Tide: A Sea Glass Art Experience!

The expert artists from J&J Sip and Paint will host a guided sea glass art experience while you relax and have fun with your friends!

Thursday, May 14

6:00-8:00pm

Christ Church Parish House

BYOB - beer, wine, and cocktails welcome!

Bring your own dinner and snacks!

Register and pay using the QR code or web site on the attached flyer - or by emailing Kristen. (Information attached)

WEB SITE LINK DIRECTLY TO OUR EVENT FOR REGISTRATION:

<https://jjsipnpaint.com/event-details/product/69bbf3787dbb06599d944a82>



CHRIST CHURCH FUNDRAISING EVENT
TREASURES FROM THE TIDE
A SEA GLASS ART EXPERIENCE
380 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury

MAY 14
6-8 PM | \$65

Join us in making sea glass art on a glass frame using various colored sea glass and shells for a good cause!

- Ages 7+ welcome (with adult)
- BYOB + food

Grab your tickets at
[JJSIPNPAINT.COM](https://jjsipnpaint.com)
or call/text/email
Kristen Downs to pay cash
732-890-2888
kristendowns110@gmail.com

Scan to register

THOSE WHO SERVE APRIL

April 1 – Holy Wednesday 12 pm

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Acolyte: Judi Buncher
Lector: Denzel Donaldson
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Cindy Webster, Madna Aubry, Tia LaPiana, Collen & Mark Roth

April 1 – Tenebrae 7 pm

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Acolyte: Edgar John
Lectors: Walter Dein, Elaine Feyereisen, Josie Borden, Robert Maber, Tia LaPiana, Priscilla Gettis,
Denzel Donaldson
Ushers: Bramley Maber, Christine Maber
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Cindy Webster, Madna Aubry, Tia LaPiana, Collen & Mark Roth

April 2 - Holy Thursday 12 pm

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Acolyte: Judi Buncher
Lector: Tia LaPiana
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Cindy Webster, Madna Aubry, Tia LaPiana, Collen & Mark Roth

April 2 – Maundy Thursday 5 pm

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: The Reverend Deacon William Balmer
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Dexter, Kodi & Abe Craven
Lectors: Walter Dein, Elaine Feyereisen
Usher: George Edwards
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Cindy Webster, Madna Aubry, Tia LaPiana, Collen & Mark Roth

April 3 – Good Friday 12 pm

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: The Reverend Deacon William Balmer
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: The Reverend Susanna Cates, The Reverend Deacon William Balmer, Denzel Donaldson,
Elaine Feyereisen, Tia LaPiana, Robert Maber
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Cindy Webster, Madna Aubry, Tia LaPiana, Collen & Mark Roth

April 5 – Easter Sunday

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: The Reverend Deacon William Balmer
Acolytes: Jonathan Badal, Judi Buncher, Joshua & Matthew Dunford
Lectors: Dash Cassidy, Bob Van Valkenburgh
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Cindy Webster, Madna Aubry, Tia LaPiana, Collen & Mark Roth
Coffee Hour: Easter Brunch

April 12

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: The Reverend Deacon William Balmer
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Denzel Donaldson, Edgar John
Lectors: Walter Dein, Peggy James
Ushers: Carl Alfano, Elaine Feyereisen
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild:
Coffee Hour: Host Needed!

April 19

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: The Reverend Deacon William Balmer
Acolytes: Abe, Dexter, & Kodi Craven, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Dash Cassidy, Laura Stroebel
Ushers: Peggy James, John Callaghan
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild:
Coffee Hour: Cassandra & Abigail Murphy

April 26

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: The Reverend Deacon William Balmer
Acolytes: Jonathan Badal, Denzel Donaldson, Tia LaPiana (CB), Cassandra Murphy
Lectors: Carl Alfano, Elaine Feyereisen
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild:
Coffee Hour: Host Needed!

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p style="text-align: center;">1 HOLY WEDNESDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>12 pm</u> Holy Eucharist</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>7 pm</u> Tenebrae Evening Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2 MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>12 pm</u> Holy Eucharist</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>5 pm</u> Maundy Thursday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3 GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>12 pm</u> Holy Eucharist</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>3 pm</u> Stations of the Cross</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4 HOLY SATURDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Altar Guild Workday</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5 EASTER SUNDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist Easter Egg Hunt Easter Brunch</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>5:30 pm</u> The Gathering</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>8:30 - 10 am</u> Men's Breakfast Group</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>11:30 am</u> The Gathering</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>4-8 pm</u> Panera Fundraiser</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>7 pm</u> Vestry Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal</p>		

Christ Church Shrewsbury

380 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

www.ChristChurchShrewsbury.org + theparish@christchurchshrewsbury.org + 732-741-2220

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

