

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 VIII



Christ Church Shrewsbury and Christ Church Middletown youth and adult sponsors at Trinity Church in Asbury!
We partnered for a great day of Outreach at the Beach on July 21st.

**"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven..."
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)**

Dear Friends,

Christ Church is entering into a new season—as are we all, as fall gets closer. We still have a generous chunk of summer left, but we want everyone to be prepared for our new season and some of the changes into which we've been led.

The end of August brings us to a gracious sending-off of our Music Director Fiona Sutherland, with deep gratitude for all of the gifts she's brought to us, and hope for our continuing relationship and work with her. It also brings joyful expectation as we discern together what our music program will look like going forward! We're blessed to welcome David Citron as our long-term substitute organist, starting September 13th, and I know he'll be a gift to us.

We're also looking at a season of abundant offerings. Our parish assessment survey responses have given us lots of ideas and suggestions! We're grateful for your shared voices, and we have been listening. Beginning in September, we'll have three weekly services—Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays—new Bible study and learning opportunities every week, and more ways for us to gather together for fun, for worship, and more. And don't forget: our Sunday service times will be changing to 10 am beginning in September! We can't wait to share the full results of the assessment with everyone on Sunday, September 13th, along with a delicious Homecoming Brunch after the service.

In the midst of the changes of this season, we can all lean on what does NOT change—the presence of God and God's love in our lives. The new things we anticipate will lead us and our surrounding community more deeply into that unchanging love and the ways in which we experience it. The one word we saw most frequently in our assessments was "family." We are each other's family here. More than that, we are God's family. Whether you're newer to our church or a lifelong member, you are loved and appreciated here. We lift up the gifts you bring and are excited to help you discover more. Thank you for being exactly who you are with our church family.

Susanna+

SEP

CHRIST CHURCH, SHREWSBURY
5 PM

SAVE THE DATE

20

ALL YOUTH 7TH - 12TH GRADES

CONFIRMATION
KICKOFF

Our Confirmation program is beginning in September!

In partnership with our area Episcopal churches, we'll be offering a 10-month Confirmation program for kids in 7th through 12th grades, meeting monthly until June of 2027. Confirmation liturgy location(s) and date(s) will be determined in consultation with the Bishop's office. Our curriculum is based around the My Faith, My Life series, which is a course developed especially for the Episcopal Church. Our youth will learn about Scripture, church history, prayer and spirituality, worship, mission and ministry, and lots more. Christ Church will provide the materials for our kids.

Each session will include a lively class with discussion, dinner for the group, and the opportunity for LOTS of questions and prayers! The sessions will be led by lay leaders, clergy, and/or a combination of clergy and lay ministers.

The dates and locations for the classes:

Sunday, September 20th at Christ Church, Shrewsbury
Sunday, October 25th at St. Mary's-by-the-Sea, Point Pleasant Beach
Sunday, November 15th at Trinity, Asbury Park
Sunday, December 13th at St. John's, Little Silver
Sunday, January 10th at Christ Church, Middletown
Sunday, February 21st, location TBD
Sunday, March 14th, location TBD
Sunday, April 11th, location TBD
Sunday, May 16th, location TBD
Sunday, June 13th, location TBD

The class times are 5-7 pm.

We'll have a registration form and more detailed information coming very soon, and we're including a "Save the Date" postcard graphic for you to share and send to your youth and families. We're grateful for all that you do in your church and in your family, and we're delighted for the gifts that you and your kids bring.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Office hours for the summer are Mondays through Thursdays from 8 am to noon.

PARISH DIRECTORY

We have updated our directory! Please send us an email or call the Church Office at 732-741-2220 if you would like a copy.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

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

Al & Courtney, Anderson Pedalino, Ann, Arlene, Barbara, Beverly Ryser, Bill Balmer, Bob Bark, Candice, Carolyn, Cassie Reagan, Chip, CJ & Chloe, Colleen & Mark Roth, Dave, Denzel Donaldson, Dianne Regiec, Doris, Elaine Feyereisen, Gerard, Connie Goddard, Halina Nibbling, Heather Forrest, Ingrid, Jack Sauber, Joan Landers, Jocelyn, John Smalls, John Veil, Judi Buncher, Julia Walsh, Julien, Kristy R., Libby Noell, Linda Forrest, Lynn, Mignon Williams, Mimi Brown, Pat + Bill Jaeger, Pam, Paul Murgio, Richard Brugger, Robert Spencer, Rod Webster, Roger Cuthbert, Sandy Abdelaziz, Sarah Schmid, Skylar, Tom Cameron, The Beebe Family, The Lam Family

May they be relieved of their distress.

PLEDGE STATEMENTS

You will be receiving your quarterly pledge statements in the mail this week or in church on Sunday. Even though it's summer and you might not be in church, please don't forget to pay your pledge on a timely basis. If you are not going to be in church, you can mail your check or send your pledge via Zelle. Don't forget, you can even send your pledge by bill pay through your bank. If you have any questions about your pledge or statement, contact me.

Peggy James, Stewardship
peggy_james@verizon.net

BACKPACKS FOR A SMOOTH START TO SCHOOL

Although the school year has just ended, it is a great time to think about the children in Monmouth County who will need supplies when they go back to school in September.

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**
- **Other Young Child Specific Supplies**

The target grade levels are 1st to 5th grades.

Please bring the backpacks or supplies to church any day before **Sunday September 6th**, when they will be blessed and 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.

JERSEY SHORE BLUE CLAWS

Faith and Family Night this year is Thursday, August 27th. The game starts at 7:05pm and the Blue Claws are playing the Wilmington Blue Rocks. The cost per ticket is \$19.00 and that includes a ticket, voucher for a hot dog, soda, novelty ice cream sandwich along with 1 boardwalk game play for the Boardwalk Area.

It is always fun to attend a baseball game at the ShoreTown Ballpark. Please let me know if you would like to attend so I can secure our seats. Invite your friends! We need a minimum of 10 participants. Email or text me.

Peggy James

peggy_james@verizon.net or 732-610-1916

THE GATHERING



It's been a very exciting time for **The Gathering** Ministry! Our monthly Thursday morning Ministry has been going very well, with an average of approximately 12 people involved in Arc programs attending. Unfortunately, the evening program was not going as well because of ongoing staffing issues at the ARC group homes, so that **Gathering** has been discontinued.

So, the committee has decided to do something new! We are beginning a new time and day for **The Gathering** to have an additional service. Beginning on September 13th, we will be having **The Gathering** on the second Sunday of every month at 1:00. We hope to attract families of people with disabilities of all ages to attend a **Gathering** prayer service. It will take place in the Parish House. We hope that you will attend. Members of the congregation who have attended other **Gatherings** have had lots of positive feedback about **The Gathering**. The service itself only lasts about 20 minutes. We sing, we talk about the day's topic, and we pray. Afterward, we have fellowship time, which is water and snacks, and then we hope to have some activities that we can do.

The Thursday afternoon **Gathering** has already started to color some placemats that can be used during Sunday coffee hour. This month we will be signing Christmas cards for the Seamen's Church Institute. We're hoping to find an ongoing service project that they can contribute to. If you have any ideas or connections for a service project, please come and talk to me about it.

Also, please distribute the attached flyer to anyone who has a connection to special education or is related to someone with a disability.

The times for the upcoming monthly **Gatherings** are:

The 2nd Sunday @1:00

No August meeting
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

The 3rd Wednesday @ 11:30

August 19
September 16
October 21
November 18
December 16

Thank you for supporting this important Christ Church Ministry. If you have any questions or ideas, or would like to talk about how you can support **The Gathering**, please reach out to me.

Tia LaPiana

JOIN THE HOLIDAY BAZAAR COMMITTEE!

The Holiday Bazaar is coming to Christ Church on December 5, and we are excited to begin planning this wonderful community event! The Holiday Bazaar Committee will work together to brainstorm ideas, prepare, organize, and bring this special day to life. From decorations and vendors to food, activities, baskets, raffles, and all the details in between, there are many ways to share your talents and help make the Bazaar a success.

Our first committee meeting will be held on Sunday, August 9, following the 9:00am service. If you would like to be part of the planning, preparation, and excitement of this year's Holiday Bazaar, please join us! New volunteers are always welcome, and we look forward to working together to create a fun and festive event for our church and community.

With Holiday Joy in My Heart,

Kristen Downs

A festive poster for the Holiday Bazaar Committee. The title "HOLIDAY BAZAAR COMMITTEE" is prominently displayed in red and green serif fonts, adorned with holly leaves and berries. Below the title, a cursive invitation reads: "Please come to the meeting if you want to be involved in:". This is followed by a list of activities in two columns, each preceded by an asterisk: Planning, Decorating, Baskets and Tickets, Kitchen and Food, Bake Shop, Children's Activities, Vendors and Merchants, Advertising, 50-50 and Raffles. A note states ", and all other aspects of the event." A red banner at the bottom contains the meeting details: "Meeting will be held on SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 in the Parish House following the 9am service." The poster is decorated with holly, pine, and a snowflake, and features the Christ Church Shrewsbury logo at the bottom center.

**HOLIDAY
BAZAAR
COMMITTEE**

*Please come to the meeting if
you want to be involved in:*

- * Planning
- * Decorating
- * Baskets and Tickets
- * Kitchen and Food
- * Bake Shop
- * Children's Activities
- * Vendors and Merchants
- * Advertising
- * 50-50 and Raffles

*, and all other aspects
of the event.*

Newcomers welcome!

Meeting will be held on
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
in the Parish House
following the 9am service.

 **Christ Church**
SHREWSBURY

"IT TAKES A VILLAGE"

**Phoenix and Julien Canoy are Filipino students whom Christ Church supports with college scholarships.*

**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**

Dear Shrewsbury Church Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord! I hope this letter finds each of you in good health and filled with His peace. The past few weeks have been both busy and meaningful as our classes resumed in June and next week we will be taking our preliminary examinations. Alongside my studies, I joined the Electrical Club where I hope to develop new skills, learn beyond the classroom, and build friendships with fellow students. Although our club activities have not officially begun, I am excited for the opportunities and experiences that lie ahead. Every new challenge reminds me how grateful I am to be able to continue my education.

As I move forward in this journey, I often think of the kindness and generosity that have made it possible. Your support has given me opportunities that I will never take for granted and it encourages me to keep striving to do my best each day. Thank you for believing in me and for being a constant source of encouragement. Please know that I continually keep the Shrewsbury Church family in my prayers, asking the Lord to bless each of you with good health, joy, peace, and abundant grace. May He continue to strengthen your ministry and reward your faithful hearts. Thank you once again and may God bless you all richly

Phoenix

Even though it is hard, let us strive to be good and forgiving people, just like the Lord God.

To the members of the Christ Church, Hello!

How is everyone? I hope you are all doing well. I just want to show you my grades for the last semester. I am not a so good student, but I promised to do my best to succeed. I am thankful for all your help and prayers.

Last Monday we just got started for another level. I now have more than a year to finish my course.

Forever Thankful,
Julien

THOSE WHO SERVE AUGUST

August 2

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Denzel Donaldson, Edgar John
Lectors: Tia LaPiana, Bob Van Valkenburgh
Ushers: John Callaghan, Peggy James
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Madna Aubry
Iced Tea: Madna Aubry

August 9

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Denzel Donaldson, Tia LaPiana (CB), Cassandra Murphy
Lectors: Walter Dein, Elaine Feyereisen
Ushers: Bramley Maber, Christine Maber
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: The Altar Guild
Iced Tea: Host Needed!

August 16

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Abe, Dexter, & Kodi Craven, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Tia LaPiana, Peggy James
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster
Iced Tea: Host Needed!

August 23

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Denzel Donaldson, Joshua & Matthew Dunford
Lectors: Kodi Craven, Tara Dunford
Ushers: Elaine Feyereisen, Judi Buncher
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher & Tia LaPiana
Iced Tea: Host Needed!

August 30

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Denzel Donaldson, Edgar John
Lectors: Tia LaPiana, Bob Van Valkenburgh
Ushers: John Callaghan, Peggy James
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Madna Aubry
Iced Tea: Host Needed!

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <u>5 pm</u> Summertime Service
2 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	3	4	5	6	7	8 <u>5 pm</u> Summertime Service
9 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist followed by Holiday Bazaar Committee Meeting	10	11	12	13	14	15 <u>5 pm</u> Summertime Service
16 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	17	18	19 <u>11:30 am</u> The Gathering	20	21	22 <u>5 pm</u> Summertime Service
23 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	24 <u>7 pm</u> Vestry Meeting	25	26	27 <u>7 pm</u> Blue Claws Faith & Family Night	28 <u>5-7 pm</u> Rectory Backyard BBQ	29 <u>5 pm</u> Summertime Service
30 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist followed by Celebration for Fiona	31					

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

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

