

Christ Church Announcements for the week of April 5, 2026

Outreach Meeting

The Christ Church Outreach Committee will be meeting in the Library on Sunday, April 12th after the 10 am service. All are welcome!

Rummage Thank You

Many thanks to all that made the 6th annual rummage sale a success. The total at this time is over \$9000.00. This would not have been possible without the support of the entire church family; especially our parish Priest Cathy Bickerton, our Vestry especially Betty Truscott and Joyce Wright, Parish Administrator Christine Stockhausen-Butler and our Sexton Tom who was always cleaning up my mess! Everyone came together either it be donations, sorting, pricing baking and moving 3 rooms of items to the Undercroft.

Thank-you to Barbara Garrity and Ronnie Warren for organizing the bakery, everything was delicious. Thanks to Tom Warren and his team for organizing all those books and CD'S/DVD's and making the most money ever! Thanks to the cashiers for moving those lines quickly and those who wrapped and packaged all those fragile items.

Thank-you to my family, Kate for saying yes again and cleaning, sorting jewelry for months and displaying purses and scarves, and Cara and Lochlan assisting in the kitchen and Maura for all her help. My husband Paul gets the biggest thank-you for saying yes again for the 6th year in a row and supporting me no matter how annoying I get during rummage time! So start your spring cleaning and save it for next year, Janet & Kate

Heavenly Bake Shop and Coffee Sale Thank You!

Once again, our Christ Church bakers rose to the occasion for our 2026 Heavenly Bake Shop, part of the March 20 & 21 Rummage Sale. With your help, we sold delicious goodies that were enjoyed by many, and raised \$1,447 for our parish. Thank you! We couldn't have done it without you! A special thank you to our on-site helpers – Jeanne Grieshaber, Sydney Sparaco, Don Kovalevich and Betty Truscott. And many thanks to those who bought our goodies! With grateful hearts and “flours,” Ronnie Warren & Barbara Garrity

Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund Thank You

Thank you to the parishioners who participated in our drive to support those currently deployed overseas serving our nation. In partnership with the [Dennis W. Zilinski Memorial Fund](#), we collected eight bags of items to create care packages for our men and

women in uniform. This fund does wonderful work with veterans and active duty service members and honors the memory of Lt. Dennis Zilinski, who tragically lost his life while serving his nation. Thank you for your gratitude and support to those currently serving our country.

Parish Engagement



Hey, have you heard about Parish Engagement? You might be wondering—what exactly is that? Well, it's many things, but at its heart, Parish Engagement is simple: it's about strengthening the connections we already have within our parish (something we're already doing well) - now we're looking to grow that same spirit beyond our walls, something we're excited to build on. Have thoughts or questions? Jennifer Nikolakos would love to chat! Feel free to catch her during coffee hour or send her an email. jen.parishengagement@gmail.com

Medical Equipment Ministry

We are pleased to share the revival of our Medical Equipment Ministry - a simple but meaningful way our parish can care for one another during times of illness, recovery, or mobility challenges. This ministry offers gently used medical equipment, such as walkers, crutches, canes, knee scooters, wheelchairs, shower chairs, and similar equipment, on a temporary loan basis to parishioners and members of our local community. We do not keep a large inventory of items at the Church but will work with community partners to secure equipment that you may need.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this ministry, please contact Elias Nikolakos at ccmedequip@gmail.com. Donations of clean, gently used equipment in good working condition are also gratefully accepted. Please contact Elias before dropping off any equipment at the Church.

PORTFOLIO UPDATES

COMMUNICATIONS: Vicki Schmelzer

- The Facebook (FB) livestream stays on Facebook for 30 days and then deletes. That service is also uploaded to our YouTube (YT) page, and we're pleased to see an increase in the number of both YT and FB views in recent months.
- Mark Ahearn and Clint Badal are in the final stages of completing the new audio/visual system and we hope we can switch over in coming weeks.

- I have been meeting with the Middletown Mayor/Middletown 250 Committee in recent months, coordinating Christ Church's participation in the May 30 Block Party to be held from 4-7 pm on Kings Highway (more in the weekly email/bulletin in weeks to come).
- Christ Church will again be taking part in the Weekend in Old Monmouth event May 2-3
- Communications continues to work with Parish Engagement and Membership Development portfolio owners to build membership. Upon our joint recommendation, Vestry voted to engage a consultant to enhance our website pages.

BUILDINGS AND GROUND: Steve Grieshaber

Pricing and project scope for historic church roof, walkway and exterior painting was discussed. Steve is preparing documentation for submission to the Landmarks Commission.

OUTREACH - Cindy McCormack

- The January Red Cross Blood Drive held on a snowy Sunday collected 33 units, which will go on to help approximately 99 hospital patients
- The February Souper Bowl collected \$442 for St. Mark's
- In March the parish donated 8 bags of food, plus 17 boxes of girl scout cookies for the Lt. Dennis Zilinski Memorial Fund.
- First quarter disbursements from the OC budget were made to Aslan Youth Ministries, St.
- Mark's Center for Community Renewal, and C.O.G. Our Lenten Alms program is once again supporting GIFTS FOR LIFE a program offered by Episcopal Relief and Development.

Please join us at the next Outreach Committee Meeting - April 12th at 11:15 in the Church Library.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Maria Kerfoot

Vestry has voted to engage a consultant to enhance our website pages in terms of content and navigation – this is the first in several planned efforts to strengthen our foundational outreach tools. Additional recommendations are under development – we will keep you posted.

PARISH ENGAGEMENT: Jennifer Nikolakos

- The February Galentine's Event was a successful evening, completely self-funded and was even able to make a modest donation to Lenten Alms.
- Other recent fellowship events included the Pancake Brunch and resurgence of our Annual (we hope) Soup Tasting. While primarily fellowship events, both turned a profit in support of our Parish operating budget.
- Elias is leading and coordinating a revitalization of the medical equipment ministry. And plans are underway to present a Paint and Sip event that will be open to the public.

Christ Church Transportation Service

As part of our In-reach efforts, Christ Church offers a transportation service ministry for parishioners who do not drive. We will offer rides to church and for essential trips, such as medical appointments when possible. Please give us advance notice of your needs so we have time to match riders with available volunteer drivers. Thank you to Theresa Tuttle who initiated this ministry and her years of coordinating these rides. Christine Stockhausen-Butler will be the coordinator for this ministry going forward. You can reach her by texting (908) 415-5850. You can also reach her at Office@christchurchmiddletown.org And if you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please let Jennifer or Christine know.

ATTENTION FACEBOOK USERS

From time to time, Christ Church creates Facebook events. If you do share these events on your own personal page, we ask that you also share the event with your local Facebook community. For example, Vicki Schmelzer is in the Atlantic Highlands FB group and so, can share a Christ Church FB event there. We are looking to expand our FB event coverage to other local communities. If you would be willing to share events, please email Vicki (vschmelzer@gmail.com) and let her know which FB community (Middletown, Colts Neck, Holmdel, etc...) you belong to and can share to. This way, we can make sure that all local communities are covered.

LENTEN ALMS 2026 Feb. 18 - April 5

The Christ Church Outreach Committee has once again decided to use the GIFTS FOR LIFE programs offered by Episcopal Relief and Development for our Lenten Alms donations. Our focus this year is on ANIMALS to provide families around the world with sustainable sources of food and income. The Gifts for Life Programs you may choose to donate to this year during Lent are:

Beehives

Bees pollinate field crops which leads to increased food security and helps provide their keepers with a reliable source of income.

\$35 (for one hive)

Goat

Give the gift of sustainability with goats, which are hardy, reproduce quickly and can be raised in many climates to produce staple items such as milk and cheese and provide manure for farming.

\$80 (for one goat)

Flock of Chickens

Animals are often at the center of investment and income generation. Empower families to make their own financial choices with a flock of chickens to raise additional poultry and sell surplus stock and eggs in the marketplace.

\$25 (for a share) \$135 (for a flock)

Pig

Offer families financial security and access to food by training them to raise and sell pigs which reproduce quickly and are ready for market in just six months.

\$20 (for a share) \$100 (for one pig)

Cow

A family has a steady supply of nourishment with a milk-producing cow and can sell surplus milk to better provide for themselves.

\$65 (for a share) \$630 (for one cow)

The Sunday School children will be adding the animals donated to a bulletin board in the Undercroft. If you would like to donate to the Gifts for Life program, please make checks payable to Christ Church with Lenten Alms on the memo line, or through on-line donations selecting Outreach – Lenten Alms. You may choose a specific animal, or make a general donation to be applied toward the animals. Envelopes are available in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support for our neighbors in need here and around the world.

The Christ Church Cycle of Prayer

During our Morning Prayer service we will pray for a few parishioners by name. This way, our entire parish will be prayed for by name at least once each year. Parishioners prayed for this week:

Monday : The Schinis Family

Friday: Vicki Shmelzer and Mark Ahearn

**PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES - YOUR ATTENDANCE WILL MAKE ALL
THE DIFFERENCE!**

Month	Event
April	April 11th – Joyce Friedersdorff’s funeral April 12th – Outreach Meeting
May	May 2nd and May 3rd - Weekend in Old Monmouth
June	June 14th – Church Picnic June 20th – Paint and Sip