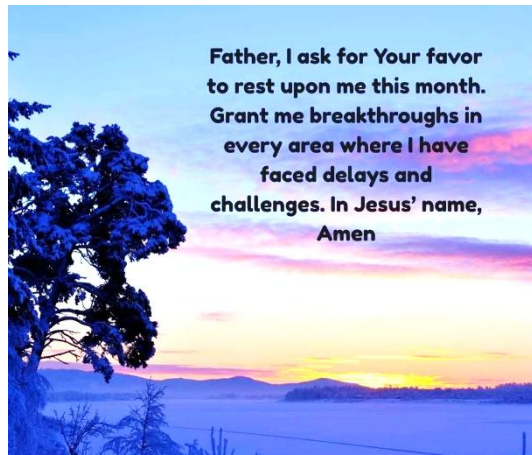


321 E. Church Street
Martinsville, VA 24112
276-632-2896
www.christchurchmvl.org



February 2026

We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

One of the themes that emerged from the discernment conversations of 2024 was a desire for more fellowship opportunities, that we (as members and friends of Christ Church) like one another and want to spend more time together outside of worship. Relatedly, one of the notes from the Vestry's evangelism conversations in 2025 was that these days, many newcomers attend one or more events during the week before setting foot in the church on a Sunday morning. In combination, those two suggest that February should be a great month for us, with additional chances to meet during the week and to invite others to join us.

After going years without a Shrove Tuesday celebration, on **February 17** we will gather for a dinner of jambalaya followed by a game of trivia with a Festive February theme, giving everyone an opportunity to eat heartily and enjoy some friendly, brain-teasing competition before Lent. The next day, **February 18, is Ash Wednesday**; as has been our habit, we will offer services at **Noon and 7:00 pm**. Ash Wednesday is an underrated evangelism opportunity, as the presence of ashes on your forehead when returning to work or otherwise going outside the house can give you chances to testify to Christ's activity in your life, and the services often attract folks who are otherwise unavailable on Sundays.

On the Mondays of Lent (**beginning February 23**), we will again offer soup supper and a program, giving us five more occasions to chat with each other over a meal and invite friends to join us. The Lenten program this year will be Canon Fodder, considering such questions as why Jewish and Christian Bibles have the same books but in a different order, what the apocrypha is and why it's such a matter of contention, and why only four of the many Gospels are considered canonical.

I hope that you will take advantage of these opportunities to come together as a loving community and invite others to join us.

- Fr. John

Bishop Election

At Convention on January 31, on the third ballot, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia elected The Rev. Karin MacPhail, rector of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Roanoke, as our next Bishop. Pending consents from the rest of the Episcopal Church, she will be consecrated at St. John's, Roanoke, on June 13.

Bible Studies

Our regular Bible studies meet on Sunday mornings (9:30 – 10:10ish, currently making our way through Paul's Second Letter to the Church in Corinth) and Monday evenings (7:00 – 8:00, currently reading Lamentations before taking a hiatus during Lent). All are welcome at any time and no reading in advance is required; both

studies meet in the Parish House (if the stairs present a challenge, let Fr. John know and he will have the lift ready).

Kings Grant Eucharist

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant at 1:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month. The next services will be **February 5** and March 5.

Church History Class

Our monthly Church History class will continue studying the Reformation on **February 11 at 10:30 in the Undercroft**. This month, we will consider the Interregnum, Restoration, and Glorious Revolution, as a result of which the Church of England largely disengaged from monarchical politics. All are welcome to join at any time, and no homework is required.

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **February 11 at the Ground Floor** (1 E Church St); food and drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be available from the usual menu. We begin gathering at 6:00 pm, with the program going from 7:00 to 8:00.

Jambalaya and Trivia Night

On **February 17 (Shrove Tuesday)**, we will enjoy a supper of jambalaya, salad, and bread (organized by the Women's Club) followed by a game of Festive February Trivia (hosted by Fr. John). This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends to join us for fellowship; if you plan to attend, please RSVP at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) so we have a better idea of how much food to prepare. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm, and the game will conclude before 8:00.

Ash Wednesday

On **February 18, Ash Wednesday** services (including the imposition of ashes, the litany of penitence, and Holy Eucharist) will be offered at **Noon and 7:00 pm**, both in the church.

Lenten Program

Our 2026 Lenten program will take place in the **Undercroft** on Monday evenings (**February 23 through March 23**) from **6:00 to 7:30 pm**. After a light supper of soup, Fr. John will lead Canon Fodder, a program considering the history of how the Bible came to be and what was left out of the canon (the 66 books comprising the Bible as we know it).

Camera Operators Needed

Since the Covid shutdown, Christ Church has continued to livestream our Sunday services to Facebook, allowing members who live at Kings Grant, who are on vacation, or who are otherwise unable to attend in-person to remain connected with the worship of our community. We are hoping to add a few more people to the rotation in order to continue providing these videos; if you are willing to help with this ministry (it's not particularly hard once you've done it a couple times), please let Rives or Fr. John know.

Loaves & Fishes

Ron Probst and Kelly Cain have graciously volunteered to serve as L&F leaders. Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) resumes on **February 25**, with dinner being served from 5:00 to 6:00. Even if you are not helping with cooking, serving, cleaning, or donating fruit or dessert, church members are encouraged to come and sit down for a meal with our neighbors in the community. **Sign up on our the following link [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) or contact the Church office.**

2026 Pledges

To this point, we have received 50 pledges totaling \$218,750 for 2026, compared to 54 totaling \$234,410 for 2025. Thank you! If you have not yet done so, we ask that you take some time to pray about your giving to Christ Church this year and submit your pledge as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available in the narthex or from the office.

2025 Pledges

The 2025 year-end contribution statements have been mailed. Contact the Church office if you have any questions or have not received a statement.

If you're making a 2025 pledge payment, please specify "2025 pledge" in the memo line on your check. All checks not marked will be deposited to the 2026 pledge payments.

Winter Weather Policy

When we experience inclement winter weather on a Sunday morning, there will still be a 10:30 worship service in the church, but Fr. John encourages you to stay home if you feel you cannot arrive in safety, even if you are scheduled to serve. During the week, if Martinsville Public Schools are closed, the Office will also be closed.

Giving to the Church - by Mail

You can mail a check or money order to the Church office at:
Christ Episcopal Church
311 East Church Street
Martinsville, Virginia 24112

Give with PayPal, Debit or Credit Card

You may give online, safely, and securely, through your PayPal account or with any major credit card.

[Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=Z52WJPBKZN96L) on our homepage

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=Z52WJPBKZN96L on PayPal

Please pray for Sue, Julia, Jennifer, Mallory, Hope, Doug, Leon, John, Ginger C., Jay J., David, Margaret, Ashley F., Mattie, and Audrey Grace. **Please let John or Deborah know if anyone needs to be added or removed from the prayer list.**

Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for February - March: Assorted canned greens (turnip, collard, etc.). For February: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), and other hygiene items. There are many families in our community that struggle all of the seasons of the year. But, your participation in our mission to help is priceless, and we thank you so much for your dedication. Remember to pick up our assigned items when you visit the grocery store. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. **You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.**

February Server Schedule

10:30AM	February 1 The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Morning Prayer Hank Long Officiant	February 8 The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	February 15 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany	February 18 ASH WEDNESDAY	February 22 The First Sunday in Lent
Lector Prayers	Kelly Cain	Pete Scouras	Will Zimmer	Bob Bushnell NOON Hank Long 7:00 pm	Ann Gardner
Chalist		Rives Coleman Tom Webster	Jay Dickens Nancy Spilman	Bob Bushnell NOON Dawn Stone 7:00 pm	Natalie Coleman Steve Keyser
Ushers	Ben Lewis Pete Scouras	Trippi Penn Bob Weatherall	Ben Beeler Michael Hodges		Gus Barber Hank Long
Camera Operator					
Counters	Bob Weatherall	Bob Weatherall Rives Coleman	Bob Weatherall Rives Coleman	Bob Weatherall Rives Coleman	Bob Weatherall Rives Coleman
Nursery Attendants	Caroline Davis Volunteer Needed	Caroline Davis Volunteer Needed	Caroline Davis Volunteer Needed		Caroline Davis Volunteer Needed

**Altar Guild: Team #1 – Beth Sibbick, Stuart Webster, LaRue Powers, Jane Thomasson,
Beth Cahill, Dan Cahill, Bill Sibbick**