



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



November 2025

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

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

Following the **10:30 service on November 16**, we will gather for the Annual Meeting of Christ Church. If you are not already planning to do so, I highly encourage you to attend that Sunday. Beyond the usual business (electing four new members to Vestry and receiving reports), our Wardens and Treasurer will consider the positives of the present as we look to the future. Financially, we have much to celebrate between an operating cashflow that has not encountered the problems we experienced in the summer of 2024 and a very successful fundraising campaign. That campaign, in turn, has allowed us to do significant work this fall on the church building, ranging from expensive but not easily noticed repairs to wood rot to visible cosmetic improvements like repainting the front door and the wall behind the pulpit. On top of this, our meetings with Diocesan Canon for Evangelism Jenni Faires have energized the Vestry to address the shortcomings of our online presence and experiment with other ways we might invite both current members and our neighbors in the community into more at Christ Church. In a world where so much of the news is negative, it is important that we hear these presentations so we too can celebrate how God is at work among us.

- Fr. John

Bible Studies

Our regular Bible studies meet on Sunday mornings (9:30 – 10:10ish, currently making our way through Paul's First Letter to the Church in Corinth) and Monday evenings (7:00 – 8:00, currently reading the Book of Ecclesiastes). 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 **November 6** and December 4.

Church History Class

Our monthly Church History class will continue studying the Reformation on **November 12** at 10:30 in the Undercroft. This month, we will consider the reign of Queen Elizabeth and the Scottish Reformation. All are welcome to join at any time, and no homework is required.

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **November 12** in the dining room of Forest Park Country Club (to the left after coming through the front clubhouse entrance at 1821 Mulberry Rd). We begin gathering around 6:00 pm; food (sandwiches, burgers, wings, etc.) and drinks (beer and wine) are available to purchase from the Clubhouse Grill. From 7:00 to 8:00 pm, we will discuss the concept of original sin and the different ways it has been interpreted historically.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church will take place after the 10:30 service on **November 16**. Lunch will be provided. In addition to discussing the campaign and the work that has been done on the church, the meetings the Vestry has had with Diocesan Canon for Evangelism Jenni Faires, and current state of the finances, we will elect four members to three-year terms on the Vestry.

NO Loaves & Fishes for November or December. The next one will be on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Thanksgiving Holiday

There will be **no Monday Bible Study on November 24 or Wednesday Eucharist on November 26**, and the Office will be closed Thursday and Friday (November 27 and 28).

Angel Tree

This Advent, we will once again partner with Boys & Girls Club in the Angel Tree ministry. Members of Christ Church will be invited to purchase Christmas presents for a specific child and/or write a check to Boys & Girls Club. Stay tuned for more details later this month.

Christmas

Our Christmas service will be at **5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 24**. During the service, Will Zimmer will lead an anthem during the offertory, and he invites any children who will be present to join him. If you have children or grandchildren who would like to sing, please let him know (wilzim61@yahoo.com) **by December 18**.

A Collect for the Election of Our Bishop

Creator God, whose Church lives beyond the walls of buildings and the boundaries of cities, we ask that you guide our work as the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia moves together through a transition of leadership. We pray for patience in dialogue and wisdom in discernment, that the richness of our diverse voices, from farmland to small town, mountain to downtown, will be valued and heard. We pray for the person who will be elected as our next Bishop, for all those who are in discernment, and for the people of this diocese, so that the work of spreading God's love in southwestern Virginia and beyond will grow and flourish in the years to come. In the name of your incarnate son we pray. Amen.

An Update from the Mission Committee

Christ Episcopal Church's Mission Committee gives at least \$12,000 each year to area organizations, regularly providing financial assistance to Grace Network and Boys' Home, as well as honoring specific requests from local and some regional non-profit organizations. We encourage organizations to speak to us in person at our quarterly meetings. Our recent guest was God's Pit Crew; headquartered in Danville, Virginia, God's Pit Crew not only serves communities during natural disasters but also aids underserved communities daily as a need arises. This organization is Christian-based and relies on volunteers and private donations for the amazing work they are doing. [Their website](#) offers additional, more comprehensive information. We as the Mission Committee encourage you to consider their organization for a future blessing of money or time as you can.

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 \(christchurchmvl.org\)](http://christchurchmvl.org) on our homepage

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

Scam Alert

As we approach the holiday season, please continue to be aware of the possibility of scammers. On multiple occasions in recent years, church members have received texts purporting to be from Fr. John and asking for an unspecified favor. This is an unfortunately common scam targeting churches: unscrupulous actors obtain a church's contact list or directory and, using a fake phone number or email, contact church members identifying themselves as the church's clergyperson. Those who respond are typically asked for money in the form of a gift card. Although we have taken steps to make sure our contacts are not easily available, we know at least one of our lists is already out there, and another scam using that list at some point in the future is likely. **Fr. John will never ask you to send money (as a gift card or otherwise) to him directly.** If a text or email is purported to be from Fr. John but you are in doubt, contact him or the office by different means (for example, send him an email if you are suspicious about a text).

November Server Schedule

10:30AM	November 2 The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost	November 9 The Twenty- second Sunday after Pentecost	November 16 The Twenty- third Sunday after Pentecost	November 23 The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King	November 30 The First Sunday of Advent
Lector Prayers	Pete Scouras	Kelly Cain	Will Zimmer	Ann Gardner	Susan Critz
Chalist	Steve Keyser Nancy Spilman	Hank Long Tom Webster	Natalie Coleman Rives Coleman	Bob Bushnell Dawn Stone	Jay Dickens John Swezey
Acolyte		Pete Scouras			
Ushers	John Swezey Ben Lewis	Jay Dickens Kyle Trent	Trippi Penn Pete Scouras	Bob Weatherall Ben Beeler	Gus Barber Pete Scouras
Camera Operator	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams
Counters	Will Zimmer Steve Keyser	Will Zimmer Steve Keyser	Will Zimmer Steve Keyser	Will Zimmer Steve Keyser	Will Zimmer Steve Keyser
Nursery Attendants	Caroline Davis	Volunteer Needed	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis

Altar Guild Team #3 – Page Beeler, Karen Jones, Nancy Spilman,
Ellen Maxwell, Ben Beeler

Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for November through December: Oatmeal canister or instant packets. For November: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush (toothbrushes need to be individually wrapped), and other hygiene items. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store. You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.