



THE EPISCOPAL MESSENGER

APRIL 2024

SAINT PAUL'S AND CHRIST MEMORIAL

He is risen,
the Lord is risen indeed!
Alleluia, Alleluia!

I'm writing my article just a few hours after our triumphant Easter service. The music and the beauty of so many families celebrating together has filled my gratitude cup to overflowing!



Photo by Ken Rozsel

Between the Vigil and this morning, we had over 100 people worshipping. In recent weeks we have regularly welcomed new people on Sundays.

On Palm Sunday a man with a 4 or 5-year-old little boy joined our procession up Main Street to each of the corners where we prayed. I invited them into the service, but the man said they couldn't. I realized as I bid him goodbye that he had tears falling down his cheeks.

We may never see him in our worship space, but we offered him something that was deeply moving.



Palm Sunday photo by Russ Carnahan

When I share that we have increasing numbers, I'm grateful for that. But what is most important to me is that we are reaching out with love to strangers and visitors.

As we welcome visitors and newcomers, it takes each of us to offer an exuberant welcome. From the ushers, to the musicians and choir, to our members who help with the prayer book or who invite someone to join us for coffee hour, we are a loving community and people realize that pretty quickly. Deacon Jim and I can offer our sermons, but without the rest of the parish family offering a welcome, we would not be successful.

(Continued on next page)



Acolytes Wyatt, Kailyn and Mason with Mother Allison, Grandfather Nick Fritz, Victoria Wilcox and Deacon Jim Jenkins prior to the Palm Sunday service. Photo by Alton Walker



Photo by Russ Carnahan

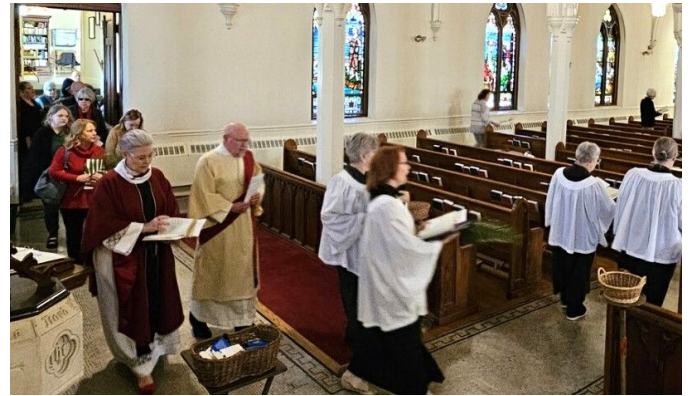


Photo by Alton Walker

On this Easter Sunday I'm filled with such gratitude to be your priest and to serve with our incredibly gifted Deacon Jim!

Mother Allison +



Photo by Alton Walker



Photo by Alton Walker



Photo by Russ Carnahan

THE EPISCOPAL MESSENGER

A newsletter for the parishes of
Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, Danville

And

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bloomsburg

Please send articles and other correspondence to

Doug Hippenstiel or Jenn Patterson

Dch17846@gmail.com Patt1011@ptd.net

Christ Memorial Announces New Rector



It is with great joy and excitement that Christ Memorial announces the call of Reverend Lisa Work to be Deacon-in-Charge (then Rector, on the condition of her July 6, 2024 ordination to the priesthood), beginning June 1, 2024.

The following letter is from Rev. Lisa, introducing herself to Christ Memorial:

Greetings Christ Memorial Church Family,

In the spirit of Holy Week, a time of renewal and new beginnings, I am thrilled to accept the call to serve as your next Rector.

I want to express my sincere thanks to the Search Committee and the Vestry at Christ Memorial. Your warmth, openness, and prayers throughout this journey have been a true blessing.

I am deeply appreciative of the people and places that have shaped my faith journey thus far. I am humbled and filled with anticipation as I prepare to step into this new role and join all of you in ministry. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to my husband, Mark, for his unwavering support and encouragement throughout this process.

In the next few months, I will be concluding my final semester at Virginia Theological Seminary, culminating in graduation. Additionally, my service as Deacon at St. Peter's Church in Arlington will come to a close. During this transitional time, Mark and I would be grateful to have your prayers for a smooth completion of these chapters in our lives.

This new chapter feels like the beginning of a shared journey. As we embark on this path together, I eagerly look forward to getting to know each of you personally and working collaboratively to build upon the strong foundation of Christ Memorial. With open hearts and minds, and a shared commitment to our faith, I am confident that we will discern God's work within our community and actively participate in God's mission.

Filled with hope and excitement, I look forward to joining you in June.

In Christ's love,

Reverend Lisa

CMEC Notes

Diaper Bank:

The next diaper bank is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th from 10 a.m. to noon.

CMEC Train Program:

The train program at Christ Memorial is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Stop by and join Mr. Bomboy and friends for an interactive model train experience.

Safe Church Training

Reminder for anyone needing Safe Church training: the Diocese offers online self-paced training modules and 3-hour Zoom training sessions which you can register for on their website ([Safe Church Events and Training – The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania \(diocesecpa.org\)](https://www.diocesecpa.org)).

Christ Memorial will offer training on **Wednesday, May 29**, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm in the Community Room. The training will be led by the Diocese via Zoom. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Please sign-up in the Community Room or by contacting Cindy at CMECdanville@ptd.net

During the 3-hour training, the following will be covered:

- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Introduction & Theological Background
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Organizational Rule & Policies
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Healthy Boundaries
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Inclusion
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Power and Relationships
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Abuse & Neglect
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Bullying
- Duty to Report: Mandated Reporting

“The Chosen” Bible Study

Season 3: “The Chosen” Bible Study Series

Dinner will be provided each week! Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

April 8, 15 and 22
May 6, 13, and 20
June 3, 10

Prayer and Meditation

Ken Altenbach will be leading prayer and meditation at Christ Memorial on the following evenings 6 p.m.-6:30 p.m.:

April 18th
May 2nd
May 23rd

Vestry Update

CMEC vestry meeting – Sunday, April 14, 11:45



CMEC Rectory Construction

Christ Memorial will begin construction at the rectory the week of April 15th. During that time access to the rectory will be off limits. Construction is expected to take approximately 6 weeks.



John and Kristen Keller were recently confirmed at St. Matthews in Sunbury on The Eve of the Feast of St. Patrick. Both John and Kristen are actively involved in Christ Memorial's Choir. Congratulations!

St. Paul's Vestry Notes from March meeting

Priest's Report:

- Will consecrate the altar candles given in memory of Teeny Fritz and altar linens given in memory of Ann Brandt on Pentecost Sunday in May
- Discussed Holy Week schedule
- Christ Memorial has called a new priest, Rev. Lisa Work
- Allison's Installation Service update: service will be April 28 at 10:30 with luncheon to follow.

Treasurer's Report

Balance sheet

- Trust investments are up.
- Trust dividends are typical amount.

Budget report

- Carryover amount is different from budget because both assets and liabilities were not included in the January budget, and has been corrected
- Our accounting software has been changed from PowerChurchPlus desktop to PCP online. Susan and Bruce are working with the differences in software.
- Pledges appear to be behind but may be due to budgeting formula, will know better at end of quarter.

Old Business

Live streaming grant discussion—deferred to the June Vestry meeting

- Based on not getting a \$20,000 grant from the Diocese, Victoria raised the question of how we want to proceed with the project, to move forward or not. Victoria expressed a desire to have someone else be in charge of a Capital Campaign if we move forward.
- To keep communication open with the Diocese as they work on funding streams to include live streaming, Linda and Karen will work with Victoria to keep the conversation going with Chad Linder. Diocesan Finance Committee will be discussing the issue in May.

New Business

- Additional committees are needed to implement the Strategic Plan:
Publicity
Facilities. (Need a Facilities Manager as point person)
Creation Care—looking for additional members.
Committees need a point person to liaise with designated Vestry member
- *Bloomopoly* game has come out. It is a fundraiser for Bloomsburg Singers. Vestry allocated monies to support the development of the game and has a space on the board. We can order games from Bruce Candlish or purchase them at The Exchange.

Committee Reports:

- Christian Education: Sunday evening group is finishing Acts of the Apostles. Susie will be starting class on Galatians for both Sunday and Monday groups.
- Outreach:
 - CMEC February 25 Outreach meeting: We are hoping Parish life is willing to join with Outreach again to participate in the 12-week *Getting Ahead/Connections* program next fall. We would provide one meal for the participants and 25 gift cards. Once the dates for the class are available, we can choose one that works with our schedules.
 - Another way to get information out to the congregation about Vestry committees (what their committee do and how to get involved) is to put it in the newsletter. Outreach submitted their handout for the March newsletter. Now we are asking the other committees to take a turn showcasing what they do.

(Continued on next page)

- Panther Packs: Overall, we collected 36 bags of kid-friendly food and over \$500 in monetary donations from the congregation. Outreach matched \$500 of the congregation's donations for a total donation of 36 bags of food and over \$1000.
- Renaissance Jamboree: The next big event (Fundraising & Outreach) will be 2024 Ren Jam – Saturday, April 27 in downtown Bloomsburg. The first week of April we will have sign-up sheets for volunteers to help with: baking, cleaning strawberries, setup/teardown, serving, and clean-up. For this year, we have offered our 2nd space to the BU Pre-Med Science Club to use for fundraising or information distribution. They are a non-profit, so they will not generate any funds for St. Paul's, but they have participated in OOM dessert mission & regularly reach out to offer help with projects.
- OOM Dessert Mission: As of now we still have 2 dates open for OOM dessert ministry: June 9 & June 23.
- Parish Life: There will be a coffee hour after church on Easter Sunday in conjunction with Easter Egg Hunt
- Shaped By Faith: Will have more to say by May; sharing of ideas with Strategic Planning, Worship and CMEC

Submitted by Victoria Wilcox, Vestry Secretary

April Baptismal Birthdays

**Joan Aronstam * John Hagemeyer * Tom Evans *
Charles Hagemeyer * Becky Rupert * Betty
Brandau * Eric Blass * Doug Deitterick * Justin
Evert * Anna Hopkins * Travis Reese * Casey
Hess * Patrick Dillon * Sean Dillon * Alton
Walker * Leah Cafilisch * Graeme Rawlins**

(Parishioners are invited to add their baptismal birthdays by contacting Jenn or Doug.)

Galatians next topic For Christian Education

The next Adult Ed program at St. Paul's is a 7-week study of *The Epistle to the Galatians*. It starts the week after Easter. As one of the first of the Christian writings, pre-dating the Gospels, *Galatians* reveals an early, though not primitive, understanding of what was accomplished by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are going to approach the study in a guided but investigative manner. It's a fun way to maneuver through Bible passages that reveals information not immediately obvious otherwise. Booklets will be provided. You need only to bring color pencils, a pen and have a Bible nearby. There will be a bit of homework, probably just for the first two meetings.

- Sundays, 6:00 pm, on Zoom exclusively, beginning April 7th
- Mondays, 10:30 am, in person and on Zoom simultaneously, beginning April 8th

Zoom Link for both:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85116265345>

Meeting I.D.: 851 1626 5345

Let's be clear(ed)!

For anyone who is required to renew or obtain new child abuse clearances as part of St. Paul's community, here is the link to the diocese page with information and further links:

<https://diocesecpa.org/safechurch/policy/>

The first two clearances listed on the webpage will suffice for most of us. The third clearance, the F.B.I. background check, is needed only for those who (1) are employed by the church, or (2) are volunteering but have moved to Pennsylvania less than 10 years ago.

Talk to Susie Vollmer if you are having any trouble getting these completed.

St. Paul's Outreach

OOM Dessert Mission Schedule

Thank you for completing the schedule! If you didn't get a turn, there will be a new schedule for July-November posted in June.

- April 14 Jen and Eric Miller
- April 28 BU Pre-Med Science Club
- May 12 Doug and Kathy Hippenstiel
- May 26 Patty Creasy
- June 9 Twylah Naugle
- June 23 Katherine Staller

If you have questions, contact Elaine Pongratz @ mdmep@ptd.net

Renaissance Jamboree: Saturday, April 27

Starting on April 7, sign-up sheets for volunteers, donation envelopes to help cover the cost of supplies, strawberry prep instructions, and shortcake recipes (with pans and Crisco) will be available in the foyer. Lots of great volunteer opportunities! Sign up now and join the fun!!

Before: Making shortcake, to be delivered to St. Paul's by Friday, April 26th. Pans, Crisco, & recipe are provided. Cleaning and prepping strawberries. Strawberries and directions available starting Wednesday, April 24th.

During: Set-up and serving

After: Tear down and clean-up

Wanted: Committee Overviews!

When we had the potluck/committee info event in the fall each committee chair had a table and handouts/display related to what their committee did and how to get involved. Now we would like to get that information out to the congregation through the newsletter. Outreach submitted an overview in the March newsletter. Each committee will have an opportunity to take a turn showcasing what they do. Please submit your overview to Doug Hippenstiel.

April Lectionary

4/7 – Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31
Psalm 133

4/8 – The Annunciation

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10
Or Canticle 15 (or 3)
Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

4/14 – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48
Psalm 4

4/21 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18
Psalm 23

4/25 – Saint Mark

Isaiah 52:7-10
Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16
Mark 1:1-15 or Mark 16:15-20
Psalm 2

4/28 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8
Psalm 22:24-30

5/1 – Saint Philip and Saint James

Isaiah 30:18-21
2 Corinthians 4:1-6
John 14:6-14
Psalm 119:33-40

Our Liturgy under a microscope!

The Western church has a rich history for excellent and meaningful worship. We all could probably recite and sing most of the liturgy without our hymnals or the book of common prayer. But did we ever think about where the liturgy came from? Our liturgy is rooted in the holy scriptures and below is a detailed look into each part of the mass.

The Lord Have Mercy (Kyrie Elleison) repeats the words of the ten lepers in Luke 17:13. Jesus, Master, have mercy on us! We use the Kyrie for the seasons of Advent and Lent.

We echo the singing angels in the **Glory to God** (Gloria in Excelsis) with Luke 2:14. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

Finally, the **Salutation** comes from both Old and New Testaments in Ruth 2:4 and Luke 1:28. The Lord is with you.

And this is how much Bible you have received before we ever get to our readings from the Bible. We have four readings--a first and second lesson, a psalm and a gospel reading. We read from the Bible to continue to root ourselves in God's Holy Word. The very foundation of our lives comes from God's Word. And as is stated in Matthew 4:4, One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Our **Great Thanksgiving** echoes the words of Psalm 136. It is right to Give Him thanks and praise.

The **Holy, Holy, Holy** (Sanctus) are the words of the angels in Isaiah 6:3. Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory. And Matthew 21:9 as part of the Palm Parade celebration. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

The **Words of Institution** come right from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We pray the words of the **Lord's Prayer** that are given to us both in Luke 11:1-4 and Matthew 6:9-13.

And we begin our Eucharistic Meal with singing the words of John the Baptist, **the Lamb of God** (Agnus Dei), in John 1:29. Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

I urge everyone to reflect more on these parts of the mass the next time you worship.

*Yours in Christ,
Mark O'Hearn
St. Paul's Director of Music*

St. Paul's Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide altar flowers for a special occasion, please send your request to Patty Creasy at the Church Office (Post Office Box 764). Flowers for one Sunday cost \$45, plus \$6 for delivery, but you are welcome to contribute whatever you can.

Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and mail to P.O. Box 764, Bloomsburg, PA 17815. Please include a note with the following information:

- The Sunday you would like to provide the flowers.
- Notation: The Altar Flowers are given by _____ in loving memory of _____, or in thanksgiving for _____.
- Your name and contact information (phone number, email address, etc.)

You're Invited!

Creation Care Conference

Be part of helping to shape the future of ministry in our community!

Join **Rt. Rev. Bishop Audrey Scanlan** and the DIOCPA Creation Care Committee for the very first Creation Care Conference of the Parishes (COP1). We will gather for an afternoon of creation care storytelling and to review the drafted DIOCPA Creation Care Plan. We will provide hot drinks and snacks. It will be an interactive afternoon, so bring a pen, notebook, and your voice!

We encourage you to review the Drafted Creation Care Plan in advance of our time together. It can be found here: bit.ly/DraftCCPlan

We are offering two sessions that will follow an identical format:

Session #1

Date: **Sunday, April 14th**

Time: **2:00-4:30 p.m.**

Location: **Trinity Pro-Cathedral, Williamsport**

***Register**

here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creation-care-summit-northern-region-tickets-871126882957>

Session #2

Date: **Sunday, April 21st**

Time: **2:00-4:30 p.m.**

Location: **St. Andrew's in the Valley, Harrisburg**

***Register**

here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creation-care-summit-southern-region-tickets-871144475577>

Safe church, safe communities

“Safe Church, Safe Communities” is the newly revamped, module-based training program of the Episcopal Church.

From the Diocesan website:

“Safe Church, Safe Communities” . . . (is a) comprehensive training approach, rooted in our Baptismal covenant, that encompasses issues of power, ethics, boundaries, and inclusivity to create safe spaces for all, especially children and vulnerable adults.”

While many positions within St. Paul’s require completion of certain module courses, if a person even has the combination for the church door, then the diocese says that person is responsible to take several modules. Having gone through the program, I would suggest all members think about becoming familiar with the material as it is about keeping each other safe.

While the no-cost classes can be taken online, I will start offering a module or two at a time on the first Sunday of the month, immediately after both the 8 o’clock and 10:30 services. The first offering will be on Sunday, April 7th. I hope to finish each session in 30 to 40 minutes.

Here is the link to check it out:

<https://diocesecpa.org/safechurch/>

If you complete any modules online, take a copy of your Certificate of Completion to Patty for record-keeping purposes.

The following link lists the required modules based on position within St. Paul’s:

<https://diocesecpa.org/safechurch/required-modules/>

– *Susie Vollmer*

LETTERS

From Bloomsburg Women's Center

Dear Saint Paul's Episcopal Church,

Thank you for your donation of \$2,359. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness.

When the community supports our work with victims of interpersonal violence and other serious crimes, everyone benefits. Clients benefit from enhanced services made possible through additional resources. Families and neighborhoods benefit by having violence and abuse issues addressed in a timely manner which promotes personal safety and the prevention of further acts of violence. The organization benefits from knowing that community members are willing to become stakeholders in the mission of the agency.

Knowing that others value the work we do is a tremendous blessing to our agency's personnel and volunteers. Once again, thank you for your generosity and support.

*In Peace,
Christy Roberson, Executive Director*

From Bloomsburg Food Cupboard

Dear kind parishioners of St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

I would like to thank you for your generosity and your HUGE achievement in providing nearly 90 filled bags for the weekend Panther Pack backpack program. Through the food and monetary donations designated for Panther Packs, your kindness has allowed us to continue our weekly job of feeding about 270 students in the Bloomsburg Area School District elementary schools, St. Columba School and a few in the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School. With your contribution, we are also able

to purchase fresh oranges or apples, cereal and snacks to supplement our other Panther Pack donations.

It would be remiss of me to not acknowledge Jean and Scott Atherton for their dedication to delivering the food bags and their time assisting in packing the Panther Packs on most Friday mornings. I value their time and am so thankful to have them on our packing team.

When I asked them about how many people make up your congregation, and they estimated about 80 active members, I was in awe of how God has worked wonders through your faith-filled community. Keep up the awesome work and please never hesitate to visit, volunteer, or contact us at the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard. You are a small, but mighty group!

*Best wishes to you all,
Lynn Smith, BFC Backpack Coordinator*

From The Bloomsburg Singers

Dear Friends,

With sincere apologies for the long delay in getting this message to you, please accept the Bloomsburg Singers' heartfelt thanks for the use of the space at St. Paul's for our concert, "Melodies of the Heart," on February 17th. Everyone at the church involved with the event went above and beyond to make us welcome, and everyone who attended, including the singers themselves, felt very much at home.

We look forward to more of these fruitful collaborations in the future and wish the St Paul's community all the best for springtime and beyond.

On behalf of the Singers' board and all the Singers,

Oren B. Holbrook, Board Chair

In Our Prayers

Adam * Adelaide * Alex * Anne * Ardella
* Barry * Becca * Belinda * Benny *
Bishop Curry * Bonnie * Brian * Caleb *
Candy * Charlene Hancock * Chris * C.J. *
Christian * Claudia * Craig * Dale * Dee *
Denise * Donna * Earl * Elaine * Ellen *
Emily * Gary * Gerry * Gloria * Glory *
Harry * Hazel * Hunter Smith * Ian * Jack
* Jaclyn * Jeff * Jere * Jill * Jim * Joan *
Joanie * Joanne * Jody * Johanna * John
* Johnny * Jon * Josh * Judy * Julie *
June * Justin * Kate * Katherine *
Kathleen * Kathy * Kay * Kelly * Kevin *
Larry * Laurie * Laverne * Leon * Leslie *
Lucy * Lynn * Mariann * Marilyn * Mark *
Marsha * Marshall * Marvin * Mary *
Maisey * Merika * Michael * Monica *
Myrna * Nadine * Nancy * Naomi * Nichol
* Pam * Richard A. * Richard Orsini *
Sam * Sandy * Sarah * Saul * Sharlet *
Sharon * Sophia * Steve * Susan * TJ *
Tanny * Theresa * Tim * Tom * Walter *
Wanda * Zoey

(The complete written prayer list will continue to be printed in the newsletter and in the weekly "Happenings." However, only those names requested on Sunday morning in-person or by Zoom will be read during the service. And please let us know if someone's name can be removed from the list. Thank you.

'Noisy' Collection

In April, the Noisy Collection at St. Paul's will go to the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard. If you do not have the opportunity to place your coins in the collection plate during Sunday services at the church, you may send a check and write "BFC" on the memo line.

Saint Paul's and Christ Memorial Leadership

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Christ Memorial Episcopal Church

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