



2023 Parish Profile  
Christ Memorial Episcopal Church  
Danville, Pennsylvania  
[www.christmemorialepiscopal.org](http://www.christmemorialepiscopal.org)





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## WELCOME

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Welcome to Christ Memorial Episcopal Church of Danville, Pennsylvania. Our goal as a parish is to make a spiritual connection with a full-time rector. Together we will create an environment that will allow our mission to be realized while allowing for all personal and professional goals of our new priest to be attained. We hope the partnership between our congregation and the new priest will be uplifting, spiritual, trusting, nurturing, and caring, resulting in the development of a lasting bond between parishioners and priest.



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## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

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Christ Memorial Episcopal Church envisions a future of congregational growth and the rekindling of our individual and parish spirituality--growth in faith and growth in number. We believe that community service and outreach, paired with parish and pastoral care, will feed our spirits and help us spread the Good News in a way that will call others to join us in our walk with Christ. Our church leadership is laying the groundwork to accomplish this.

We are seeking a full-time rector to help us realize this vision. Not only is this full-time service essential to our parishioners, but it is also necessary for our church goals to be accomplished. The ideal candidate will be motivated and enthusiastic and may think in ways that are not always traditional. A forward-thinker, in tune with a modern and growing community, would be a good fit. We seek someone with vision who will be with us long-term to help us redefine Christ Memorial Episcopal Church as an active, visible center for love and worship within this community.

### **Mission**

*Our mission is to provide a welcoming environment to hear God's word and celebrate the love of Christ; to grow in faith through worship, study, and prayer; and through the love and fellowship of Christ, apply His teaching within ourselves, our families and the local and global communities.*

We are looking for an individual who can lead yet understands how to work effectively as a team member with the vestry and other parish groups. Kindness, understanding, and patience are a few of the personal virtues that go hand in hand with this most important position. We envision a leader, motivator, and facilitator who responds constructively to critical comments and works to gain consensus without conflict.

The congregation hopes for someone social and outgoing who will encourage all to participate and is a visible leader in the community. A priest who actively visits parishioners and other friends of the church and is entirely at ease with the visitation process is desired.

A congregational survey helped us gain additional insight into the qualities our parishioners prioritize (see Appendix A).



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## OUR FACILITIES

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Christ Memorial Episcopal Church was founded in 1828 by Danville resident Peter Baldy and has been a stable place of worship ever since. Over the years, the church has had its "ups and downs," most notably a great fire in 1948 that destroyed most of the Church structure, leaving only the exterior walls intact. During the early 1950s, the church was rebuilt within those walls, preserving architectural elements such as the pointed arch portals with recessed columns and the lancet windows.



In recent years, Christ Memorial has enjoyed a new era of vitality. Due to the generous donations of parishioners and the blessing of monetary gifts and bequests, we have continued to repair, restore, and improve each time-worn aspect of the church. The tower, damaged in the fire 50 years earlier, was completely restored in the early 2000s. More recently, a new ADA-compliant main entrance was added, including a ramp and lovely red double doors, improving accessibility and visibility. Other improvements have included a new carillon, updates to the sanctuary sound system, a new camera system to allow livestreaming, the refurbishment of our community room, and a brand new "warming" kitchen.



The monetary blessings that we have received allow Christ Memorial to maintain a healthy financial foundation and a solid physical structure that keep up with our ongoing spiritual enthusiasm. We recognize how fortunate we are to have an endowment that allows us to do all of this and still support a full-time rector. Christ Memorial has not drawn on any endowment principle for many years.



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## OUR FACILITIES

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Christ Memorial Episcopal Church has a Memorial Garden on the premises which provides a place for prayer, remembrance, and the interment of ashes for members of our congregation. We also have a cemetery within the Danville borough, which is well maintained through a designated trust fund.

We offer a full rectory house including a breezeway connection to the church. The rectory has been revitalized with new energy-efficient windows and updated energy-efficient HVAC systems. The first floor has a large dining room, large living room, kitchen, laundry area, and bathroom. The second floor has four bedrooms and a bathroom. Renovations are being planned to the kitchen, laundry, and first floor bathroom in 2024. There is also outdoor space between the rectory and the church which provides a large yard.

The leadership of Christ Memorial Episcopal Church is laying the groundwork for our goal of growth for our parish. We not only have a congregation that is excited, open, and ready to accept this challenge, we also have prepared the entire church facility to move forward, effectively into the future.



We hope prospective rectors will be highly enthused about the state of our facility and realize that we are a congregation ready to charge into the future. This congregation wants its new rector to join our excitement and lead us into this future with growth, visibility, leadership, and interaction within the community.

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## OUR CONGREGATION

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Christ Memorial Episcopal Church has 117 active baptized members and an average weekly attendance of 20-30, not including those who attend online each week.

Through the years, our church has enjoyed the stability provided by established community families. On a typical Sunday, these parishioners range from small children to those in their later years. It is not uncommon to have three generations sitting together in a pew.

In addition to our “homegrown” parishioners, we also benefit from the regular influx of new Geisinger Medical Center residents and employees. There is rarely a Sunday morning without a nurse or a doctor in attendance. Geisinger and other expanding local industries provide opportunities for growth in numbers and diversity.

We believe there is a substantial potential for growth as so many are looking for a sense of belonging, joy, and community within their lives. We hope to increase our attendance by at least 20% within the next five years, and we firmly believe that we can attain this goal based on community need, and our commitment to visibility and outreach.

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## OUR CONNECTIONS

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We have recently begun a relationship with St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Bloomsburg. This is a deeply committed relationship where we not only share fellowship but also share services and share the pulpit. For example, we have been exchanging the priests on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month, and we have rotated the Great Easter Vigil between the two churches. We have also been sharing Christmas Eve services with the early service typically at Christ Memorial, and the late service is at St. Paul’s. And we share other services as agreed upon by the leadership of the two parishes. We hope to continue this relationship with the blessing of both parishes.

We are part of the Susquehanna Convocation within the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA, with Rt. Rev. Bishop Audrey Scanlan presiding. This diocese is geographically large, covering 24 counties; seventy-one parishes with a total membership of 18,500 comprise this diocese of primarily small churches.

We are one of five churches within Pennsylvania with membership in the Episcopal Parish Network (formerly known as Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP). The network holds the largest annual conference in the Episcopal Church in the nation, which our clergy and lay persons have attended for the last five years.

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## OUR COMMUNITY

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Christ Memorial Episcopal Church is located at 156 East Market Street in downtown Danville, Pa., just 3 miles off Interstate 80 (exit 224) and just a few blocks from the Susquehanna River. Danville is approximately 1 ¼ hours north of Harrisburg and just a day trip away from several other large cities (see Appendix C).

Danville, Pennsylvania is a unique combination of a traditional rural township offering safety, friendship, and openness among its residents; and a forward-thinking, modern, growing community. Danville has farming and manufacturing roots but is also deeply immersed in professions such as health care and education. Our leading employers are Geisinger Medical Center, one of the largest healthcare providers in the state, as well as Danville State Hospital and several long-term care facilities. There are also three significant universities, all within 30 miles of one another – a great source of arts and cultural opportunities in the community as well as education.

The Danville community is becoming more diverse each year, which presents a beautiful opportunity for us all to live in a close-knit yet well-rounded environment. Danville is large enough to be multi-faceted yet small enough for an individual, such as a church rector, to play an important role in the community and to make a difference by sharing Jesus. Our area's variety and quality of industries has created a community of growth with a wide range of perspectives, needs, and opportunities. Our community presents an opportunity to anyone who wants to become a community leader, a visible figure representing the Episcopal church who is there to help and lead with love, kindness, and compassion.

Christ Memorial Episcopal Church resides within the Danville Area School District, consisting of primary, intermediate, middle, and high schools. Danville Area School District is ranked in the top 15 public high schools in Pennsylvania. An impressive number of advanced placement (AP) courses are offered at the high school, which speaks to the caliber of education available to the children in our school district.

The Danville area provides numerous recreational opportunities (see Appendix B). The Montour Area Recreation Commission offers outdoor recreation guides, bike route guides, and information on running races, trails, parks, and nature preserves.

- Fish the Susquehanna for small-mouth bass and walleyes or Lake Chillisquaque for largemouth bass and various pan fish
- There are state game lands nearby for hunters
- Various hiking and mountain bike trails are located all around Danville
- The Danville Area Community Center houses an indoor swimming pool, racquetball courts, and a fitness center. There are also two additional community pools.
- Runners will find numerous races to enter in the area
- Recreation areas include Hess Recreation Area, Hopewell Park, Montour Preserve, and the North Branch Canal Trail, among others



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## PARISH LIFE

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Our Services and Ministry – Weekly services include 8 a.m. Sunday Holy Communion and 10:30 a.m. Sunday Choral Holy Communion. In addition, the priest provides Pastoral Care for patients at Geisinger Medical Center and parishioners who are home-bound.

Christian education for children: We are in the process of restarting our Christian education program for children utilizing the “Biggest Story Bible Storybook”. Our goal is to offer Sunday School during the first portion of the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

Adult education: Our adult education program currently meets regularly to study the Christian drama series “The Chosen”. The program includes fellowship and dinner.

Prayer meditation - A peaceful, meditative half hour of listening to soft music and being present with God; held every other Thursday at 6pm.

Stewardship - Active and effective program.

Music Program – Our adult choir is led by our choral director and includes concerts and recitals.

Coffee Hour – Hosted by parish members, offered as a time of fellowship following the 10:30 a.m. Sunday services.

Prayer chain – Updated prayer chain requests are coordinated by two parishioners and shared with church members regularly.

Caring Card program – Hand crafted greeting cards are made by parishioners for fellow parishioners and friends in need of encouragement.

Lay participation: Parish member participate as lay readers (Morning Prayer), greeters, acolytes, chalice bearers, lectors and a licensed eucharistic minister.





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## MISSION AND OUTREACH

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Our committed mission and outreach committee is blessed with monetary gifts which support our mission outreach throughout the Danville community and beyond.

Danville Diaper Bank: The Danville Diaper Bank serves as Christ Memorial Episcopal Church's largest mission outreach program, serving 75-100 families in need of diapers each month throughout Montour, Columbia, Northumberland, and surrounding other counties. Founded in 2012, the Danville Diaper Bank is the only diaper distribution in Montour County providing to families in need at no charge.

Danville/Riverside food bank: Donate nonperishable food items and provide volunteers during the local food bank distribution the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.

Linen Drive: Collect linens, blankets, sheets, towels for residents of the Gatehouse (local homeless shelter).

Good Samaritan Mission:

Host of the Bridges out of Poverty, Getting Ahead Program in coordination with the Good Samaritan Mission, a 12-week educational program to assist participants with getting out of poverty. Christ Memorial sponsors 4 participants; provides meals during 2 sessions and \$25 Weis Markets gift cards to all participants.

In addition, Christ Memorial has several parishioners who volunteer their time weekly at the Good Samaritan Mission center providing assistance to needy members of the community, which includes hygiene and clothing giveaways.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry: In partnership with Samaritan's Purse to provide gifts of filled shoeboxes to underprivileged children throughout the world.

Community Jubilee Kitchen: Community soup kitchen coordinated with various churches and volunteer organization's; hosted by Christ Memorial two Saturday's annually.

Other monetary aid:

- Assisting friends of the church to meet their basic needs
- Support to medical mission trips
- International relief aid
- Gatehouse (local homeless shelter)
- Thomas Beaver Free Library children's program
- Haven Ministries



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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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Danville Halloween Parade - Christ Memorial provides free hot chocolate, hot dogs, and baked goods along the parade route. All donations collected benefit our diaper bank.

Danville Area “Trunk or Treats”: Annual community event held at the Danville Primary School serving over 2,000 children and their families.

Saturday Morning Train Program: Celebrating 20 years and founded by a parishioner of Christ Memorial. The train program runs every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The initial train layout was constructed by children under direction of coordinators, and has been giving train parts and layout materials, such as houses, from members of the community. The train program has been featured in the newspapers and television on several occasions.



Prison ministry - Parishioners assist the Montour County Jail with a garden that provides inmates with fresh vegetables.



Community library – Christ Memorial has a very long-term relationship with the Thomas Beaver Library, as some of the founders of our church were also involved in founding the library. Christ Memorial holds a seat on the Board of Directors of the library. In addition, a free outdoor library box was installed outside of Christ Memorial by a local Eagle Scout and is maintained by the library.

A Year with the St. John’s Bible - In 2020 we enjoyed “A Year with the St. John’s Bible. *The Saint John's Bible* is a work of art and a work of theology. Through generous donations we were able to share this amazing work of art with our community.



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# CHURCH STRUCTURE

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Christ Memorial Episcopal Church leadership includes the rector and between 7 and 9 persons on Vestry. Senior and Junior Wardens are both required to be members of the Vestry. The Senior Warden is appointed by the rector. The Junior Warden and Clerk are elected by the vestry. The Treasurer regularly attends meetings, although is not a Vestry member.

Each member serves a three-year term, and is eligible for re-election one time, for a total of six consecutive years. A person is eligible for re-election again after a one-year absence. Each year, three members are elected for a three-year term.

Our Vestry meets once monthly, on the second Sunday of each month. Special meetings are called as needed.

## Committees

- Search
- Finance
- Education
- Hospitality
- Cemetery
- Stewardship
- Altar Guild
- Coffee Hour Host
- Mission & Outreach

## Staff

- Rector
- Part time Parish Administrator
- Sexton
- Organist
- Choir Director



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial Statement for Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, Danville, Pennsylvania  
As shown on the Parochial Reports 2017 - 2022

<b>Income</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Pledged	41,712	61,964	51,272	43,470	40,332	28,355
Plate offerings	67,467	71,277	64,549	51,497	44,526	36,191
From investments	79,175	80,511	305,276	214,460	212,619	245,387
Other income	116,383	160,744	22,192	0	0	0
Unrestricted bequests	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assistance Diocese	0	0	0	0	0	0
Funds for capital projects	0	0	0	0	0	0
Additions to endowments	101,689	13,557	0	0	0	0
Contribution & grants	0	0	0	10,095	9,982	2,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>364,714</b>	<b>326,089</b>	<b>392,017</b>	<b>276,052</b>	<b>267,127</b>	<b>283,578</b>

## Operating Expenses

Diocese fair share	25,925	30,533	50,700	39,411	44,503	33,006
Outreach	35,800	39,528	27,103	25,200	31,927	33,000
All other operating expenses	172,857	180,313	248,762	184,583	168,581	211,660
Major improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Non-operating	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>234,582</b>	<b>250,374</b>	<b>326,565</b>	<b>249,194</b>	<b>245,011</b>	<b>277,666</b>



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## CLOSING PRAYER

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Almighty God we pray for the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new priest for our church. You know our special needs and the task which lies before us. In our search direct us and give us insight to recognize the leader whom you would choose for us. And we further pray, O Lord, that in this time of waiting we may all devote ourselves afresh to your service, so that nothing is lost of the faithful work of the past, rather that it may be brought to a rich harvest in the years to come. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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# APPENDIX

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## Appendix A: Parish Profile Questionnaire

1. Regarding congregation goals and objectives, we:  
13% are deeply committed and want someone to lead us in directions that are already clear to us  
35% have some general ideas about what we should do in the next ten years and want help doing it  
22% need some help clarifying details about what we should be doing in the next ten years  
30% want our new priest to help us develop goals
2. In leadership style, our new priest should tend to:  
14% often generate new ideas and methods  
86% tend to use a blend of new and adapted ideas and methods  
0% usually make use of tried-and-true methods
3. In leadership style, our new priest should tend to:  
29% encourage lay leaders and staff to take initiative  
67% encourage initiative or give direction based on the project  
4% give strong direction to lay leaders and other staff  
**Comment:** Support church programs
4. Our new priest should tend to:  
23% welcome criticism and adverse opinions  
73% deal constructively and responsively with critical comments  
4% defend self against criticism and adverse opinions
5. When planning parish programs, our priest should tend to:  
19% drive hard to achieve objectives  
43% drive hard to achieve a few key objectives  
38% place feelings of people ahead of objectives  
**Comment:** Collaborate with parishioners
6. In relation to the community, our priest should:  
71% often be a recognized leader in community affairs  
29% be involved in those community concerns of personal interest  
0% seldom be a leader in community affairs  
**Comment:** Participate in ecumenical programs and Montour Human Services Coalition
7. Our priest's community engagement should mainly be through:  
\_\_\_ congregation efforts  
\_\_\_ ecumenical channels  
\_\_\_ non-church channels  
100% a combination of all of these



## Appendix A: Parish Profile Questionnaire Continued

8. Our priest should tend to regard the Bible:

10% literally

90% as an interpretation of God's dealing with humanity

9. When preaching, our priest should tend to use (*1 person did not answer= 4%*)

32% an informal conversational delivery style

64% a blend of conversational and authoritative styles

0% a formal, authoritative delivery style

10. Regarding the ministry of music, our new priest should consider this as:

77% very important

23% moderately important

0% not important

**Comment:** I hope that finding new members will help us bring instrumentalists into our music, as it once did.

11. Regarding youth ministry, our priest should consider this as:

82% very important

18% moderately important

0% not important

12. Regarding parish visitation, our priest should tend to visit:

42% on a regular basis

25% primarily to respond to pastoral crisis

33% to respond to crisis and give pastoral care

0% to give pastoral care and build a stronger church

0% primarily to build a stronger church

## Appendix B: Useful Area Websites

[Bloomsburg University](#)  
[Bucknell University](#)  
[Columbia Montour Vo-Tech](#)  
[Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau](#)  
[Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[Danville Area Community Center](#)  
[Danville Area School District](#)  
[Danville Business Alliance](#)  
[Diocese of Central Pennsylvania](#)  
[Geisinger Medical Center](#)  
[Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[Knoebels Amusement Resort](#)  
[Milton State Park](#)  
[Montour Area Recreation Commission](#)  
[Shikellamy State Park](#)  
[Susquehanna University](#)  
[Susquehanna Valley Visitors Bureau](#)

## Appendix C: Driving distances to nearby cities/locations

Philadelphia, Pa	149 Miles	2 Hours 45 Minutes
New York, NY	160 Miles	2 Hours 51 Minutes
Harrisburg, Pa	67 Miles	1 Hour 30 Minutes
Williamsport, Pa	36.5 Miles	45 Minutes
Washington DC	188 Miles	3 Hours 45 Minutes
Atlantic City, NJ	210 Miles	3 Hours 45 Minutes
Wildwood, NJ	239 Miles	4 Hours 8 Minutes
Ocean City , MD	285 Miles	4 Hours 55Minutes

