

THE COMMUNICANT

Christ Church Episcopal

A ministry of the Diocese of Ohio

*Seeking to be a welcoming community of faith, grounded
in the gospel of Jesus Christ, serving Hudson and beyond.*

December



2023

Christmas Eve Services

All Services include Holy Communion

10:30 a.m.

We move from Advent to Christmas with scripture and song

5:00 p.m.

*Family Service with procession to the creche
and music by the Young Choristers*

10:30 p.m.

Festive Service with the Adult Choir, Flute, & Organ

Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eucharist at Laurel Lake



He will be called

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,

MIGHTY GOD,

EVERLASTING FATHER,

PRINCE OF PEACE.

ISAIAH 9:6

*An offering of baby food
will be collected at each service
for local babies in need.*

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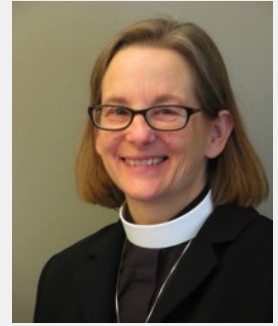
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THE RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS



Dear Friends,

You are amazing! Our final stewardship numbers for 2024 include 18 new pledges, which I have never seen before, and 62 increased pledges for a total of 122 pledges and over \$512,000 pledged. There are so many people to thank for such great success. Jim Lang and George Murray laid the foundation for this pledge campaign over their years of heading up stewardship. They also head up the Fellowship Committee that put on the pancake breakfast, giving the vestry the opportunity to come to the parish with the financial situation of Christ Church. The vestry, led by James Boazzo and Judy Brookhart, took on the task of creating the program and making follow-up phone calls. Kathy Garber made pledge cards and produced the packets. But the bulk of the credit goes to each and every one of you who made a pledge to support the mission and ministry of Christ Church in 2024. Together we can do amazing things!

Now we move into Advent, that beautiful, quiet season of anticipation. If you are new to the Episcopal Church, you may wonder why we do not sing Christmas hymns in December when the rest of the world seems to have been doing Christmas since Halloween. Advent is a time to prepare for the birth of the Christ Child and to savor that preparation so that we are ready to welcome him when he bursts into our lives on Christmas Eve. We hear the stories from scripture that lead up to Jesus' birth, light candles that mark the weeks until Christmas, and sing hymns that remind us that Jesus' birth is not here yet. We are reminded that what we are now is not all that we ever will be as Jesus comes into our hearts over and over again to transform our lives.

These weeks of Advent are precious as we wait, prepare, and anticipate together. Then on Christmas Eve, we will greet the Christ Child the way we do everything else. Together.

Blessings,

Charlotte

Rector's Contact Information:

Contact Charlotte by email at charlotte.reed@christchurchhudson.org, by phone in the church office: 330-650-4359, or by cell phone: 937-925-5200 (*before 9pm please, unless it's an emergency*).



Total dollars pledged for 2023	Pledge dollars expected/budgeted year to date	Pledge dollars received year to date
\$490,212	\$449,361	\$435,337

YEAR-END FINANCIAL GIFTS TO CHRIST CHURCH

Just a reminder that pledges and end of year gifts must be received in the church office by noon on December 29 (because the 31st is on a Sunday this year) or postmarked by December 31 to be counted for 2023 tax purposes. Thank you!



SERVICE OF HEALING

December 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Once a month, a healing service is offered at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel for anyone who would like to ask prayers for themselves or others. The service includes Holy Eucharist. Join us for this quiet, yet powerful service.

Christmas Eve Baby Food Collection for hungry babies in Summit County

You are invited to bring a jar or jars of baby food to be offered at the Creche for the baby Jesus and hungry babies in Akron on Christmas Eve. The baby food will be given to the Hope and Healing Battered Women's Shelter in Akron for the babies sheltered there.



Adult Forum

December Adult Forum Sundays at 9am in the Parish Hall

Join us in the Parish Hall for lively and thoughtful conversation. In Advent, we will look at these two poems:

December 3: "The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry

December 10: "An Advent Poem" by Mary Oliver

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



The Christ Church Staff invites you to
A Christmas Luncheon

December 14 at noon
in the Parish Hall

The luncheon will feature a catered taco bar (with gluten-free and vegetarian options) from Barrio in Kent, along with dessert and beverages. The cost is \$15 per person. Please sign up to attend by December 10 at <https://tinyurl.com/CCEChristmasLunch> or call the office. The Christ Church staff looks forward to serving you!

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

Mary Ann Balbach

Saturday, December 16th
at 10:00 a.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2024 Budget Forum: January 21 at 9am

2024 Annual Meeting: January 28

Following a shortened 10:30 service, the congregation will remain in the church for a brief Annual Meeting to elect vestry members, approve the 2024 budget, and hear a few short reports. Sarah Bhatia will have an activity for children and the nursery will be open. A hearty coffee hour will follow the meeting.

Children's Corner



Faith Formation at CCE

December 3

- Pageant Rehearsal & Children's Chapel at 10:30
- Lego Church & Supper at 4:30 in Parish Hall
- Youth Group & Supper at 4:30 in Youth Room

December 10

- Pageant Rehearsal & Children's Chapel at 10:30
- Advent Lessons & Carols at 5:00 p.m.

December 16

- Pageant Brown Bag Lunch & Dress Rehearsal at 12pm in the upper room.

December 17

- Pageant during the 10:30 service.
- Youth Group & Supper at 4:30

December 24

- Christmas Eve Family Service at 5:00 p.m.



Children's Chapel

For children 3-years old through 2nd grade
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE.

Children 3-year-olds through 2nd Grade join a leader during the Gloria at the 10:30 service for Godly Play, a Montessori-based Program that explores Bible stories. Children return to their families at the Peace.

EYC ON INSTAGRAM

Follow Christ Church EYC's Instagram @cceh_eyc for inspiration, reflections, & fun photo challenges!



BUILDING FAITH

FAMILY WORSHIP

LEGO CHURCH & SUPPER

Sunday, December 3 at 4:30 p.m.



Calling parishioners of all ages, young and young at heart! Join us in the Parish Hall for a fun, interactive worship experience. Using LEGOS, we will explore a Biblical themes and stories in a short, imaginative service that allows for people of all ages to engage with our faith in new and creative ways. Following worship, we will enjoy a homecooked meal together. Please sign up to attend at so we know how many to expect for dinner at tinyurl.com/LegoChurch2324.

Children's Christmas Pageant

10:30am 17 Dec 2023
Everyone is welcome!



Christ Church Episcopal

For more information
contact Sarah Bhatia
sbhatia@christchurchudson.org

Christ Church Christmas Pageant December 17th at 10:30 a.m.

Our Christmas pageant is coming soon! Sarah, our children, and our youth are working hard to bring the Nativity story to life. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this special service during the 10:30 service on December 17.

Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal December 16th at Noon

On December 16, we will meet at 12:30 pm in the upper room for a brown bag lunch to talk through each piece of the pageant before moving to the church for a dress rehearsal. This rehearsal is mandatory as we need all children to know what they are doing the day of the pageant and to be as prepared as possible so they can have as much fun as possible.



Youth December Events

December 3: Youth Group at 4:30

- Holiday Game and Prizes!

December 17: Youth Group at 4:30

- Ugly Sweater Contest
- Favorite Things Gift Exchange (\$10 limit on gift that represents one of your favorite things)

CONTACT SARAH BHATIA FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP:
SBHATIA@CHRISTCHURCHHUDSON.ORG



Youth Group & Supper December 3 & 17 at 4:30 p.m.

Youth Group is an opportunity for students in **grades 6-12** to explore faith formation topics, build close relationships with their peers, and discover how to navigate their world in the light and love of Christ. We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays for fellowship, faith formation, and food! Keep an eye out for outreach and service events throughout the year as well.



Photo credit: Andrew Le



Mario Buchanan
Director of Music and Organist
mario.buchanan@christchurchudson.org

I so look forward to Advent every year. What about Advent, you ask? Technically there are only twelve days of Christmas, and as you might have guessed, none of them are in November. In our church calendar, we have four Sundays of Advent (In Roman times, there were six weeks of Advent) and only a couple Sundays of Christmas. You may think, “That’s it?” but yes that IS it.

History lesson: The word “advent” comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning “coming”. It symbolizes the Second Coming of Christ. For a thousand years, Christians have spoken of three comings of Christ: at Bethlehem, in our hearts and minds, and in the glory of the end times. Advent is a time of anticipation and waiting for the coming of Christ.

This is why I am so excited about our **Advent Lessons and Carols** Service on December 10 at 5 pm. It is a festive service: great choral music sung by our Adult Choir, big hymns, descants, etc. However, it is also a time for us to sit and reflect on the beauty of the scripture readings in Advent. Our service last year was so well received, I am glad we are doing it again this year.

So I ask: what does Advent mean for you? Maybe, like Lent, we examine our own lives and see what we can do to be better followers of Christ. I ask myself each year: do I really need that new [insert electronic device here]? Is Christmas really about giving expensive presents to my friends who are already financially stable? What if I gave that money to someone less fortunate than me or is there a local soup kitchen that needs volunteers?

When I go to the store and see that 1,000th reindeer on the shelf and that blow-up elf for my front lawn, I am reminded that Jesus had none of these. Jesus didn’t have a comfy bed, an electric space heater, or a cashmere coat. Instead, he had the love of others to welcome him into this world. May you all have a blessed Advent season. I so look forward to seeing you at Advent Lessons and Carols on December 10th.

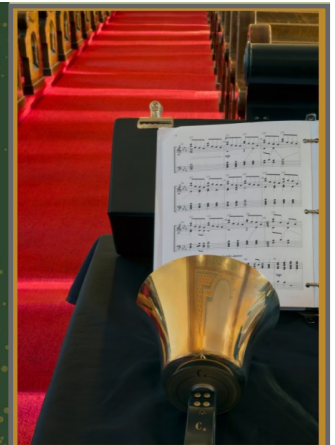
All my best

Mario

Advent Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH AT 5:00 P.M.

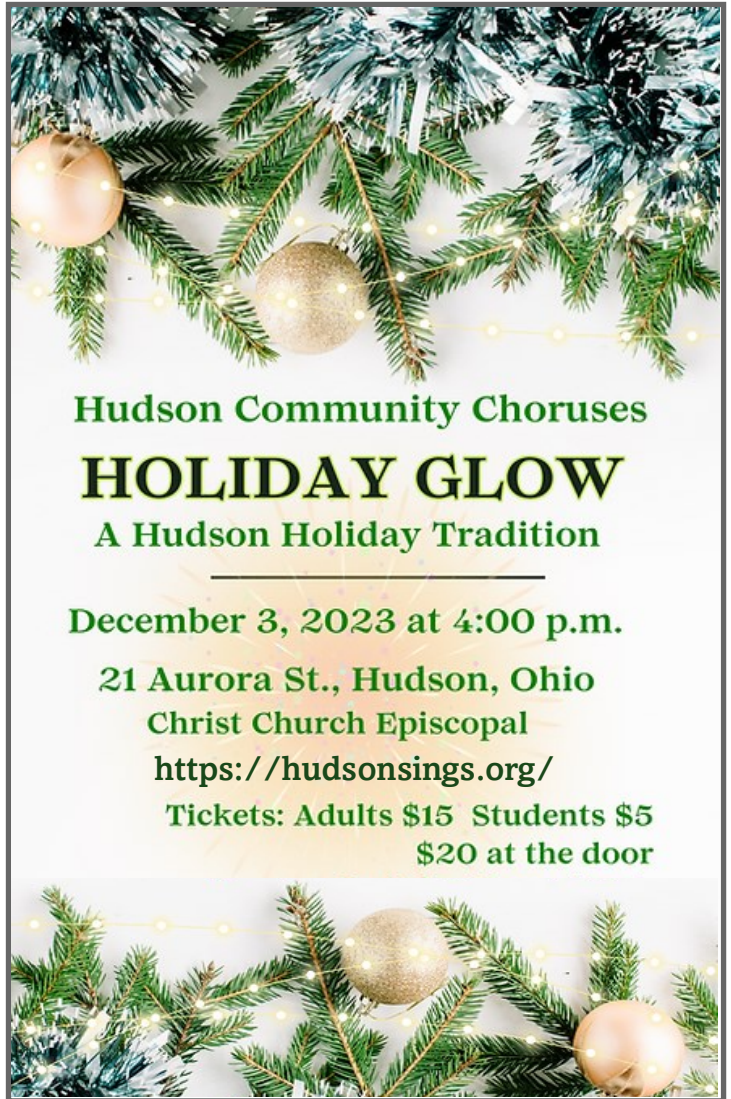
Come hear the Adult Choir sing a service of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 10. This service is totally different than a Sunday morning service. We will hear Advent lessons interspersed with favorite Advent hymns and great choral anthems. If you would like to join us for supper after the service, please sign up at



The Frosty 5 and Mistletoe Mile Restrooms for Runners!

The Hudson Frosty 5 mile and Mistletoe 1 mile race is Saturday, December 24. The 1 mile race starts at 8am and once again we will have hundreds if not thousands of people gathering right across from Christ Church that morning. We will open our building from 7:30-9:30 that morning for those who wish to use indoor plumbing (rather than port-a-potties) and get warm before or after their run.

Your help is needed as we offer hospitality to the runners. We need at least six people from 7:30-8:30 and four people from 8:30-9:30 to hand out flyers, greet people, and show them through the building to the restrooms. This is an excellent opportunity to show some great Christ Church hospitality! Please sign up to help by scanning the QR code below or call the church office to let us know how you can help.



Hudson Community Choruses

HOLIDAY GLOW

A Hudson Holiday Tradition

December 3, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

21 Aurora St., Hudson, Ohio

Christ Church Episcopal

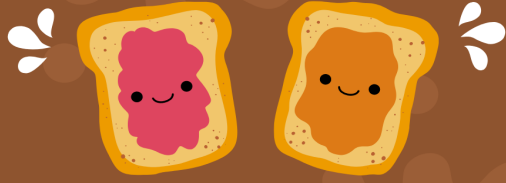
<https://hudsonsings.org/>

**Tickets: Adults \$15 Students \$5
\$20 at the door**



On November 19 at the 10:30 service, Dave McCallops was honored with the Bishop's Medal he received in June. The medal, given only 26 times in its 26 year history, is given to lay leaders whose ministry honors Christ and serves his church in exemplary ways. He is one of five medal recipients to come from Christ Church. Our Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. Canon Jessie Gutsell Dodson, presented the honor on behalf of the Office of the Bishop. Congratulations, Dave!

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY BRIGADE



PB & J DAY: DECEMBER 9TH

Please join the Outreach Committee in the Parish Hall at 10 AM on December 9 (please note that it is a week earlier this month) as we come together to prepare 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless ministry out of St. Bernard's Church in Akron.

We urge anyone and everyone to volunteer at some point, for every month we will put out the call. Get to know each other, get sticky, and do good! For more information, contact Judy Brookhart at judyots@gmail.com.

Hudson Food Pantry Laundry Detergent Collection

The Christ Church monthly offering to the Hudson Food Pantry is laundry detergent, which cannot be purchased with government assistance (SNAP.) The Hudson Food Pantry has requested **45 jugs, packs of pods, or detergent sheets** by **December 13** for this month's distribution.

Detergent can be left on the bench inside the back door, or outside the door if it is locked. Thank you for helping support the Hudson Food Pantry!



Thank you to everyone who donated yams to Open M, gave gifts for the Giving Tree, rang the Salvation Army Christmas bell at Acme, and donated detergent to the Food Pantry! Your generosity is so very appreciated!





Getting to Know You

Each month we feature a little “getting to know” vignette of a Christ Church parishioner or family in the Communicant. If you would like to be featured in an issue of The Communicant or know someone who would, please let us know. This month, Eileen Gaston helps us get to know a little bit more about Ellen Turner. We look forward to getting to know you better, too!

Get to Know Ellen Turner

Are you looking for a way to serve your neighbors, in the parish or for outreach? Coffee hour host? Flower delivery (to folks who can't make it to church)? Dinner prep for youth group? Peanut butter & jelly brigade? Representative to the Diocesan Convention? Habitat for Humanity? Co-chair of the committee for funeral receptions? Yes, ALL of these ministries are accomplished by Ellen Turner...and she's not even fully retired!

Ellen's dad would be proud of her, but not surprised. Her father was an Episcopal priest, who served as chaplain at Kansas State University and later at churches in the dioceses of Indiana, Maryland, Washington DC and Pennsylvania. Ellen was confirmed at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. She also heard Bishop Tutu preach there and received Communion from his hands. Quite a memory!

She attended Kenyon College (an Episcopal College in Gambier, OH), earning a degree in sociology. After graduation, she worked in admissions for six years. She then attended Harvard, earning a Master's degree in Counseling. She remained in Massachusetts, working at Northfield-Mount Hermon School, in various capacities (counselor, academic dean, teacher, etc.) for twenty-five years. When she returned to Ohio, she chose to work for Kenyon again doing admissions work.

At Northfield-Mount Hermon, Ellen met Dick Peller, whose late wife had been one of Ellen's friends. Their children were teenagers when their mother died. After a few years, Ellen and Dick married, in 2000. Ellen is proud to be their second mom.

Their move to Hudson, in 2015, happened because Dick's daughter and their son-in-law were working at Western Reserve Academy. Dick and Ellen were happy grandparents for a year, until the young family moved...to Taiwan! By this time, Ellen and Dick had gotten quite fond of Hudson and the many opportunities here, such as hiking, the amazing library and museums. And so they stayed.

Christ Church was a natural fit for Ellen. She loves the clear windows and all of the light in the sanctuary and now in the Parish Hall. As so many others have said, she appreciates good sermons (by our several preachers), excellent music, and a warm community. Dick supports all her service (see above) and is a regular with Habitat for Humanity. He even helped weed the church gardens. He is partly retired, teaching mathematics at WRA.

Their children and grandchildren live in Brazil and in California, but Ellen and Dick now have roots in Hudson. We at Christ Church are very glad!





THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF OHIO



Updates from the Annual Diocesan Convention held on November 11, 2023.

It was an honor and a privilege to represent Christ Church Hudson at the 207th Diocesan Convention in Wooster, OH on Friday, November 10th, and Saturday November 11th. The Convention Eucharist was held at First Presbyterian Church and was a glorious celebration of our liturgy. The service was followed by the Convention Banquet held at the Greystone Event Center. We were treated to a delightful meal and had time to connect with many old and new friends from around the diocese. The diocesan staff planned a game of trivia which was entertaining and enlightening. Saturday, November 11th the business of the 207th Diocesan Convention began at 9AM. It was probably the best diocesan convention that I have ever attended. Bishop Anne made the convention fun and kept us on track with the work we were there to do. The morning began with the election of many people to a variety of positions for example: Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Diocesan Trustees, Episcopal Community Services (ECS) Development Council, just to name a few. There is a lot of hard work ahead, but with the leadership of Bishop Anne Jolly and the Diocesan Staff we are well prepared for the future. We spent time together at our table discussing the results of the listening sessions which Bishop Anne held this past spring and summer. Thank you for allowing me to be a delegate. As Bishop Anne said: "I love being your bishop" ...I would respond I love having Anne Jolly as my bishop.

RuthAnne Belton

The business meeting of this 2023 Diocesan Convention on Saturday, November 11, went as smoothly as could be. The oft-used clicker voting made this the most efficient voting I have ever experienced, and those matters on which we voted by acclamation seemed to pass unanimously or nearly so. The Bishop's remarks were warm, cheering, and specific. The power point slide outlining the reorganization of the administration end of the Bishop's office made it clear the cobwebs were gone or going fast, all to the good. We have a direction now that is clear even as it evolves, and part of that direction is that that Bishop and her team will NOT stay behind their desks in Cleveland!

A big highlight for me, as always at these things, is running into friends, lay and clergy, from parishes I have previously attended; we exchanged warm greetings. Best of all was the strong fellowship of our own team, eight of us, I believe. That we pretty much voted the same—at least I think we did—was less about conformity and more about shared wisdom.

So focused we were that the meeting ended an hour-and-a-half early! I am looking forward to being a garden-variety participant at Winter Convention where we will get a taste of the College of Congregational Development. Onward and upward, indeed!

Tom Dukes

Diocesan Convention updates continued

Put about 300 Episcopalians in a room; include a few bishops; add coffee, tea, and chocolate; give them a chance to ponder and discuss the future of the diocese; and you generate a huge amount of hope and energy. Our new Bishop Ann gave an Episcopal address that included table talks around the priorities that emerged from the 16 listening sessions that she held with clergy and lay members of the diocese last summer. Congregational development, connecting to all congregations, addressing systemic racism, innovation, ministering to young families, and administration (including finance and building management) will all be addressed and advanced by the Bishop, her staff, and the people of the diocese.

Our own Tina Monreal presented a very detailed and balanced diocesan budget which was unanimously accepted. Both she and Dave McCallops were wearing their well deserved Bishop's Medals. During a screening of Bellwether Farm's Summer Camp highlights, Will Bixby's smiling face appeared. He served as a camp counselor.

The bishop plans a 3-year rotation of Sunday visits to parishes, with members of her staff also stopping by from time to time. She looks forward to worshipping with us, but also wants to celebrate and have fun with us. She has instituted "Fun Days," when she or one of her staff will join a parish for fellowship, outreach, or a community activity.

We are a relatively small denomination these days, but we are mighty, with much to offer the world around us. Love, peace, prayer, acceptance, and, above all, hope, will advance the work and joy of God's Kingdom. We can do it!

Pam Zuhl

Christ Church Merchandise Makes a Wonderful Christmas Gift!

Visit the Christ Church merchandise store to check out the great selection of Christ Church "Merch" available to purchase for yourself or as a gift. We have no inventory on hand: items are made-to-order and shipped directly to you. Production time takes about two weeks, plus shipping time. You can check out the current products and place your order by scanning the code or going to <https://tinyurl.com/christchurchmerch>.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS



Christmas flower donations for the church are welcome from all in celebration, as memorial, or in thanksgiving.

Your gift will be noted in the Christmas Eve bulletins provided the necessary information is received in the church office by

Monday, December 18th

Christ Church 2023 Christmas Floral Donation

NAME(S): _____ AMOUNT: _____

As a memorial to... In celebration of... In thanksgiving for...

(please circle one of the above and provide the details below)

Please return with your check payable to Christ Church with
"Christmas Flowers" on the memo line to the office by:

Monday, December 18th



- Suzanne Lund ~ 12/1
- Julie Ridgway ~ 12/2
- Peter Ryerson ~ 12/3
- Mario Buchanan ~ 12/4
- Patricia Davis ~ 12/9
- Pam McCallops ~ 12/11
- Olivia Robinson ~ 12/13
- Jim Gray ~ 12/14
- Ava Klespies ~ 12/14
- Kevin Cicen ~ 12/15
- James Dalton ~ 12/17
- Cindy Frisby ~ 12/17
- Rebecca Rogers ~ 12/22
- John Longenecker ~ 12/22
- Kathy Garber ~ 12/23
- Karen Myers ~ 12/24
- Silas Anglewicz ~ 12/26
- Joe Klespies ~ 12/27
- Jay Bixby ~ 12/28
- Jacob Phillips ~ 12/28
- Marcie Harvey ~ 12/29
- Betsy Redmond ~ 12/29



- Ted & Susan Mailey ~ 12/10
- Fern & John MacMillan ~ 12/26

FOR THE RECORD...

Deaths

Mary Ann Balbach

Baptisms

Simon Phillips
Wyatt Dodson



Thank you to...

...Midge Karam for the use of the Western Reserve Academy timpani for All Saints day, to our choirs, and Mario Buchanan for the glorious music
...the Rev. Dr. Daniel Grossoehme for his class on “Prayer without Words”

- ...Jim and Mary Sullivan who provided supper for Lego Church and Youth Group on November 5
- ...Judy and Jack Brookhart who provided supper for Compline on November 12
- ...All who helped with the memorial service for Michael Giorgi
- ...Bob Zuhl who masterfully organized ushers and parking for the service for Tom Green
- ...All who helped with the memorial service for Tom Green
- ...Pam Zuhl, Tom Dukes, and RuthAnne Belton who served as our delegates to Diocesan convention.
- ...Judy Brookhart and the outreach team for the reception following the Interfaith Thanksgiving service
- ...Luke Metoki for sharing his cooking skills with the Youth Group
- ...All who “Rang the Bell” for the Salvation Army at Acme.
- ...Cathy Agnor, Sallie Bear, and Pam McCallops for coordinating the Giving Tree this year

November Vestry Meeting Highlights




- The vestry meet on November 28 at 6:00 p.m. and began with conversation about where we have seen God in the past month and with prayer.
- Ann Kirk, the treasurer, reported that pledged giving is down this year. About \$60,000 is needed between now and the end of the year to complete 2023 pledges.
- The vestry reviewed the 2024 draft budget and will vote to adopt the budget at the December meeting.
- The vestry elected Pam Zuhl to fill out Judy Brookhart’s unexpired vestry term.
- There was discussion about when to hold the 2024 Annual Meeting. The decision was made to try holding it after an abbreviated 10:30 service on Sunday, January 28 with an activity for children during the meeting. The goal is to be finished with the service and the Annual Meeting by 11:40 and then have coffee hour afterwards.
- The vestry received the final pledge report which includes 18 new pledges, 69 increased pledges, 122 pledging units, and \$512,985 pledged.
- The next vestry meeting is Tuesday, November 28 at 6pm in the Upper Room.



**21 Aurora Street
Hudson, OH 44236**

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On the Web:

 Find us on Facebook!

www.christchurchhudson.com

Clergy

The Rev. Charlotte Collins Reed, Rector
Charlotte.reed@christchurchhudson.org

Affiliated Clergy

The Rev. Allan Belton, Priest
The Rev. Daniel Grosseohme, Priest
The Rev. Gretchen Green, Deacon

Staff

Kathy Garber, Parish Administrator
Kathy.garber@christchurchhudson.org
Mario Buchanan, Director of Music/Organist
Mario.buchanan@christchurchhudson.org
Sarah Bhatia, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry,
Sbhatia@christchurchhudson.org
Susie Vanaman, Parish Accountant
Svanaman@christchurchhudson.org
Norma Harbison, Housekeeping
Marcena Brown, Housekeeping
Bill Tscherne, Facility Maintenance
Matt Baker, A/V Technician
Amber Lambing, Nursery Attendant
Lillian Ivey, Nursery Attendant

Vestry

James Boazzo, Sr. Warden:
jamesboazzo@yahoo.com

Judy Brookhart, Jr. Warden:
judyots@gmail.com

Kathie Balcerzak
Courtney Bixby
Greg Daniels
Andrew Le
Mark Metoki
Tina Monreal
Jacob Phillips

**Christ Church Hudson
is a Parish of the
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
www.dohio.org**

Holiday Office Closures

The church office will be closed on
Monday, December 25th
Tuesday, December 26th
Friday, December 29th (noon)
Monday, January 1st

In the event of a pastoral emergency,
please contact Charlotte at 937-925-5200.

