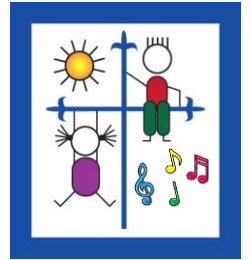




CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community

NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2023

Reflections from The Rector

The Rev. Diana Wilcox



Christ is risen! Alleluia!

The message of Easter is one we heard in that familiar collect read on Good Friday: "...let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new..."

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus today, but it is our resurrection that God hoped for in choosing to dwell among us. God hoped to raise us up too - from the death of despair into a life of hope, from the death of hate into a life of love, from the death of indifference into a life of consequence.

God has done this for us, that we might

become agents of God's transformative action in the world.

The same Christ that called us to love the stranger, care for the poor, visit the sick, feed the hungry is calling us now. Jesus who left the tomb and changed the world is calling us to join him in this resurrecting work of raising up and making new.

So, look out world, because strengthened by our fellowship here in Christ Jesus, we are heading out of our churches and into the streets to proclaim for all to hear that everyone is a beloved child of God – no exceptions. Those who have been cast down will be raised up by the grace of God wherever we love and serve Christ.

Because of the resurrection we celebrate today, we proclaim the good news – that love – God's love - cannot be defeated. Christ is alive! Alive in us! And nothing will ever be the same again.

See you in church!

Mother Diana+

*"...let the whole world
see and know that
things which were cast
down are being raised
up, and things which
had grown old are
being made new..."*

Welcome, Seminarian Jackie McLeod



We welcomed Ms. Jackie McLeod to the staff of Christ Church on Sunday, March 19th.

Jackie is a seminarian in formation for the vocational diaconate (to serve as a Deacon, the oldest order of the church, and a full and equal one to the priesthood). As part of her preparation, she will partner with Mother Diana in worship, outreach, pastoral response, and formation. Jackie is currently serving at her home parish of St. Mark's Teaneck.

Jackie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing Education from New York University and a Master's of Public Health Degree from Columbia University School of Public Health. She has also received numerous certificates in Leadership Development, Program Development, Volunteerism and Organizational Management.

Jackie served as the Executive Director of Healing Communities Network (HCN) June 2010 to October 1, 2021, and now as a consultant. HCN is a prison re-entry program for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated that addressed issues of trauma and successful re-integration into the community. The program empowers individuals to direct their own rehabilitation in support groups that built self-esteem and a sense of community. HCN has operated six New York State prisons for 40+ years.

Jackie previously worked for 20 years as a professional fundraiser for national, state and local organizations as Executive Vice President of Financial Development. She held positions at The American Lung Association, Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic and A Better Chance and the YWCA of Bergen County. She has effectively developed and implemented programs to meet emerging community needs in health and education. She has taught Health Education courses at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY, Montclair University, Montclair, NJ and Jersey City University, Jersey City, NJ.

Jackie is the widow of Rev. Dr. Lonnie McLeod and mother of one daughter Jennifer and grandmother to twins – Ava and Alex Tomlinson, who now attend Teaneck High School.

Welcome, Jackie!



Musical Notes

Scott Ziegler, Director of Music

Things are great in the world of music at Christ Church! The choir was delighted after a very successful Lessons & Carols just before Christmas and we are hard at work this spring.

Throughout the Lent and Easter seasons we have been balancing traditional favorites with a few new pieces to entice your ear during the worship service. I hope you'll join us for the spectacular Mass on the Grass, with Brass! on Sunday, June 11th featuring the beloved Brass Quintet that adds such a unique element to the service.

Choir rehearses each Thursday at 8:00pm from Labor Day through mid-June. All are welcome to join!



Nursery School News

Aazhae Coleman, Nursery School Director



Spring has sprung, and The Nursery School of Christ Church is springing into action. Although we didn't see much snow this winter, we look forward to the warmer months vastly approaching to get outside and play. The children at NSCC are enjoying the return of our specials, including dance, soccer, and gymnastics. In February, we celebrated Valentine's Day with a tea party in the gym, Ash Wednesday with a few of our students receiving ashes in the church, and we celebrated 100 days in school this year. It is safe to say each one of them is 100 Days Wiser! March is reading month, so we welcomed parents each week to visit their child's class to read them a story. The parent participation has been terrific! Now that it is spring, we know the saying, *April showers may bring May flowers*. However, at NSCC, April brings easter egg hunts, earth day, pinwheels for prevention, and new beginnings as fall registration starts. We look forward to May, when we will celebrate Mother's Day, Cinco de mayo, dance recitals, and prepare for graduations. Each class gears up for spring with decorations and planting. The children plant seeds and watch them flourish into beautiful flowers. Like seeds, we plant love and kindness in each child's heart and water them with wisdom so they may flourish into pioneers of the future.

Happy Easter!



Children, Youth, and Families

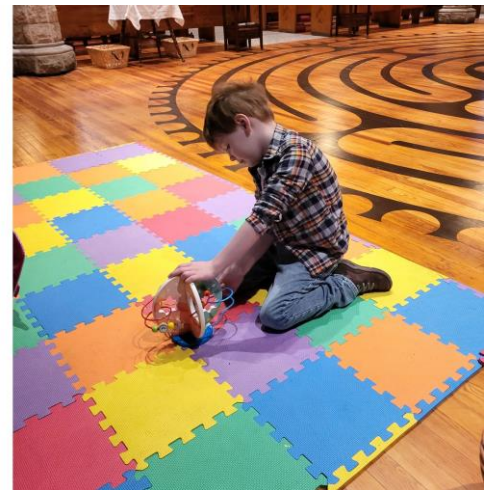
Candice Whitaker, Director of Family Ministries



We have so many fun things coming up at Christ Church! As always, we partner with Cross Roads to provide events and activities for our youth of all ages, and families throughout the year. Summer camp, of course, is always a highlight. Week-long overnight camps (and extended weeks available) are offered to those entering 3rd grade and up. Registration is happening now if you want to make sure you have a spot. If you are looking for a great summer camp experience, Cross Roads is awesome! There are also several different

types of leadership programs for high school students, all of which are excellent for personal growth and development, and teaches valuable life-long skills, applicable to any future job. Several of our youth have participated in camp programming through day camps, leadership programs, and retreats, and we'd love to see more of our families continue to benefit from these opportunities.

During our worship services, we love to see our kids in church. Children have always been welcome in church, but we do hope that the Kid Kits we have been offering have been useful and help make our worship service even more kid friendly. These bags have books, crayons, activities, and quiet toys that allow children to be present



in worship even if they are not yet sure how to participate. We continue to have our kid zone in the back of the church, also. There are plenty of books and activities, rocking chairs, and more space for littles to move around.

Another spring highlight is our Easter Egg Hunt! Since the kids will be in the church during the service, we will have the eggs hidden around the parish hall. Immediately following the service,

please head to the parish hall to grab a basket from Candice and you may begin collecting your eggs! We are also looking forward to our giant coloring page project that all are invited and encouraged to participate in. We will put that up in the parish hall once it is finished.

Lectionary-based lessons and activity ideas for kids, along with family devotionals during Lent, have been sent out weekly in our parish emails. If you are not on that list, scan the QR code on the communications page to make you sure you're not missing out!



Outreach Ministries



Epiphany Project

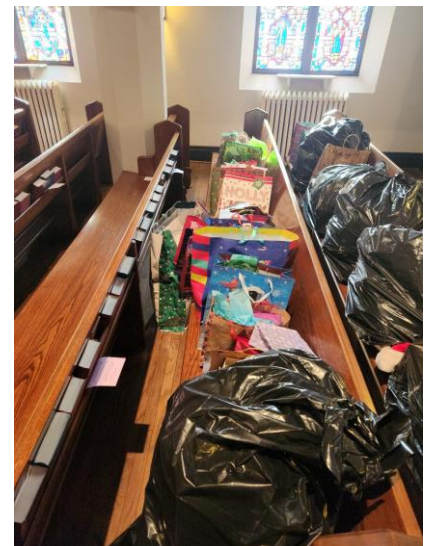
Christ Church is always a very busy place! We continue to welcome many new and returning groups into our space to use our facilities throughout the week. An outreach project we have done the past few years is the Epiphany Project. When our parishioners make their pledge by December 31 of that year, they receive a check from our outreach funds to then make a donation to a nonprofit of their choice. The season of Epiphany is a time of God's revealing Christ to the world, and we in turn will reveal Christ to our community through these gifts. Each pledger is able to write that check over to the non-profit of their choice. It has been so inspiring to see how our parishioners have spread Christ's light out into the world through this project!

Diocese of Newark Prison Ministry

In November, we collected gifts for our Diocesan Prison Ministry, giving to children whose parents are incarcerated. Thank you to so many of you that contributed! We were able to drop off more than 30 gifts.

Feeding the Hungry + PAWS Montclair

Over the past several years, we have developed a strong partnership with the Presbyterian Church on the Green in their ministry to feed the hungry. We collect food year-round to be collected by the food pantry. Our largest collection takes place in November, where we work with the Nursery School to gather bags of groceries. The food items are collected, blessed at the altar, and then donated. We like to





help feed our furry friends, too, and we work with PAWS Montclair, the local animal shelter, to provide needed food and supplies throughout the year. We also do a big collection for PAWS at our Blessing of the Animals in October, as pictured left.

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center

We continue to partner with Cross Roads, the official camp and retreat center of our diocese. We have worked with them for several years to provide an awesome day camp in the summer for our kids and kids in the community. A few of our older youth have spent weeks on site for their summer programming. We like to contribute in helping to make camp accessible and as affordable as we can by participating in fundraisers and work days at Crossroads. Their annual Rally for Cross Roads was in October. The

last few years, they have been doing a 5k to raise funds for camp. All ages are invited to participate both near and far, on site or in your own neighborhood. It is their largest fundraising event and it is always so much fun to be a part of.

Another outreach opportunity is to contribute to Good News Gardens – a church-wide movement involved in a variety of food and creation care ministries – gardening, farming, beekeeping, composting, gleaning, feeding, and food justice advocacy. There are a variety of settings and locations, one of those being Crossroads. They are working to expand their Good News Garden and you can support them as volunteer builders, gardeners, harvesters, food bank delivery, or with donations.



PFLAG NJ

We are also home to PFLAG NJ. The PFLAG NJ group meets at Christ Church on the second Thursday of the month. Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. Made up of parents, families, friends, and allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and full societal affirmation of LGBT people through its threefold mission of support, education, and advocacy. PFLAG has over 350 chapters and 200,000 members and supporters crossing multiple generations of American families in major urban centers, small cities, and rural areas in all 50 states.

These are just a few highlights – we have so much going on in our community! It takes many hands to coordinate these events and stay involved. If you would like to help and get involved with our Outreach Ministries, please contact Mother Diana.

Office and Communications

Candice Whitaker, Director of Communications

Spring is another vibrant season at Christ Church! We have so much to share, and have been doing so through many platforms – Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Weekly Emails, our Sunday Paper, and our website.



We work very hard to remain active members in our community and ensure that all the good things happening in and out of Christ Church are well-known in our surrounding neighborhoods. Press releases are always sent out to local media for our events, and our big events are submitted and posted on the Diocesan calendar and events page.

The best way to stay up-to-date on all the news and updates at Christ Church and in our Diocese is through our email communications. We send out weekly emails to help you stay better connected. If you're not subscribed, or if you have not been getting these emails, scan the QR code below to subscribe.

Don't miss out! As part of our church family, there is always a place for you here and plenty of ways to stay connected.

Stay connected with us:

www.christchurchepiscopal.org

Subscribe to our weekly E-Newsletter "Coming Up at Christ Church."

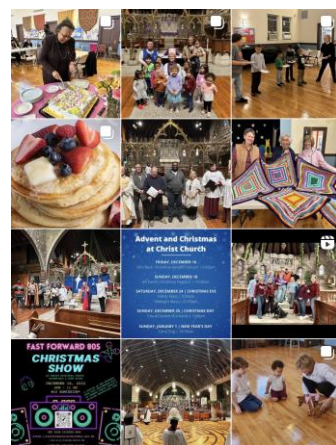
Use your phone camera
to scan the QR code to
get on our email list



Like and Follow us on Facebook:
facebook.com/cc74park

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter:
[@cc74park](https://twitter.com/cc74park)

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel:
Youtube.com/cc74park



Read our Sunday Paper, an insert in our Sunday Bulletin, which is also located on our website for download to your e-reader, phone, or iPad.

And the best way...come to church!

A Message from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry for Easter 2023

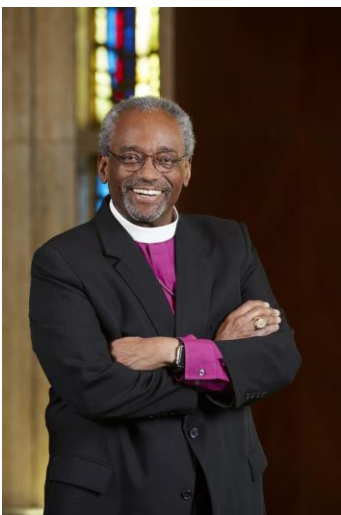
March 30, 2023



“We are here in a world struggling to find its soul, but the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not, cannot, and will not overcome it,” Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael B. Curry said in his Easter 2023 message. “Jesus lives. He has been raised from the dead. That is the message of Easter, and that is the good news of great tidings.”

The festive day of Easter is Sunday, April 9.

The following is the full text of the presiding bishop’s Easter 2023 message, lightly edited for clarity:



This is a different Easter message. I’ve shared Easter messages from Jerusalem some years ago, and I have shared Easter and Christmas messages from a variety of locations. Last year for Christmas, we were in San Diego. Today I’m in Paris, part of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. We just finished a revival—over 50 young people and some 300-400 people from all over Europe who came for this revival service. It was a remarkable thing to behold and be part of.

The Convocation here in Europe is engaged in incredible ministries, with some joining together with Episcopal Relief & Development to make it possible for resettlement of those who are refugees from war and famine, particularly those who are refugees from Ukraine.

Thinking about it—I realize not only with this view—but with the reality of Easter looming on our horizon,

John's Gospel opens: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Then there is a point in which it says, of Christ coming into the world, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it."

On that early Easter morning, John says in his 20th chapter, that early in the morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and some of the other women went to the tomb. They went to the tomb after the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. They went to the tomb of their world having fallen apart. They went to the tomb of all their hopes and dreams having collapsed.

But they got up and they went anyway. They went to perform the rites of burial, to do for a loved one what you would want to do for them. They went, following the liturgies of their religion and their tradition, and, lo and behold, when they went, they discovered that, even in the darkness, the light of God's love, the light of Jesus Christ—the light of Christ, as we say in the Great Vigil—in fact, was shining in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Jesus had been raised from the dead. He was alive, and darkness and evil and selfishness could not stop him. Love—as the old song says—love lifted him up.

We are here in Paris, this wonderful city. While there are protests going on in the city—garbage has not been collected, and it's all over the city—we are here in Paris, in Europe, with refugees streaming into this continent from all over the world, impacted by changes in weather pattern, impacted by war and famine. We are here in a world struggling to find its soul, but the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not, cannot, and will not overcome it. Jesus lives. He has been raised from the dead. That is the message of Easter, and that is the good news of great tidings. From Paris, I'm Michael Curry. God love you. God bless you, and the light shines in the darkness, wherever there is darkness. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. Amen.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

You can watch the video message at episcopalchurch.org. English and Spanish PDF's are also available.

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry is presiding bishop and primate of The Episcopal Church. He was elected in 2015 to a nine-year term in this role, and the animating vision and message of his ministry is Jesus of Nazareth and his model of radical, sacrificial love.

To read the latest news in our Diocese:



The Voice is the biweekly publication of the Diocese of Newark. It is currently published every other Wednesday. You can subscribe to it here: <https://dioceseofnewark.org/e-news>.

Our Staff



THE REV. DIANA WILCOX
Rector



JACKIE MCLEOD
Seminarian



AAZHAE COLEMAN
Nursery School Director



SCOTT ZIEGLER
Director of Music



CANDICE WHITAKER
Director of Communications
Director of Family Ministries



ROBERT SOLON
Director of Finance & HR



DON GIBSON
Sexton

The Vestry



Michelle Ryndak
Warden



Tom Reynolds
Warden



Leo Toledo



Ben Reynolds



Denise Massay- Williams



Bill Seeman



CHRIST CHURCH IN BLOOMFIELD AND GLEN RIDGE
 74 Park Avenue. Glen Ridge, NJ 07028
 973.743.5911
christchurchepiscopal.org