



The

OCTOBER 2026

Trumpeter

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Weekly Schedule

Sundays

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service

10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service



From the Priest's Desk...

As most of you know now, I am on a sabbatical. You might be wondering just what a sabbatical is and why priests take them.

The word sabbatical comes from the Hebrew word "Sabat" which means Sabbath. It is a period of resting and taking a break from work and is an extended period of time taken by a member of the clergy (at least in my case). According to Leviticus 25, Jews in the land of Israel must take a yearlong break. Not to worry, I'm not taking a year. Just under a month!

How is a sabbatical different from a vacation? On vacation, we don't generally (good luck on trying) try to do anything related to work. It can be like a sabbatical, but a sabbatical is much more focused.

Priests generally take sabbaticals for renewal, study, and sustained effectiveness in ministry. A rector is always involved in different aspects of parish administration and ministry. It involves continual preaching, pastoral care, administration, crisis response and a very limited separation between work and personal life. An extended period of time can provide: 1. Spiritual renewal through prayer, retreat, pilgrimage, or reflection; 2. Rest and Recovery, helping prevent burnout and compassion fatigue; 3. Continuing Education, research, writing, or development of new ministry skills; 4. Fresh perspective on the priest's vocation and the congregation's future; 5. Leadership growth within the parish, as lay leaders and other clergy assume additional responsibilities in the clergy's absence.

I am at a point in my ministry where I need to rest, reflect, refocus, and regenerate. Of course I will still be in the loop to a degree. However, the point of a sabbatical is to make a clean break from things for just a little while.

My life has been somewhat scattered this past year and I now need to do some resting, but mainly reflect, refocus and regenerate. Through my engagement with my spiritual director and my therapist, I've been learning a lot about myself and how I interact with others. I am on a new journey of experiencing life and ministry.

During this time, please know that I will be praying for you. I also ask that you pray for me. I want to come back filled with enthusiasm, energy and focus. As always, please know that I love you all very much. See you at the end of October!

Blessings upon you all,
Jerry+

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
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Staff

The Reverend Jerry Lasley
Rector
Rector@stchrisgrandblanc.org

The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr
Priest in Residence

The Reverend Dr. Donald F. Davidson
Priest in Residence

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*
Nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Dr. Carl Angelo, *Organist*

Angela Zinsli, *Administrative Assistant*
angela@stchrisgrandblanc.org



Vestry 2026

Chapin Cook, *Senior Warden*

Rod Bytwerk, *Junior Warden*

Louise McAra, *Clerk*

Jane Brewer, *Co-Treasurer*
Dale Rice, *Co-Treasurer*

Karen Carr (2027) Dave Miller (2027)
Janice Convis (2027) Colleen Shrank (2029)
Diane Stellrecht (2029) Louise McAra (2028)
Jane Brewer (2029) Rod Bytwerk (2028)
Chapin Cook (2028)

Upcoming Lessons

October 4

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-14
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

November 1

All Saint's

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 8

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Find the readings every week at lectionary-page.net



A Message from the Senior Warden...

Hello all the members of St. Christopher's church and our friends, I have several things to report back to everyone so let's start with the Ally parking success. We were lucky to collect \$33,029.00 this year from our Ally parking program. We have one more year of the Ally Challenge guaranteed and we want to thank all of you who have helped by volunteering to handle parking and requirements.

We've also been very fortunate in collecting money for improving our windows. We've collected enough money to pay for 31 new windows along the north side of the church and the west side of the church along the parking lot. We hope to be able to continue the process and collect more funds next year and finish up all of the window sets.

We also had a very successful Volunteer Recognition Party on Saturday, September 25th. We had about 20 people show up and enjoyed pizza and telling stories. It was a lot of fun and hopefully we'll be able to do it again next year and get an even bigger turnout.

As you all know, we are in the process of electing a new Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. Several of us had an opportunity to go down to St. Paul's and meet the four candidates for the bishop position and learned much about them. After that, we voted at the two church services on Sunday to recommend that we endorse the Reverend Zachary Nyein for the position of Bishop. Our representatives for the convention will now go and vote for Zachary and we'll find out who actually gets elected to service as the bishop.

Finally, we're in the process of completing our budget for the fiscal year of 2027 and want to remind all of you to turn in your pledges as soon as possible. This will give us an opportunity to finalize a budget and hopefully put us in a position to carry on for the next year.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and are enjoying this great fall weather that we have been having for the last week. I look forward to seeing you all soon at church.

Chapin Cook



The latest Vestry Meeting Minutes and Financial Statement are located on the kiosk in the narthex for review.

As announced at the Annual Meeting, all funds given toward pledges received in the current calendar year must be deposited and posted to the same calendar year. We can no longer accept advanced payment of pledges for the next calendar year.

Thank you for your understanding.



Armed Forces and Federal Ministries Cycle of Prayer

Armed Forces and Federal Ministries

Under the direction of Bishop Ann Ritonia, Armed Forces and Federal Ministries provides pastoral care and support to members of the military and federal agencies. This week's updates include:

Cycle of Prayer 2026. You can find the complete cycle at www.episcopalchurch.org under Armed Forces and Federal Ministries.

In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, and for the following:

Week of Oct. 4 In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, and for those serving in the Americas and Europe at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Ramstein Air Force Base, Army Garrison Bavaria, and Naval Station Rota.

Week of Oct. 11 In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, all our Navy service members on their 251st birthday, and those serving in the Pacific at Camp Humphreys, Kadena Air Base, Yokota Air Base, Naval Base Guam, and Osan Air Base.

Week of Oct. 18 In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, and for those serving in California at Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Moffett Federal Airfield, Travis Airforce Base, Twentynine Palms, Naval Base San Diego, Edwards Air Force Base, and the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center.

Week of Oct. 25 In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, and for those serving in Colorado at Fort Carson, Peterson Space Force Base, Buckley Space Force Base, Schriever Space Force Base, Federal Correctional Center Florence, and the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center.



Please note that there will be NO Healing Service in October. The next service will be held on Friday, November 6, 2026 at Noon.



Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour in September: Ellen Safley, Chapin Cook and Jeff & Kim Parker. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Please consider signing up to host! You only have to make coffee/tea and perhaps provide a small snack or treat item if desired.



Father Jerry with Leaders and Members of the LDS Church. Father Jerry was invited as a guest speaker at a service in Rochester Hills commemorating one year after the church shooting in Grand Blanc. September 26, 2026



The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 9 am @ Escamilla Amigos, 10006 S. Saginaw St., Holly, MI. Please sign up on the Kiosk.



The next Ladies' Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 14h at 11:45 am at Antonio's Coney Island, 5485 Fenton Rd, Flint.

If you plan on attending, please sign up on the kiosk or contact Louise McAra at (810) 287-4334.



We will be holding our All Saint's Day Service on Sunday, November 1, 2026. Please submit all names to be included in the bulletin to Angela in the Church Office or on the Sign-Up Sheet on the table outside of the Sanctuary no later than Sunday, October 25, 2026. Thank you!

FOOD DRIVE

**Drop Off
Location:**

Church Office in
the Donation Bin

October 4th through December 6th

Please join us in donating non-perishable and shelf stable foods to benefit those in need. We will be assembling "Holiday Meal Bags" which will be handed out the last two Saturdays before Christmas to families when they attend the Family Coat Closet. *Please note that this is not an event that we will be advertising to the community as we want it to be a surprise for families that attend.*

Suggested Items:

- Canned Vegetables:
yams, green beans, corn
- Boxed Mac and Cheese
- Gravy Packets
- Boxed Stuffing Mix
- Cranberry Sauce
- Chicken or Vegetable
Broth
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Hot Chocolate
- Sweet Treats: Cookies
- Powdered Milk

*Thank
You!*

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

From the Music Room...



Greetings from the Music Room at St. Chris!

Whoo hoo and hoopla bidadoo! Am so excited that we get to move back in to the choir room! All signs of mildew and mold are gone, and my little orchid and the Christmas Cactus are very pleased at the choir's return to our sunny space. So very happy about this! This Fall, we have a guest singer joining the choir---he is, truly, a singer of note in the Flint Community. Bass, James Parks sings with the Mawby Chorale, The Flint Symphony Chorus, has been a soloist with both, as well as with the Grand Blanc Choral Society, in Haendel's "Messiah". James is a graduate of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and has been sharing his brilliant vocal talent in our area ever since. He also was a member of the Brazeal Dennard Chorale in Detroit. We welcome James to our musical team here at St. Christopher's!

I know it may seem a tad bit early for me to mention this, but please please please mark your calendars, as Messiah will be happening before we know it! Performance date is November 22nd, 4:00 p.m. I truly hope you will be able to attend. A number of singers from our choir will be performing solos this year, (Audrey Ditri, Andrew Wilson, James Parks) and we would be thrilled if you are able to attend! St. Christopher's has always been so gracious about welcoming this event in our space. The Grand Blanc Choral Society is very grateful for this act of generosity and kindness. Thank you.

Ed Arter and Mark Funk have been hard at work bringing our pipe organ back in tune and tip top shape. Thank you so very much, both of you! You are the best!

If you happen to be someone who is interested in joining our choir this year, or if you know of someone at the church who might be interested in joining our choir this year, please drop by the music room and let me know---I will find you a robe and we can get to singing!

Wishing everyone reading this note a lovely Fall. Just the best time of year in Michigan!

In Christ, I am yours,

Nada



Family Coat Closet

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

Every Saturday!
October through January
10am - Noon
(or by appointment with the church office)

 **St. Christopher's**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GRAND BLANC, MICHIGAN

NEEDED

We are in need of Men's Small and Medium Winter Coats.

We are also in need of Children's coats in sizes 5 through 8 (not toddlers).

Thank you!





Worship Leaders for October 2026

	LECTOR / LEM	GREETERS	TECH	ALTAR GUILD	COFFEE HOUR	ALTAR FLOW- ERS
<u>October 4</u>						
8 am	Jacob Stuart (LEM)/ Jane Brewer	Neuman & Jan Convis	-----	-----	Bill Hartley, Jan Taylor & Rene Carpenter	Available
10:15 am	Frank Burger	Jane Yorks & Mike Latesky		Cindy Donner		
<u>October 11</u>						
8 am	Dave Butler (LEM)/Dave & Melissa Butler	Dale & Sharon Rice		-----	Jane Yorks	Neuman & Jan Convis
10:15 am	Karen Miller	Rebecca Stermer & Rene Carpenter		Anne Naber		
<u>October 18</u>						
8 am	Nancy Wells (LEM)	Jane Brewer & Susan Arm- strong	-----	-----		Jeff & Kim Parker
10:15 am	Linda Rathburn/ Steve Huber (L)	Flo Gjerstad & Christine Jacob		Cindy Donner	Shirley Showler	
<u>October 25</u>						
8 am	Jacob Stuart (LEM)/Susan Armstrong	Dale & Sharon Rice		-----	Danielle Boone	Jane Brewer
10:15 am	Mary Little	Rebecca Stermer & Di- ane Stellrecht		Dawn Rutherford		