

The DECEMBER 2026

Trumpeter

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Weekly Schedule
Sundays
8 am - Holy Eucharist Service
10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service

From the Senior Warden...

Hello to all members of the church and guests, we are enjoying ourselves in a very wet and cloudy Florida. At least there's no snow. We've had quite a lot of progress to report over the last months. We are now the emergency site for Cook and Mason schools if there is a crisis. It feels good to be able to provide that service to the community.

We've been able to finish 38 windows this year, these have all been paid for by donations from our members and friends. We're more than halfway done as we only have about 24 more windows to complete. Of course those will all be able to be done if we receive enough donations for the window fund to complete that process. Thank you for all your support.

For your information, we will continue to use Comfort Control (CC) to maintain our heating and cooling systems here at St Christophers. We have chosen not to use a formal contract but to call CC when we have a problem.

We are completing a budget for the 2027 physical year which starts January 1. We have been collecting pledges and now have 40 that will help us meet our budget needs. It's actually the same as the number of pledges that we had for the 2026 physical year. The Vestry will set a final budget in December and have that ready to present at our annual meeting in January.

Finally, we have been working on collaborating with the area Episcopal churches within Genesee County. This will give us a chance to understand what all five churches have and attempt to see if there are ways in which we can collaborate for the benefit of all. It will be an interesting process, and we hope that it will lead to helping us meet our needs as an Episcopal community. We will keep you up-to-date as to the opportunities that present themselves and see if there are any things we can agree upon here at St Christophers that will help us and the other Episcopal churches.

I hope everybody has a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration and look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas celebrations in December.

Thank you,
Chapin

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
9020 S. Saginaw Road
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
(810) 694-3600
Email: office@stchrisgrandblanc.org

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

December 6
Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 13
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 27
First Sunday after Christmas
Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 147
Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7
John 1:1-18

January 3
Second Sunday after Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 84
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
Luke 2:41-52

January 10
First Sunday after the Epiphany
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Find the readings every week at lectionary-page.net

Our Church's Financial Health

The lastest 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

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 Dec. 6 In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, and for those serving in Hawaii at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Schofield Barracks, Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Tripler Army Medical Center, Federal Detention Center Honolulu, and the VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System.

Week of Dec. 14. In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, their families, all our National Guard service members on their 390th birthday, and those serving in Idaho at Mountain Home Air Force Base, the 124th Fighter Wing Air National Guard, Orchard Combat Training Center, Pocatello Air National Guard Base, and the Boise VA Medical Center.

Week of Dec. 20. In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, all our Space Force service members on their seventh birthday, and those serving in Illinois at Scott Air Force Base, Great Lakes Naval Station, Rock Island Arsenal, Peoria Air National Guard Base, Federal Correctional Instiution Perkin and the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital.

Week of Dec. 27. In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, and for those serving in Indiana at Camp Atterbury, Naval Support Activity Crane, Grissom Air Reserve BAse, Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute, and the Roudebush VA Medical Center.



Service will be held Friday, December 4th at Noon. The next service will be held on Friday, January 8, 2027 at Noon. Please note this time change as the office will be closed on the first Friday in January.



Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour in November: Diane Stellrecht, Mary Little, Flo Gjerstad, Jane Yorks, Bill Anderson and Rod & Cindy Bytwerk. 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



Donations for Christmas Flowers are currently being accepted. There are envelopes in the Gathering Area for those that would like to donate. Please be sure to fill out the envelope indicating who the flowers are given in memory of and whom they are from. All donations should be submitted to the church office no later than Sunday, December 20, 2026. Thank you!



We will be having a Christmas Eve Potluck following the 4 pm service. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall by the Coffee Hour Sign-Up Sheet. Please include your name and the dish that you will be bringing. Hope you will join us!



The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 12, 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, December 9th 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)



The deadline to submit pledge payments for 2026 will be Sunday, December 20th. Any payments received after Sunday, December 20th will be counted toward your 2027 Pledge Statements. Sorry- No Exceptions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Join me as we travel and see the Christmas story in a different light on Thursday, December 10 at 10 am. YOU WILL NOT, WILL NOT WANT TO MISS IT OR ME! ~ Fr. Mike

FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK...

A Season to Prepare Our Hearts

Dear Beloved in Christ,

As we journey more deeply into this season of Advent, I invite you to pause for a moment. Stop whatever you are doing, take a deep breath, and simply be still.

It is so easy to become consumed by the busyness of preparing for Christmas. There are homes to decorate, meals to plan, cookies to bake, houses to clean, gifts to purchase and wrap, and countless details that seem to demand our attention. We can become so caught up in making Christmas perfect that, by the time Christmas Eve arrives, and we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we find ourselves exhausted, longing for the festivities to be over.

We put so much pressure on ourselves. The house must be perfect. The gifts must be just right. The meal must be memorable. Yet, beneath all the activity, some of us may be carrying weariness, uncertainty, unanswered questions, or even grief. For some, this season is not filled with unbridled joy but with reminders of loved ones, difficult circumstances, or an emptiness that can be hard to put into words.

Perhaps, in the midst of all our preparations, we sometimes lose sight of what truly matters. The gifts will eventually be forgotten, the food will be eaten, and the decorations will soon be packed away for another year. But the love of God, which we celebrate at Christmas, remains forever.

Advent is indeed a season of preparation. But the most important preparations have little to do with shopping, cooking, cleaning, or decorating. They have everything to do with preparing our hearts to receive the Christ child.

Imagine that first Christmas: a newborn child, wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger, surrounded not by comfort and perfection but by the roughness of straw and the humble shelter of a stable. There was nothing elaborate or extraordinary about the setting. And yet, in that simple and unlikely place, the extraordinary love of God was made known to the world.

Christmas is not about perfection. It is about love. It is about a God who loves us so deeply that God chose to come among us in the person of Jesus Christ—fully human and fully divine. Jesus came to walk our roads, share our joys and sorrows, experience temptation, celebrate with friends, mourn with those who grieved, and reveal to us the very heart of God. In Jesus, God entered fully into the human experience so that we might never doubt that we are loved, known, and never alone.

And if this Advent season is difficult for you, please hear this: You belong here. Just as you are.

Continued on next page

FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK CONTINUTED...

Never assume that everyone sitting around you in the pews has everything figured out. We may come through the church doors smiling. We pray, sing, gather at the altar, share in Holy Communion, and perhaps enjoy breakfast at 8:00 or coffee hour at 10:15. But beneath those familiar smiles and routines are lives filled with many of the same struggles we all know: family concerns, work pressures, financial worries, health challenges, grief, uncertainty, and moments of doubt.

We do not come to church because we have all the answers. We come because we don't. We do not come because our lives are perfect. We come because we need God, and we need one another.

We come seeking the assurance that we are loved and forgiven. We gather around the Lord's table, where we are nourished by the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Through this holy meal, we receive the grace and strength we need for the journey ahead. And we gather as a community of faith—a people called to love one another, pray for one another, encourage one another, and walk alongside one another through all the joys and challenges of this life.

As we wait and prepare, let us remember that Emmanuel—God with us—is not simply a promise of something yet to come. God is already here, present in our lives, in our worship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the love we share with one another. And still, we wait with hope for Christ to come again.

Advent reminds us that we do not have to arrive with everything in order. We do not have to pretend that life is perfect. We simply come as we are, making room in our hearts for the Christ child to meet us, strengthen us, and renew us through Word, Sacrament, and community.

So, as we make our way toward Christmas, may we resist the temptation to become so busy preparing for the celebration that we forget the One we are celebrating. May we become a people whose hearts are open and ready to receive God's boundless love. And having received that love, may we carry it beyond the walls of our church, sharing Christ's light, peace, hope, and joy with everyone whose lives we touch.

Take a breath. Be still. Make room. Christ is coming—and Christ is already here.

With love, hope, and prayers,

Jerry+





Please mark your calendar for St. Christopher's Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 10, 2027 following the 9 am service. There will only be one service on January 10th at 9 am. We hope to see you there!



If you oversee an area of St. Christopher's life, please plan to have a report regarding 2026 to Angela in the church office by Sunday, January 3, 2027 for inclusion in the Annual Meeting booklet. 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...

Gobble! Gobble! Gobble! Sometimes, as the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season approaches, it seems to me that our Thanksgiving Holiday gets neglected a bit. If you happened to be in church on November 15th, our choir sang "Let All Things Now Living" (Katherine Davis---she also composed the popular Christmas piece, "The Little Drummer Boy"). as our offertory anthem. This piece engages a well-known Welsh tune, "The Ashgrove", and it is paired so perfectly with her text,

"Let all things now living; a song of thanksgiving, to God the Creator, triumphantly raise. Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, Who guideth us to the end of our days. His banners are over us, HIs light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night---Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light". This piece always reminds me that it is important that we take a moment to reflect upon the many wonderful people in our lives--the many blessings God shares with us each and every day. I can only speak for myself, but I am more than happy to share with you some of things for which I am thankful (grateful).

I am thankful for music. I am thankful for laughter. I am thankful for friendship. I am thankful for this church. I am thankful for the wonderful coat closet this church maintains. I am thankful for Father Jerry, and Angela and Coco.

I am thankful for our brilliant organist, Carl Angelo. I am thankful for our beautiful choir. (This is something for which too, I am grateful). (In my lexicon, gratitude and thankfulness walk hand in hand).

Perhaps this Thanksgiving holiday and the gratitude we carry for all things now living, we can extend this emotion into Advent---- then, when Christmas Day is upon us, our thankfulness for the birth of our Lord will be fully realized.

In closing, I thought that it might be good to recall a prayer from our prayer book, known as A General Thanksgiving:

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the love that surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks that demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving this 2026.

In Christ, I am Yours, Nada







Worship Leaders for December 2026

	LECTOR / LEM	GREETERS	TECH	ALTAR GUILD	COFFEE HOUR	ALTAR FLOWERS
December 6						
8 am	Jacob Stuart (LEM)/ Jane Brewer	Neuman & Jan Convis	---	---	Father Jerry	---
10:15 am	Karen Miller	Jane Yorks & Flo Gjerstad		Jane Brewer		
December 13						
8 am	Dave Butler (LEM)/Dave & Melissa Butler	Dale & Sharon Rice		---	Available	---
10:15 am	Rod Bytwerk	Flo Gjerstad & Bill Anderson		Louise McAra		
December 20						
8 am	Jacob Stuart (LEM)/Susan Armstrong	Neuman & Jan Convis	---	---		---
10:15 am	Mary Little	Louise Desgranges & Diane Stellrecht		Dawn Rutherford	Available	
December 24 - Christmas Eve						
4 pm	Linda Rathburn	Kim Parker & Flo Gjerstad				
December 27						
8 am	Nancy Wells (LEM)/Dave & Melissa Butler	Jane Brewer & Susan Armstrong		---	Available	---
10:15 am	Karen Miller	Rene Carpenter & Louise Desgranges		Louise McAra & Sandy Johnson		