

# THE MESSENGER

SPRING 2026

## CHRIST CHURCH

25390 Maddox Road  
Chaptico, MD

Parish Hall and Office 37497 Zach  
Fowler Road  
P.O. Box 8  
Chaptico, MD 20621

### Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist  
(Rite I)

10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist  
(Rite II)

Phone: 301.884.3451

E-Mail: [office@cckqp.net](mailto:office@cckqp.net)

Website: [www.cckqp.net](http://www.cckqp.net)

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Rt. Rev. Mariann E. Budde  
Bishop of Washington

The Rev. Peter Ackerman Email:  
[frpeter@cckqp.net](mailto:frpeter@cckqp.net)

301-884-3451

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

### March 29 ~ Palm Sunday

(Sunday Services at 8am and 10am)

### April 2 ~ Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m. ~ Holy Eucharist w/Stripping  
of the Altar immediately following  
7:00 p.m. ~ Midnight Stay Awake with Me  
(One hour in prayer)

### April 3 ~ Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service and  
Stations of the Cross

### April 5 ~ EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Easter Egg Hunt Following 10:00 a.m. Service



## *Rector Reflection*

Quietly, I smile as Lent enters Holy Week. A year does not go by without me seeing, on Palm Sunday, at least one young person playing at “swords” with their palm frond. Often a grown-up stands nearby with a disapproving look, but most miss how on point the children at play really are.

Much is made of Jesus entering triumphantly into Jerusalem on the Sunday of Holy Week. Some preachers lift up the celebratory crowd who get caught up in the spirit of the moment, making fun with the man pretending to be a king. Others suggest that Jesus was purposely stirring up the crowd. Though both of these ideas may also be in play, being so far removed from Jesus’s time, we can miss what the people then would not have missed.

From chapter 9 in the Book of Daniel, the faithful had awaited for generations the passing of the prophesied time—483 years—before the Messiah would arrive in the place identified by Daniel: Jerusalem. Furthermore, in the ninth chapter of the prophecy from Zechariah (also in the Old Testament), it was foretold *how this Messiah would arrive: seated on a donkey*.

So, yes, we can imagine the excitement and anticipation that fueled the people. Knowing prophecy was to be fulfilled in their presence, how joyous it must have been when their hopes met the moment of Jesus fulfilling that prophecy.

However, the people were correct in identifying him, but as we learn through Holy Week, Jesus did not live as the Messiah they were expecting. This is shown in how they participated.

The people in Jerusalem assumed the Messiah would be another conquering king like David. So when Jesus rode in, they treated him like a king, with many becoming his soldiers using what was at hand. They waved palm fronds as if they were... swords!

As we see young persons at sword play with the palms, we can be reminded that those in the midst of Jesus thought they had the answers about who he was. The importance of Holy Week is to see Jesus as he actually is. This Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, I pray that the authentic richness of who Jesus is today is revealed afresh for you.

The Reverend Peter K. Ackerman

## **Greetings from the Senior Warden**

### **Robbie Loker**

I'll use this space to offer insight into the duties of the wardens and then share with you what our vestry focus will be in 2026.

Following our annual meeting on Sunday January 18 where vestry members Mary Simmons, Beth Fitch and Betsy Franklin were elected to three-year terms, the Vestry met and elected for a 1 year term Donnie Morgan as Junior Warden and me as Senior Warden.

The Senior Warden is often referred to as the Rector's warden and serves as a junior partner in ministry with the rector, oftentimes acting as an advisor, an encourager, a supporter and a confidante.

The Junior Warden models the care and preparation of the church property, a relationship shared by the entire Vestry.

On Saturday January 24, Fr. Peter and Marie hosted in their home a half-day vestry retreat. The retreat was opened with a prayer for guidance and thanksgiving for the service of our vestry members. Fr. Peter began our session with an Introduction to Vestry Responsibilities 101, grounding everyone in the who-we-are and how we as a vestry are called to work together.

We were reminded that as a collaborative body, the leadership of the parish rests in the shared work of the Rector and Wardens with the Vestry serving as unified governing body.

After gathering in groups, we determined the areas of focus for the vestry in 2026. They are:

**Belonging and Engagement Actions for this group will be to discover the interests of and seeking involvement of our newer members and spark renewed interest in our long-time members.**

The vestry commissioners for this area are Mary Simmons, Betsy Franklin and Diana Donahue. Contact them with your offers of help and ideas on how we can develop ways to get together for fun and fellowship.

Our other focus area will be Communication or how we find ways to make it easier for parishioners to get information and share information, recognizing that one size does not fit all. Leading this commission are Beth Fitch, Shelby Oppermann and Greg Penk. They need your ideas and involvement.

With these two focus areas, the Vestry with your valued input, looks forward to an energizing year for us to gather in community for worship, service and play.

# *EASTER FLOWERS MEMORIAL AND CONTRIBUTIONS*

*Easter is a wonderful time to honor loved ones you've lost or special people in your life today. Flowers and plants displayed in the church on Easter are a beautiful way to honor these individuals.*

*All dedications are listed in our Easter bulletin.*

*While any amount is welcomed, the suggested contribution is \$35.00*

*Envelopes are available in the back of the church.*

*Donations need to be in hand no later than March 22nd ensuring that the names of your loved ones are published in the Easter Sunday bulletin.*

*Please fill out Easter flower envelope entirely and legibly.*



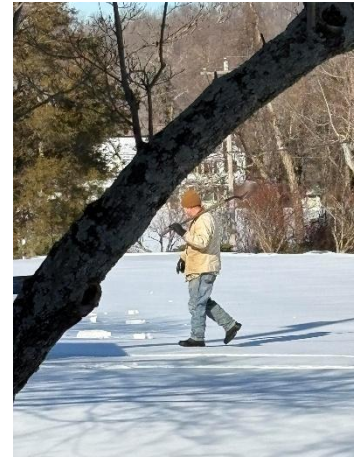
*Junior Warden — Donnie Morgan*



Hello church family! With winter on the way out and spring on it's way in I'm feeling recharged and ready to get to some spring cleaning. Along with the warmer weather we can accomplish some painting and landscaping. I'll also be scheduling a workday for spring cleaning and routine tasks. I look forward to working with everyone who can assist this year and would like to thank everyone who helped over the past



**Thank you to our  
snow angels who  
cleared the church  
properties from the  
Snowcrete**



# Parish Life



**Shrove Tuesday  
Men's Kitchen**



Father Peter presented Julie Burch the 2026 Christ Church Grace and Gratitude Recognition during the Annual Meeting in January.

## **2nd Annual Joyful Giving Service Project**

Our generosity provided these gifts along with \$2,390 for *Church of Ascension Food Pantry*



## **Christmas Family Night**



## **New Vestry**

At the January 18, 2026, Annual Meeting we elected three new Vestry members.

Many thanks to our exiting Class of 2025

and Welcome the Class of 2029:

Mary Simmons, Beth Fitch and Betsy Franklin

**EVENT: ANNUAL CHRIST CHURCH EASTER EGG HUNT**

**DATE: EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026**

**TIME: Immediately after the 10:00 A.M. (Rite II) Easter Worship Service, Weather Permitting**

As in previous years, a “special” area will be roped off just for our youngest Easter Egg hunters!

Typically, lots of filled plastic eggs are hidden in the church’s cemetery grounds. Eggs are filled with candy, jellybeans, trinkets, or other kid-friendly items.

We currently have plenty of empty plastic eggs left over from previous years. NO more plastic eggs are needed.

Parishioners are welcome to donate any filling item(s) for the plastic eggs. PLEASE drop off just inside the church (into the marked container) anytime from Palm Sunday (March 29) until Good Friday (April 3) so the eggs can be filled and ready to go by early Easter Sunday morning.

**Egg fillings can also be given directly to either Monty or Helen Wright**

**For questions, please contact Monty Wright at: cell: [240-434-2883](tel:240-434-2883) or via email at: [wrightjm@md.metrocast.net](mailto:wrightjm@md.metrocast.net)**

**IMPORTANT NOTE: If you know of children who likely WILL be attending this Easter Egg Hunt, please let Monty or Helen know. Helpful if their age is provided too. This will give us a better idea of how many children might participate and how many eggs to fill.**

# St. Patrick's Dinner

*Eat, Drink, and Be Irish*

*Cornd Beef, Cabbage and all the trimmings*

*Saturday, March 21st*

*6:30 p.m.*

*\$30.00 per person*

*Pay at the Door*

*For reservations; sign up at the back of the church.*

*Seating is limited*

*Reservation Cut-Off March 15th*

*Christ Church Parish Hall 37479 Zach Fowler Road, Chaptin*

*LIVE Irish Folk Music*

*For more information contact Helen Wright @ 301-481-1530*

*Christ Episcopal Church, Chaptico  
invites you to their 32nd annual*



***STRAWBERRY***



***FESTIVAL***

At Christ Church Parish Hall 37497 Zach Fowler Rd, Chaptico

**SUNDAY, May 17th, 2026**

**12:30 – 4:00**

***Strawberry Shortcake with the “Works”,  
Ice Cream, and Strawberry Pies***

*\*Visit Historic Christ Church built in 1736\**

***MIKE’S BARBECUE***

**MUSIC: Folk Salad & Jeff Warner**

***ARTISTS CRAFTERS VENDORS***

**SOUTHERN MD BOOTSCOOTERS 1:30**

***Bicyclists interested in Bike Ride contact Dan: [dddonahue@md.metrocast.net](mailto:dddonahue@md.metrocast.net)***

*Funds raised support charities in St. Mary’s County:  
ACTS, HOSPICE, and Clements Cuties Foundation./*

*“Family Fun in the Country with Terrific Food and Great Music”*

**Please call Shelby for info (301) 904-2532**

Church Office (301) 884-3451 [www.cckqp.net](http://www.cckqp.net)

# CHRIST CHURCH

## King and Queen Parish

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington... Living the Way of Love since 1640

Church: 25390 Maddox Road  
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### Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:30am - 1:30pm

### **Mission Statement:**

We live the message of Jesus Christ as a Godly presence, influencing and encouraging all persons to gather in community for worship, service, and play.

### **Vision Statement:**

Christ Church expresses God's love by being welcoming and attentive to individuals and the wider community, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

[The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde](#)—Bishop of Washington

The Reverend Peter Ackerman — Rector

Jennifer Groht—Parish Administrator

Robbie Loker—Senior Warden

Donnie Morgan —Junior Warden

Seth Thompson—Organist

Bob Donaldson—Treasurer

### Members of the Vestry

Class of 2027: Diane Donahue, Greg Penk

Class of 2028: Shelby Opperman, Donnie Morgan, Robbie Loker

Class of 2029: Mary Simmons, Beth Fitch, Betsy Franklin