

THE MESSENGER

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - King and Queen Parish

In the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Serving ALL God's people since 1640

CHRIST CHURCH

25390 Maddox Road
Chaptico, MD

Parish Hall and Office
37497 Zach Fowler Rd
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

Website: 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



You're Invited!
Advent & Christmas
Christ Episcopal Church
Chaptico Maryland

Blue Christmas Service
Saturday, December 6, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Patuxent Voices
Performance
Saturday, December 13, 2025
7:00 p.m.
Free Event
Goodwill Offerings
Reception to follow

Advent Class
Forward Movement's
Advent Word of the Day

Discussion and Bible Study
3 Sundays
December 7, 14, & 21
11:45 p.m. – 1 p.m. @ Parish Hall

Worship Services
Sundays in December
(December 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2025)

- 8:00 a.m. (Rite I)
- 10:00 a.m. (Rite II)

Special Services
Christmas Eve (Wednesday)

- 5:00 p.m. service geared towards children and families
- 8:45 p.m. Hymn Sing
- 9:00 p.m. Evening Eucharist

Christmas Day (Thursday)

- 10:00 a.m. Eucharist without music

Dear Christ Church Friends,

As we enter Advent in Year A, the Church invites us into a season shaped by the vivid promises of the prophet Isaiah and the watchful teachings of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Scripture calls us to lift our eyes, to pay attention, and to prepare our hearts for the One who comes to renew all things.



Advent is a season of holy watching—not passive waiting, but attentive hope. Jesus reminds us to stay awake, not out of fear, but so that we do not miss the quiet ways God is already at work around us. Isaiah paints a picture of God’s dream for the world: nations walking in the light, swords turned into plowshares, peace replacing conflict. In a world often marked by division, Advent gently urges us toward God’s deeper way.

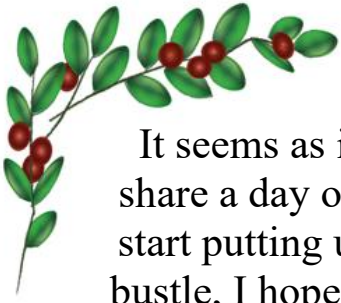
As we light the candles each week—Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—we remember that these are not just themes, but gifts Christ places within our reach. Hope that strengthens the weary. Peace that steadies anxious hearts. Joy that surprises us in moments of grace. Love that breaks down every barrier and welcomes us home.

My prayer for us this Advent is that we become more awake to God’s presence—both in the quiet corners of our own lives and in the life of our parish. May our worship, our service, and our fellowship reflect the light we anticipate on Christmas morning.



In expectation for what Jesus brings this year,

Fr. Peter



It seems as if 2025 has just begun, and here we are, getting ready to share a day of thanksgiving with loved ones, eat too much turkey, and start putting up our Christmas decorations. Through all this hustle and bustle, I hope we all take time to really think about all the blessings we have and that we've received this year from our families and friends.

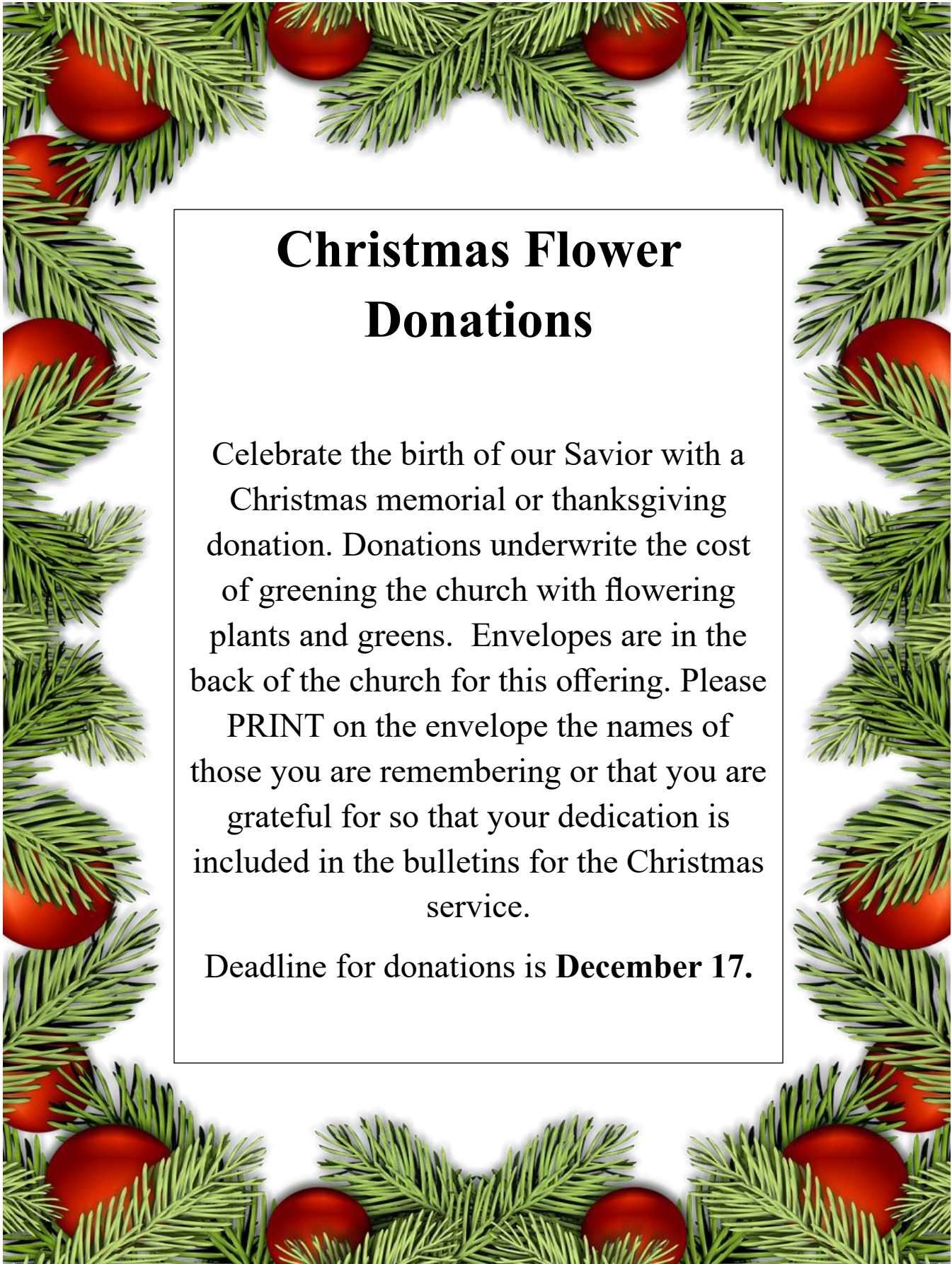
One of those blessings is the time we spend with our Christ Church family. They pray for us, lift us up and carry us when we fall. One of my blessings this year is the fact that Fr. Peter asked me to be the Senior Warden for 2025.

Being Senior Warden has been rewarding in many ways, particularly helping Fr. Peter's efforts to return us to Episcopal Church norm, and to get overall Parish process and roles better defined.

In August, I realized that it was time for someone else to take over the Senior Warden position. As such, my time in that position will end with the January 18, 2026, Annual Meeting. It's been an honor to serve, and I hope that whoever the next Senior Warden will find it the blessing that I have.

Greg Penk, Senior Warden





Christmas Flower Donations

Celebrate the birth of our Savior with a Christmas memorial or thanksgiving donation. Donations underwrite the cost of greening the church with flowering plants and greens. Envelopes are in the back of the church for this offering. Please PRINT on the envelope the names of those you are remembering or that you are grateful for so that your dedication is included in the bulletins for the Christmas service.

Deadline for donations is **December 17.**

CHRISTMAS FAMILY NIGHT

Saturday, December 20th at the Parish Hall

SET-UP 4 pm

EVENT: 5 pm to 7:30 pm. DINNER: 5:30 pm.

We will have pizza, salad, and beverages.
You are welcome to bring appetizers or desserts.

PLUS: Crafting Tables.

A Greenery Area to make holiday centerpieces.

And Mrs. Santa's Sweet Shop with gingerbread house making & cookie decorating.

We are hoping Santa will make a visit!!

Please bring new craft ideas or supplies if you have them. If you would like to teach a craft please let us know and we will set you up at the craft tables.

**We also need help at the craft tables, the greenery area,
and at Mrs. Santa's Sweet Shop.**

Take a break from your busy activities to spend a night of community with your fellow parishioners. Friends and family are welcome to come.

Sign up list for pizza and event set-up /clean-up will be in back of church.

Call **Helen** 301-481-1530 or **Shelby** 301-904-2532 with questions



Christ Church, Chaptico's *2nd Annual* **Joyful Giving** *Service Project*

Christ Church, Chaptico is, again, teaming up with Resurrection Parish and the Food Pantry at Church of the Ascension to bring some unexpected joy, and some much needed and sought after items to some fellow St. Mary's County residents and families this Christmas season.

Collection Dates

Please bring NEW, PURCHASED, UNWRAPPED ITEMS to Christ Church Chaptico, 25390 Maddox Rd, Chaptico, MD, on the following Sundays:

- Sunday, November 16, 2025
- Sunday, November 23, 2025
- Sunday, November 30, 2025
- Sunday, December 7, 2025
- Sunday, December 14, 2025

Please DO NOT wrap gifts.

Questions?

Church office: 301.884.3451

For monetary donations, make checks payable to Christ Church and add memo: "Joyful Giving."

GIFTS FOR THE HOMELESS

- Gloves*
- Socks*
- Blankets*
- Scarves*
- Handwarmers
- \$10 McDonalds gift cards

GIFTS FOR THE ELDERLY

- Gloves*
- Socks*
- Scarves*
- Blankets*
- \$10 WaWa or Sheetz gas gift cards
- Mens/Womens Socks
- Mens/Womens Deodorant
- Puzzles
- Word Search Books
- Hard Candy/Mints

GIFTS FOR THE CHILDREN

- Gloves, Socks, Scarves*
- Child-sized sleeping bags*
- Coloring Books with Crayons
- Games
- Dolls
- Toy Trucks
- Learning Toys
- Learning Games
- Books & Activity Books
- Balls
- Backpacks

**Items marked with an asterisk (*) are most needed*

Tending Our Soil

With each new year comes a quiet summons: to honor the path behind us, to recognize the depth of the moment we inhabit, and to anticipate with courage the chapters still unwritten.

In a recent conversation, I was reminded of how important our history is to us. The history of Christ Church is one of the core values that we (her current congregation) hold dear. There is such beauty in the stories about founding families, unexpected uses of the church building, generational traditions, crazy ideas, and memorable individuals that made a difference in our lives and in the life of our church and community. All of those stories remind us of where we've been... sharing those stories and carrying on traditions gives us an opportunity to honor the path that brought us into today.

As this Advent ushers in a new church year, it brings with it an opportunity to carry our history into our future – in a way that only today's congregation can. What traditions do we carry? I can think of several – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, St. Patrick's Day dinner, Strawberry Festival, Thanksgiving Dinner, clean up days – many that have been carried on for years and years... other "traditions" that may have started in more recent years – supporting the food pantry at Ascension, annual bonfire, baseball game outing, Palm Sunday procession, Pet Blessing, Joint 5th Sunday Coffee Hour, Joyful Giving Christmas Collection.

We're occupying a unique space in time – and we have the opportunity to take these traditions, build on them, and help them evolve into tomorrow's Christ Church that helps us *LIVE THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST AND EXPRESS GOD'S LOVE BY BEING WELCOMING AND ATTENTIVE*. It takes creativity to imagine how an age-old tradition can grow to impact even more individuals. It takes courage to try something that may not be successful... but as a wise woman once told me, *"Freedom to fail gives grace to try."*

May this new year bring us courage to grow beyond what we have already imagined and accomplished; creativity that makes us feel nervous yet fills us with excitement, and expectation that God will meet us in the space between.

Please keep our team in your prayers as we continue this work!

Robbie Loker * Donnie Morgan * Mary Ann Oliver * David Simmons
Amy Topolski * Fr. Peter Ackerman * Sara Frawley



We welcome and congratulate those Confirmed and Received on November 15, 2025, at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C.

Gabby Knight, Lindsay Bolton and Mary Simmons



Mission Statement:

We live the message of Jesus Christ as a Godly presences, 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.

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

The Reverend Peter Ackerman — Rector

Jennifer Groht—Parish Administrator

Greg Penk—Senior Warden

Donnie Morgan —Junior Warden

Marcus Thompson—Organist

Bob Donaldson—Treasurer

Robbie Loker—Registrar

Members of the Vestry

Class of 2026: Barbara Drumgoole, George Kennett,

Class of 2027: Diane Donahue, Mike Oliver, Greg Penk

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