Dear Friends,

In place of writing a meditative piece this month, I have decided to use my space for a newsletter article that informs you all the ways we at Christ Church are finding to connect with you. The COVID-19 virus situation has caused our Parish Staff to think "outside of the box" to be a vibrant church community.

First, let me give you a bit of recent history. After our Governor instituted a ban of gatherings of greater than five people, we closed down our worship services during the week and weekends. In the two weeks following, our services were filmed and presented on Facebook Live and Instagram. But last week, our Bishop, in an abundance of caution, mandated that our church building to be closed during the current crisis. The Bishop's decision rightfully ensures that the COVID-19 virus would not
be passed among people as they visited the church building during our live services.

However, we are undaunted! We will continue to film our online services and meetings, but not in the church. The Bishop has allowed priests to film services from home, presenting them online.

So, for Holy Week, we have the following schedule:

**10 am Palm Sunday**
(Watch for a special video tape reading of the Passion play by the confirmation kids.)

**7 pm Maundy Thursday Service** (Deacon Anne Burke preaching)

**7 pm Good Friday Liturgy** (Fr. Erik Larson preaching)

**6 pm Holy Saturday Compline**

**10 am Easter Sunday Service**
(Fr. Chandy preaching)

In addition, “Food for Thought” with Fr. Chandy is at 12 noon on weekdays on Facebook and will be also aired on our YouTube channel.

Our staff is also connecting to our church through our Parish Telephone Tree. Through this connection tool, our Parish Secretary Dorothy Adams and Deacon Anne Burke, with the help of the Pastoral Care Committee led by Shirley Andrews and Wendy Hyde, are reaching out to each member of our church during this time of crisis. You should be receiving a call from one of our members to see how you are doing. If you have not received a call, please let us know. We might not have an active phone number in our parish data base.

Our Director of Religious Education, Kristy Allardycce, has been hard at work with her Sunday School teachers. This fantastic team is hard at work as well. So far, they have set up Zoom conversations with Sunday School students, parents of Sunday School students, and the Confirmation Class. The results are amazing!!
I have not seen this much joy, even without a crisis!

Father Erik is not only helping lead our online services and our confirmation class, but is also creating content for our next online Episcopal 101 course, which will be offered on Wednesday nights after our evening Compline service.

So, my friends, although we do not have “normal” church services in our church building, we are finding that God continues to be active in our lives. I have come to realize that "Church" is much more than a building or a particular way of worship; it is the people of God doing whatever they can to connect, in love, to each other and our God and then sharing that love to the world.

Blessings
Fr. Chandy+
Rector
Christ Church Westerly
Normally, we would be writing to you about our preparations for Easter. As of the writing of this article and in these uncertain times, we do not yet know what our preparations will or will not be.

We look forward to returning to worship and celebrating our Risen Lord.

As of now, we have postponed Mothering Sunday Rose Recognition and we thank everybody for their support for this fundraising project for the church. An email has been sent explaining our plans.

The Altar Guild has to prepare early for Holy Week. For example, we must order palms and flowers. The cost of flowers is approximately $1,800, and we rely heavily on the memorial contributions to pay for these. We decided to cancel the Easter and Maundy Thursday orders until we have been given a decision about Easter Services. Pleasant Acres has been phenomenal in working with us and will provide us with what they can whenever we resume worship. We also rely on the memorial donations, sanctuary light donations and thanksgiving offerings for the purchase of the wine, hosts and priest hosts for weekly services.

Again, with the uncertainty of our worship schedule, we do plan at some point in the near future to send out a letter as we generally do at Easter, asking all of you to submit memorials and thanksgivings. As always, names will be printed in the bulletin, when we resume. Hopefully this will be at Easter. However, we still are uncertain as to what the Bishop will give as guidance and what the decisions of Fr. Sunil and our leadership team will be. Please pray for them as they make these unprecedented decisions.

Rest assured, we will keep you all posted. Our continued prayers are with all of you and we look forward to seeing you all soon in our beautiful Christ Church.

Cheryl Leong and Natalie Pukas and Members of the Altar Guild
Sometimes we can't see what is right in front of us. On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene talks directly to Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. Only when he calls her by name does she recognize him - "Rabbonai!". Then he sends her off to announce the good news of the Resurrection.

Jesus' two companions on the road to Emmaus did not recognize him either, until they broke bread together. And Thomas the Apostle, not satisfied with second hand news, wants to experience the risen Christ for himself. When he finally does, he makes a profound statement of faith, addressing Jesus as "My Lord and my God."

These persons are among the rare few who physically witnessed the risen Christ, but Jesus blesses those "Who have not seen, yet have come to believe."

Mary's proclamation of recognition resonates with us, as does Thomas's, because we too have seen the Lord and are witness to the extraordinary joy of knowing the risen Christ, through faith. Being faithful does not mean we have it all figured out. It means we live with uncertainty, knowing it will take us deeper into the heart of Christ - our Lord and our God.

On Easter Sunday, Jesus will call us each by name and send us forth to declare to the world that we have seen the Lord, that we have witnessed "the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth," that he is risen - and so are we!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Anne
Confirmation Class at ECC
A message from Kristy Allardyce...

Christian Formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others and all creation. The Confirmation class returned from an invigorating weekend at ECC where they had the opportunity to meet with the Bishop and kids from other churches across the Diocese also in the confirmation process. We spent the weekend with Confrirmands from other churches within the Diocese learning about the Sacraments, the Church year, our Episcopal history and much more. All this learning was made exciting and invigorating Through the genius that is Rev. Meaghan Brower. There was singing, lip synching, s'mores making, Zumba and NO phones! Thank you to Christ Church for this confirmation weekend.

All of our children from very young to young at heart traditionally deliver palms to The Golden Years Retirement Home, The Elms, and The Royal Nursing Home on Palm Sunday. This tradition of outreach brings joy to so many in our community. We may not be able to make these visits with the kids this year, however, I will be sure those community members do receive our palms on the the children of Christ Church's behalf.

I have tried to compile a resource of links to activities and sites to help keep our young people engaged during these trying times. Please refer to the following page for the names of the websites. I know that the schools have lots of great learning websites up on their teachers’ pages as well.

Take care, remember what we say in Children’s Chapel, love one another, that is God’s greatest commandment.

Kristy

"People and Events in April"

1. The Feast of St. Richard of Chichester is observed on April 3rd. Who is he?
2. With all the recent concerns and fears about the virus pandemic, the Psalms offer much in terms of comfort and reassurance. What are some of your favorite ones?

Answers on page 9
Activities for Kids at Home

First, for some real fun!!! Via Youtube, this you will be magically transported for some Disney fun! Visitors have videoed themselves on rides that make you feel part of the excitement! Romper

Welcome to the Children’s Room of The Virtual Church. We have stories to share, pictures to color, links to Bible games and activity pages, links to Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School resources, and links to interesting (and safe) websites to visit Children’s Room - Virtual Church.

Bedtime stories are so reassuring, but sometimes it’s nice to have someone else read them! Josh Gad has taken to Twitter to read aloud stories. Josh Gad's twitter link to The Giving Tree Follow his Twitter feed to hear others.

Who doesn’t love a little Mo Willems? Here is a link to his website filled with games and stories and loads of fun! Mo Willems

Also, on Facebook, he will be hosting “lunch doodles at noon” where he will teach you how to doodle like him!

We can all visit Italy, virtually! This website has links to 6 of Italy's most beautiful museums - “Andiamo!” 6 Beautiful Italian Museums Everyone Should Visit

Broadway is dark but this link shows how many of the greatest Broadway hits can be watched via streaming services you may already have! Broadway Hits!

Spending time outdoors is highly recommended right now, but it may be difficult to get much farther than your hometown. This website has links to National Parks that you can visit virtually. National Parks

We all wish we had more time, well now we do! Take this time to check out this website, Totally the Bomb’s, collection of Historic Tours. Historic Tours

Who doesn’t like free stuff? Especially when it will help us with our kids? This website, Your Modern Family, offers links to companies offering products, subscriptions and materials for FREE!!! Your Modern Family

Learn to type! I’m amazed at how fast my kids can type with very few fingers, but wouldn’t now be a great time to practice the right way?! Dance Mat Typing is a fun way for even young kids to begin learning this important skill! Dance Mat Typing

Another fun, learn to type site is Typing Rocket... Typing Rocket

Be safe and have fun! :D Kristy
TRIVIA ANSWERS
Questions found on page 7

1. Richard was a notable bishop of the Middle Ages who did much to reform the manners and morals of his clergy. He introduced greater order and reverence into the services of the church, and did much to raise the standard of clerical life. He was born near the town of Wyche in England in 1197, and is also known as "Richard of Wych". Upon the death of his parents, he and his brother inherited the family estate, with a guardian to manage it. Although Richard worked on it for awhile, he really preferred books and the church, and so turned the estate over to his brother and went to study at Oxford, and soon began to teach there. After studying law in Paris and Bologna, he earned a doctorate and returned to Oxford to become University Chancellor in 1235. Soon afterward, the Archbishop of Canterbury appointed him to be his own chancellor. He lated decided to become a priest, was ordained in 1243 while in France, and then was elected Bishop of Chichester upon returning to England in 1244. King Henry III opposed this, but after strong threats by the Pope, he relented and accepted him as bishop in 1246. Richard died in 1253 and was canonized by the Pope in 1262. His best remembered words are: "Dear Lord, three things I pray: to See thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly, Follow thee more nearly." If this sounds familiar, these words were used in the song, "Day by Day" from the Broadway musical, "Godspell".

2. This is more of a discussion question for reflection and sharing, rather than a regular Q&A question, and so is submitted for your consideration. I like Psalm 91 and Psalm 103, among others. What are some of yours? Peace, and stay safe!

Please help us keep our prayer list current! Please take a look and send any updates to the Christ-Church@verizon.net Please also contact us if you would like to be placed on the Thanksgiving List of Healing. Thank you,
The Pastoral Care Commission.
Christ Church Worship Services
Available Sundays and Wednesdays

DUE TO COVID-19, ALL CHRIST CHURCH SERVICES CONDUCTED IN PERSON HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED. HOWEVER, YOU CAN STILL WORSHIP, FIND SOLACE, AND FEEL CONNECTED TO YOUR CHURCH FAMILY BY JOINING US ONLINE ON FACEBOOK LIVE.

PLEASE JOIN US ONLINE!
#VIRTUALMORNINGPRAYER

CHRIST CHURCH
SUNDAY SERVICE

FACEBOOK LIVE
10AM
MORNING PRAYER

WEDNESDAY MORNING 10AM
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM LIVE

CHRIST CHURCH

CHRIST CHURCH
A CANDLELIT SERVICE OF COMPLINE

WEDNESDAY 6PM
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM LIVE
**Virtual Holy Week Schedule for 2020**

*We will be live streaming all of our Holy Week services on our website www.ChristChurchWesterly.org or Facebook Live at Facebook.com/ChristChurchWesterly.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>Holy Eucharist</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blessing of the Palms</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading of the Passion</td>
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<td>Holy Wednesday</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<td>6 PM</td>
<td>Compline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>Compline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Day</td>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>Holy Eucharist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Join us for a fun and informative exploration of the Episcopal Church and its history, beliefs and practices. This online session runs for five Wednesdays during the Easter Season from 7PM to 8:30 on FacebookLive.

"Walk in Love: Episcopal Belief and Practice" by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe will guide our discussion. The class will culminate in an opportunity to be received as a full member of the Episcopal Church.

**SCHEDULE**

- **April 15**  
  "Introduction: Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry"

- **April 22**  
  "Marking Time: Days, Weeks and Seasons"

- **April 29**  
  "Basic Beliefs: What do we believe?"

- **May 6**  
  "The Church: Who and what are we?"

- **May 13**  
  "A Trinitarian Life: Father Son + Holy Spirit, one God"
Service Hours
(To Be Resumed Post Quarantine)
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Holy Eucharist spoken service
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist spoken service
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Choral Eucharist
w/Children's Chapel and Nursery Care
Wednesday 7:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 10 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 10:45 a.m.
Bible Study

Christ Episcopal Church

CLERGY
The Rev. Sunil Chandy, Christ Church Rector
The Rt. Rev. David Joslin, Rector Emeritus; Bishop in Residence
The Rev. Erik Larsen, Assistant to the Rector
The Rev. Sandra Haines-Murdocco, Priest Associate
The Rev. Deacon Anne Burke, Deacon

STAFF
George Kent, Organist & Choirmaster
Jacquelyn Smith, Parish Administrator; Wedding Coordinator
Dorothy Adams, Office Assistant
Kristy Allardyce, Director of Christian Formation
Madeline Therrien and Sarah Poole, Childcare Coordinators

VESTRY
Betsey Rice, Senior Warden
Caswell Cooke, Jr., Junior Warden
Sarah Starkweather, Clerk
Stephanie Blanchette, Treasurer

COME JOIN US!

7 Elm Street | Westerly, RI 02891
401-596-0197
christ-church@verizon.net

Fred Allardyce
Barbara Capalbo
Mike Evering
Katherine Hoxsie
Lisa Kitchen
Paul Kuhn
Doug Lawrence
Emily Mugge
Natalie Pukas
Thomas Quaratella
Richard Roy
Molly Schonenberg
April 2020

The Cornerstone

Christ Church
7 Elm Street
Westerly, RI 02891