Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to you to update you about what is happening at Christ Church. As you most likely have heard, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo has announced that in-person worship services will be allowed starting this coming weekend. However, Christ Church will not be holding in-person services this weekend. We need to provide an acceptably safe environment for our parishioners and implementing those assurances will take some time. We will only reopen for in-person services when we can do so safely.

I know we are all anxious to return to in-person services in our beautiful sanctuary, but for many of us, this may not be possible for some time to come. The reality is that COVID-19 remains a real threat to everyone’s health, especially to those of us in high-risk categories (people with pre-existing health conditions and those over 65 years old). We have made our worship services accessible online to everyone at home, so that everyone can fully participate without coming to the sanctuary. We encourage you to continue to participate in services from home. As you will read in the following paragraphs, when we are ready, the in-person worship experience will be nearly identical to the online experience, so you will not miss anything if you stay safely at home. If you are having difficulty accessing our online offerings, please call the office for help.

Rest assured that we are working on a plan to resume in-person services at Christ Church. Our COVID 19 Taskforce made up of the wardens, the officers, and additional Vestry and parish members, along with me, is developing this plan for adoption by the Vestry.
The taskforce is following the recommendations of Diocesan, governmental and medical authorities carefully while also getting input and help from relevant church committees.

But my friends, I do want to prepare you for the reality of in-person gatherings when we first start to have them again, including the following points.

• Compliance with state guidelines and recommendations will require us to limit the size of the gathering, and to require mask use, seating according to distancing requirements, no in-person coffee hour, and the like.

• We will not have a choir or congregational singing until a treatment is readily available, or until we have received medical guidance that suggests that singing in an enclosed building will not pass the virus.

• We will continue to offer Spiritual communion as the norm.

• We are unlikely to have more than one in-person service per week.

• There will be no in-person Sunday School, and no nursery care.

• Each in-person service will also be broadcast online.

As we move forward and as the medical and regulatory advice about COVID-19 change, all of these things are subject to change.

In the meantime, let us focus on the beautiful and positive aspects of our ministry at this time:

• Many in our congregation say that they feel much more connected to our church than ever before. We are reaching more people on Sunday mornings than we have ever done on a regular Sunday. People who in the past were not able to physically attend now have access to four live worship services and five live “Food for Thought” programs every week (and can view the recordings at any later time).

• Contributions and financial support to Christ Church have remained steady.

• Our online Sunday School is active and will continue to be in session with our youngest parishioners through the summer, helping our children to learn and find joy in connecting to God.

• We have an active and thriving telephone tree that is engaging our parishioners. Through this ministry we are helping people move from isolation to hope.

• We are being creative and having fun together as a community, through programs like our Wednesday night teaching series, Monday Bible Study via Zoom, and even virtual trivia.

• Our employees have adjusted well to working remotely and will continue to do so while making themselves available to the congregation by phone and online.

The above list is not a complete list of our blessings - in truth, this letter would be too long if we were to list all the God-given blessings of our community. The task of our faith at this moment is to be open, responsive and adaptive to our situation. I promise to you in this time of patience and waiting, I will be forthright and transparent with you. I also promise any decisions we (the Vestry and I) make will be done with prayerful consideration for the mental, spiritual and physical health of our congregation.

With blessings, yours in Christ,

The Reverend Sunil Chandy
Rector
Celebrating 96 years
June 1924 to June 2020
The Altar Guild at Christ Church was started in June of 1924. Prior to our formation, two very dedicated women Mrs. Horace Babcock and Miss Annie Cross performed all of our duties for 50 years (1874-1924)! Currently there are 20 members of the Altar Guild and one Auxiliary Member. Many dedicated parishioners have served over the years and continue to help out when they are able. We appreciate all of their devotion and hard work to this important ministry.

Although the Altar Guild will turn 96 in June, we will not be able to hold our Altar Guild Recognition Sunday this year. We were pleased to welcome three new members, Patrick Regan, David Holt, Lido Mochetti who have already been working very hard over these past few months. We look forward to when we can officially install them and present them with their pins. We remember Seth Tulman who was a longtime Honorary Member and who had just become a new member before his passing. His pin will be given to Mary.
Unfortunately, also, we will not be able to celebrate our birthday at our annual picnic at the home of Linda and David Nolf this year. We hope to be able to get together to celebrate sometime soon.

*Here are some pictures from past picnics: Burning of deconsecrated Linens that are no longer usable, Blessing Animals, Having Fun and being the “peony ladies”*

While we have been holding our Sunday Eucharists in the St. Nicholas Chapel, we have been using the beautiful handcrafted vessels made by our Senior Warden, Betsey Rice. They are adorned with waves and are lovely shades of blue. We are so grateful to have the chance to use them. THANK YOU BETSEY!

The color of the hangings will remain white until Pentecost on May 31st. The color for that day will be red. The hangings will turn back to white for Trinity Sunday or the First Sunday after Pentecost (June 7th). From that point on, the hangings will be green except for any special holy days, weddings or funerals/memorials.

In June, we also celebrate three Ember Days (June 3rd, 5th, 6th). Ember Days are three days which occur four times a year: the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after St. Lucy's Day (Dec. 13), Ash Wednesday, the Day of Pentecost, and Holy Cross Day (Sept. 14). The name comes from the Latin title Quattuor tempora, meaning "four times." In ancient Italy the times (originally three) were associated with sowing, harvest, and vintage, for which one prayed, fasted, and gave alms. Later the four times became occasions for ordination, for which the Christian community prayed and the candidates prepared themselves by prayer and retreat. The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) appoints proper collects and readings for this observance under the title "For the Ministry (Ember Days), including propers "For those to be ordained," "For the choice of fit persons for the ministry," and "For all Christians in their vocation" (BCP, pp. 256-257, 929). (Source- An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church)
This month, we thought that we would give a short explanation about the shield of the Episcopal Church and the shield of Christ Church.

LEFT-This symbol, which you will see at every Episcopal Church, is the official "logo" of the Episcopal Church and represents our history.

The Red Cross of St. George on a white field is symbolic of the Church of England. The blue field in the upper left corner is the Episcopal Church. It features a Cross of St. Andrew, in recognition of the fact that the first American bishop was consecrated in Scotland. This cross is made up of nine cross-lets or mini crosses, which represent the nine dioceses that met in Philadelphia in 1789 to form the Protestant Episcopal Church of the U.S.A.

RIGHT-The official “logo” for Christ Church Westerly was crafted by Herman Verbinnen and it incorporates several symbols. In the upper left hand corner is the “logo” of the Episcopal Church. In the upper right hand corner is a similar logo to that of the Episcopal Church in Rhode Island. It does appear to be a combination of the anchor, Rhode Island’s symbol representing “Hope” and the letter “P” which is sometimes called the Chi-Rho and represents Christ. The bottom right hand corner are waves representing the ocean and the bottom right hand corner are the three Pawcatuck River Salmon, the official “logo” of the town of Westerly.
The power of gossip in ancient Israel was equal to the power of 21st century social media. News travelled relatively fast by word of mouth through a network of families, synagogues and political institutions, all of which knew of Jesus of Nazareth, his acts of healing and the story of his death and resurrection.

We are all called to know God and make him known in our own time. Creation is always evolving, and we evolve with it. Recall Isaiah’s prophetic prelude to the new age: “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” We are entering the age of rapidly developing technologies that broaden the scope of churches everywhere and give new meaning to our understanding of community.

The Good News is not just about Jesus; it is about people and relationships and in a broader sense, the Church that binds us together. We are proclaiming the Good News via technology to more and more people who are looking for a connection to God, and we are making those connections available and viable, albeit with some technical difficulties in the early stages.

Satellites beam the Word of God around the planet at warp speed. But it is the power of the Holy Spirit that breaks through hostility, converts hearts and souls, and inspires witness. A hundred years from now people will proclaim the Gospel in ways that will reach deeper and wider into the universe. The message will be the same, and the Holy Spirit will be there on the cutting edge to help us give glory to God with the next “new thing.” Who said that science and religion don’t mix?

Faithfully,
Anne
From Your Pastoral Care Commission-

We want to thank all of you for being so patient with us as we have been trying to contact each of you during this unsettled time that we are in. We just want you to know how much we care for you and are so happy you are part of our Christ Church family. Our team of Phone Tree callers have felt your love in return after speaking with you. Please let us know how we can help you and we will make every effort to make whatever you need happen.

*Here's an update regarding the free Friday Meals being offered to anyone who wishes to have them.* They are being made by URI Students, **now totalling over 500**, for each Friday **through the month of June!!** The meals are being delivered during the hours of 11 - 1 pm. If you wish to pick up your meal at the Westerly Senior Center, or have a Friday meal delivered to your home, please click on the link below, fill out the form, and be sure to include how many dinners are to be picked up or delivered in the “Special Instructions”.

**Friday Meal Sign up Sheet**

Life is never as we think it should be but if we all pray for one another, we can feel God’s love permeating through us as it spreads to others. Thank you and Keep up the Good Work!
Friday Meal Deliveries

Christ Church
Delivery Posse

Mr. Liguori...
Lifelong Westerly Resident
A message from Piper Cameron, a member of this year’s confirmants...

When I first started my endeavor of supporting people through isolation, I didn’t think much of it. I expected only a few people to appreciate what I was doing, even though I assumed it wasn’t a very noble thing. When I first called everyone, many people turned me down for the fact that “someone else will need your service more than I do...”. Only one person that I contacted needed my service until I called Father Sunil. I asked him if he needed anything, and he gave me the same response. I then proceeded to tell him that most people said that and then I asked for his advice. He told me that I should tell people what I told him. He also said that he would like some banana bread, which I brought to him at 10:30 am on Saturday morning. Soon after, he wrote a little blurb about what had happened, and this helped to encourage people to accept my offers. I suddenly was cooking non-stop to bring home cooked meals to people. Everyone became very grateful and pleased about what I was doing. I was constantly being blessed by others that I really didn’t know very well. This experience has truly changed my perspective about my community, and for that, I will always be thankful!

Best,
Piper Cameron

"For June, trivia questions but not trivial people!"

1. On June 9, St. Columba is honored. Who is he?
2. What is observed on June 24? (Hint—see last month’s trivia for a clue)

Answers on page 10
1. St. Columba, also known as Columcille, was born of royal descent in Tyconnell, now County Donegal, Ireland, around 521. He studied under Saints Finnian of Moville and Finnian of Clonard and was ordained a priest c. 551. He founded churches and monasteries in Derry and Durrow and then, with 12 disciples, erected a church and a monastery on the island of Iona, a part of the Inner Hebrides, around 563, which served as a springboard for the conversion of Scotland. It was regarded as the mother house and its abbots the chief ecclesiastical rulers. After some trips back to Ireland, the last years of his life appear to have been mainly in Iona, where he was already revered as a saint. He and his associates and successors spread the gospel more than any other contemporary group of religious pioneers in Britain. He died in Iona around June 9, 597, which became his feast day. On a local note, there is a chapel named after St. Columba in Middletown, RI, where our Assistant to the Rector, The Rev. Erik Larson, used to serve as their rector, before his retirement.

2. The Nativity of St. John the Baptist is observed on June 24. As you might recall from last month's trivia question about the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Luke 1 provides the timeline for this date by stating that Mary's cousin Elisabeth is already six months pregnant with John when the angel appears to Mary to inform her that she will give birth to the Messiah. Since the early church set the birth of Jesus on Dec 25, then six months earlier would be late June, so June 24 was chosen to observe John's birthday. An interesting takeaway from this is to imagine what it must have been like to be living back then, when he was proclaiming the coming of Jesus and doing his baptizing. We of course read about it and study it today, but take some time to think about all that was happening back then, picture yourself in the crowd seeing and hearing what he was saying and doing, and think about how you might have reacted. Something to reflect on as we get ready for the summer and the reopening of various things including church. Stay safe and peace!

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
Christ Church Virtual Coffee Hour!

Every Sunday starting May 17th after the 10 AM Facebook Live Service via Zoom
MORNING PRAYER
WEDNESDAY MORNING 10AM
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM LIVE
CHRIST CHURCH

CHRIST CHURCH
A CANDLELIT SERVICE OF COMPLINE
WEDNESDAY 6PM
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM LIVE
June 2020

For more detail please navigate to:

https://www.christchurchwestbury.org/eventcalendar/
Join Us Virtually Via Zoom as Christ Church Presents, "A Way of Love"

Explore These Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life.
Click on each Practice to discover books, articles and other resources related to the practice >

Learn: Reflect on scripture each day, especially on Jesus' life and teachings

Pray: Dwell intentionally with God each day

Worship: Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and dwell with God

Go: Cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus

Rest: Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration

Bless: Share faith and unselfishly give and serve

Wednesday Nights at 7:00 pm
June 3 - Learn
June 10 - Pray
June 17 - Worship
June 24 - Bless
July 1 - Go
July 8 - Rest
July 15 - Turn

To Register Visit: ChristChurchWesterly.org
CHRIST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Christ Church Scholarship Fund, established in 1998, is comprised of funds received into our Scholarship Endowment Fund, including funds in memory of Philip B. Cowles, Jr. Scholarships are awarded from the interest earned in this account.

The purpose of the fund is:

1. To provide small scholarships to parishioners attending colleges, universities, technical, and nursing schools.

2. To financially assist parishioners of all ages attending conferences, retreats, or programs which would mutually benefit the parishioner and the church (i.e. spiritual direction, continuing education, discernment).

To apply, fill out the application form below and mail it to the church in care of the Scholarship Committee. Applicants should be aware that the deadline for receipt of applications is June 15th. The Scholarship Committee will review applications and may request an interview of applicants.

Click here for the Scholarship Application

CHRIST CHURCH

7 ELM STREET, WESTERLY (401) 501-0917 CHRIST-CHURCH@VERIZON.NET
LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER? HERE'S A FEW IDEAS...

1. Call and register online any families who could benefit from the Friday Food Delivery, organized by the Westerly Police Dept.
   Click to sign up for Friday Meal Delivery

   "Sisters who Sew" Sign Up here

3. Read a story for Sunday school from your home. Contact kirsty allardyce on how to get started at
   kirstyallardyce@gmail.com

4. Are you tech savvy? Reach out and teach your friends at Christ Church how to view our virtual church services.

5. Can you help feed our neighbors? The WARM Center needs small water bottles, juice boxes, and individually wrapped snacks. They have asked that these items be dropped off at Mel's Downtown Creamery. Volunteers will then collect and deliver your donations to your neighbors in need.

6. Find a prayer partner, link to our prayer list and pray together this list every day. Include our First Responders, leaders national and local, and Health Care Professionals.
   Click here for our Christ Church Prayer list
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 Gruhzit, Childcare Coordinators

VESTRY

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

Fred Allardyce
Barbara Capalbo
Mike Evering
Katherine Hoxsie
Lisa Kitchen
Paul Kuhn

Doug Lawrence
Emily Mugge
Natalie Pukas
Thomas Quaratella
Richard Roy
Molly Schonenberg

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