Dear Friends in Christ,

I am grateful to God for your faithful resilience over these past three months as our church has creatively adapted to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis. I write to you today to provide information regarding our first in-person service since the third week of March.

This in-person Rite I Holy Eucharist will begin on Saturday, July 11, at 5 pm. The service will be a traditional said service (no hymns) offering “Spiritual Communion.” Communion (as consecrated bread or wine) will not be distributed to the congregation for this service.

I am grateful for the work of our “Covid-19 Reopening Working Group” led by the clerk of our Vestry, Sarah Starkweather. This committee has painstakingly spent hours in research and conversation to mediate our desire to worship together in person in the community while keeping everyone safe.
In the attached documents to this letter, you will find the fruits of their labor. If you are planning to attend our in-person services, I ask you to please read the attached documents. The first is a diocesan endorsed “Covenant for Re-opening.” Both the Covid-19 Reopening Taskforce and our Vestry has unanimously agreed to the terms of this agreement. It is a theological understanding, based on our baptismal covenant, for embracing our social distancing guidelines. The second attachment, entitled “Guidelines for Reopening – July 2020,” includes important information regarding our service that will help us safely to adhere to recommended social distance guidelines.

In the coming week, our parish office will send you an invitation to this service, and please respond quickly. As per diocesan and governmental guidelines, we are allowed to have up to 25% participant capacity at the service.

I realize that many in our church have longed to worship together. I also believe many in our church share the understanding that our spiritual practices and worship impact our mental and physical health. But we also can understand that the Covid-19 virus is a complicated health threat to our community, the nation, and the world, and so Christ Church must adapt to both these understandings. Please note that our church will continually evaluate and adapt to new information as it is available to us.

Finally, I encourage our older members as well as those who have underlying health conditions, have any symptoms of the virus, do not feel well or feel anxious about attending in-person services to please stay at home and participate in our array of online worship opportunities. I know that as you engage in these worship experiences your connection and faith with God will only grow stronger.

Yours in Christ
The Reverend Sunil Chandy
Rector, Christ Church Westerly
Dear family and friends at Christ Church,

We will begin offering “in-person” worship services at Christ Church on Saturday, July 11th, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. The service will be the Rite I Eucharist with spiritual communion in the same form we have been sharing spiritual communion in our online services.

A Reopening Working Group, comprised of a number of Vestry members and others, has been working for the past month to address all necessary issues in order to be in compliance with guidelines published by the State of Rhode Island and by our Diocese to re-open houses of worship. Please read the following to see the actions we are taking.

1. We will continue to live-stream our Sunday and Wednesday services for online worship, as well as all the other online offerings you have been enjoying, including the daily Food for Thought, and Monday Bible study and Sunday morning coffee hour via Zoom. Although we are excited to be opening again for worship “in-person”, we strongly recommend that the elders among us and those who have underlying health conditions, consider not attending at this time. In addition, if you have any symptoms of the virus or do not feel well, please observe the guidelines and do not attend these “in-person” services.

2. Worship will be at 25% capacity. We have determined the capacity for our sanctuary is about 400 people, meaning 25% capacity would be 100 people. The 25% limitation and the requirement for social distancing may mean we are unable to welcome everyone who wants to attend.

3. We will not run our fans during the service to avoid circulating contaminated air, and the paper hand fans we have provided in past summers will not be available. We will open doors and windows to the extent possible given outdoor noise that interferes with the service. You should be prepared for warm conditions in the sanctuary.
4. Regarding social distancing and face coverings all individuals who are not part of a “family” group will need to sit six feet apart. Seating will be clearly marked in our pews to assure that we maintain proper social distancing, and ushers will be available to assist. Masks will be required to attend our worship services. Please bring your own mask. We will have a small supply of masks in case someone shows up for the service but does not have a mask.

5. We will comply with restrictions on choirs and singing by not having our choir participate in worship, and there will be no congregational singing during our in-person services. We are exploring options so that we can have music in our in-person services in the future. Any music during our worship services will comply with all guidelines in effect at that time.

6. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance and exits of the church, and there will be other hand sanitizing stations available throughout the church.

7. The order of worship will be available in our weekly e-blast so you can follow it on your phone or tablet during the service. There will be no printed bulletin available at church. The Spiritual Communion prayer will be printed and left in the pews for you to use at that point in the service. Prayer books will be available because we have been advised that virus transmission is unlikely from printed material that has not been touched in at least a week. If you are concerned about this, we encourage you to bring your own copy of the BCP.

8. The parish house bathrooms will be available for use during worship. The Sanctuary and the bathrooms will be cleaned each week by our cleaning service.

9. We will set up a station at each entrance for you to place your offerings. Worshipers will be instructed to place their offering in the plate/basket without touching the plate/basket.

10. In order to ensure that worshipers are aware of these procedures, and that attendance does not exceed our reduced capacity, we will use an online registration tool for sign-ups in advance. A link to that site will be sent to you. You open the link and answer the questions that are asked. If our sign-ups exceed the maximum number we can have at the 25% capacity limit, we will do our best to find a way to accommodate those who wish to join us for “in-person” worship.
11. Entry and exit protocols have been established to preserve safe social distancing. You may enter through either the main entrance or the Elm Street entrance. The parish hall entrance should not be used. Upon entering there will be hand sanitizers. Ushers will direct you toward the sanctuary and to your seat. Following worship, the ushers will release the congregation in an orderly manner to maintain social distancing. Assisted by the ushers, you may exit through the either the main entrance or the Elm Street door. Please be mindful of maintaining social distancing when entering and leaving the sanctuary.

At this time, there will be no gathering following the in-person service. As noted above, Sunday morning coffee hour is available via Zoom.

The Reopening Working Group

Barbara Capalbo
Lisa Kitchen
Natalie Pukas
Tom Quaratella
Rich Roy
Molly Schonenberg
Sarah Starkweather, Chair and COVID Coordinator

Fr. Sunil Chandy, Rector
Betsey Rice, Senior Warden
Caswell Cooke, Junior Warden

June 30, 2020
Covenant for Regathering

I promise, to the best of my ability with God's help, to abide by the guidelines of the Diocese of Rhode Island for participation in church as we regather during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In faithfulness to the Baptismal Covenant (BCP p. 304-305), I will strive to:

Love my neighbor as myself, I will...
- Wear a mask or scarf over my nose and mouth at all times in church buildings, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or lead worship by an assigned speaking part, and follow public health guidelines for hand sanitizing and disinfecting.
- Only attend worship if I am non-symptomatic for the COVID-19 virus or any other transmittable disease that could compromise the health of another person also attending.
- Abstain from attending if doing so would put me at greater risk due to my own health status.

Respect the dignity of every human being, I will...
- Make no physical contact with people beyond the members of my own household.
- Maintain a six foot or more distance from other members of the congregation.
- Respect any requests for distance, masking, cleaning, and disinfecting to ensure the safety and comfort level of others.

Seek and serve Christ in all people…
- Support the decisions of my diocesan and congregational leaders.
- Stay connected with others in my community by telephone, video chat, mail, or other means.

This is our expectation for all those who wish to worship with us in person. By participating in our worship, you assume responsibility for following the above, and acknowledge the risks of participation in an in-person gathering.

June 2020
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, forecasts an above average number of storms along the Atlantic Coast for this 2020 hurricane season. The hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30, a long storm watch for vulnerable coastal residents.

Curiously, the name Noah, the biblical character who survived the great flood, and NOAA, the scientific institution, are homophones; words with the same pronunciation but with different meanings and spelling. Ironically, they share a common mission, stewardship of the earth, our fragile “island home.”

Sometimes we have fair weather faith; faith that vanishes at the first sign of trouble. As long as conditions are good then God is on our side, caring for our every need and want. But when conditions become threatening we curse the powers that beset and frighten us, be it a global pandemic, or an epic forty day and forty night torrential downpour.

A global flood as described in Genesis is inconsistent with the physical findings of scientific research. Nonetheless Noah, the man, is symbolic of God’s will for creation. God is willing for us to have dominion over the earth, a word that also means responsibility.

God has trusted us with the care of the planet. We must trust science to help us understand and improve our stewardship of the environment and its interconnected ecosystems. We must trust the word of God to inspire the courage and commitment we will need to be modern day Noahs, no matter how severe the conditions that confront us.

Thanks to NOAA’s expertise, and God’s unfailing mercy, we can prepare for those storms that do come our way, and even find peace amidst the turmoil. Not in the eye of a hurricane, but in the heart of God.

Faithfully,
Anne
A note from your Treasurer...

Many, many thanks to all those who've been able to faithfully continue to send along pledge payments -- some even with "extra" to help out with the lack of Plate offerings! I'll be sending out Contribution Statements shortly after June 30th so please do take a look, confirming the amount of your pledge, and let me know if you have any questions - either by email (treasurer@christchurchwesterly.org) or my cell (401-871-4487).

Blessings and good health to you all,
Stevi Blanchette, Treasurer
During the CoVid Pandemic, the Pastoral Care Outreach continues to contact parishioners by phone to say “Hi, we care about you and are here to offer help wherever possible”. We feel strongly that you know we care and will do whatever we can to meet your needs.

Our mission of bringing Friday meals to homebounds has been a great success as reported back from those lucky people who received them. What a spectacular program initiated by students from URI who with much help and cooperation were able to provide over 500 meals each Friday during April, May & June. Such a heartwarming experience with the combined work of Westerly Police Chief Lacey and Amy from the town hall along with members of Christ Church and other churches to assist folks in registering for and receiving the meals. We again would like to thank our dedicated Christ Church drivers who drove around and delivered those meals: Kristy Allardyce, Tammi Dunlap, & Sarah Starkweather.

Please remember to be mindful of wearing masks while out, washing your hands for at least 20 seconds, and keeping a distance of 6 feet between you and your friends. As nice as the weather is we still are in the throes of a pandemic. Sometimes it does not seem real but it is. We still have to be careful of protecting ourselves and others from contracting the virus.

Fortunately, we are very lucky to have our dedicated clergy, choir master, hymn singer, and volunteers who take part in providing our virtual church services during the week days and on Sunday. Fr. Sunil’s “Food for Thought” available each day Monday-Friday has been a great success. We still are Christ Church being presented in a different form on the computer, cell phones, etc. We are now working on in- person church services to be held in the sanctuary of the church. Stay tuned to our Friday Christ Church EBlasts for details.

As we carry on, please take care and know we are all parishioners looking out for each other.

With Love & Best Wishes,
The Pastoral Care Commission
Friday Meal Deliveries

Over 500 meals are delivered weekly

Patricia Norman

Louis Rilacco
A Message from Pastoral Care...

If you or someone you know would like to receive Christ Church's weekly E-blasts or a phone call of support, please send an email with the following information to:

communicate@christchurchwesterly.org

Your Name:__________________________________________
Your Email:_________________________________________
Your Phone #: home____________________________________
            cell:________________________________________

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.
Christian Formation Announcements

A message from Kristy Allardyce...

Christian Formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others and all creation.

Finally, we have been able to see our lovely children! We have had two meetings in the park for our summer Sunday School gatherings at the gazebo. These visits have been well attended and so much fun! We have created flags representing God’s love for us and have decorated the ways God are so creative and

Mainly, we are worshipping together and celebrating our friendships with one another and the opportunity to gather together in the fresh air! We will continue to have these gatherings in the Park - weather permitting - every other Sunday. The next meeting will be July 12th at 9 am.

Our Pre-K - 2nd grade classes have been continuing to post video lessons on Facebook each week with stories, activities and humor! Thank you to Alison, Lisa and Dana for continuing this ministry throughout the summer.

As we look forward to the fall, and hope for Sunday school to resume, please consider volunteering your time as a Sunday School teacher. Even if you are able to only commit for certain Sundays or as an assistant or Substitute, I’d be very grateful!!

Be well!
Kristy

JULY TRIVIA

Some Saints and Scholars for the Summer

1. July 11 is when Benedict of Nursia is observed. Who was he?
2. July 24 we honor Thomas a Kempis. What is significant about him?
1. Benedict was born of good family in Norcia (Nursia in Latin), Italy in 480, and was sent by his parents to Roman schools to finish his education. His life spanned the decades in which the decayed imperial city became the Rome of the medieval papacy. While in Rome, his disapproval of the manners and morals there led him to a vocation of monastic seclusion. He withdrew to Subiaco, where he founded several communities for monks. Around 525, he moved to Monte Cassino in southern Italy, where he founded another Benedictine monastery. Around 540, he composed and compiled his monastic “Rule,” and became known as the father of Western monasticism. The rule that he established became the norm for monastic living throughout Europe. In view of the work of monks following the Benedictine Rule in the evangelization and civilization of so many European countries in the Middle Ages, Pope Paul VI proclaimed him the patron saint of all Europe in 1964. Benedict died Mar 21, c. 540, and his feast day was later moved to July 11.

2. The name of Thomas a Kempis is perhaps more widely known than any other medieval Christian writer. He was born Thomas Hammerken in Kempen (hence being also known as “a Kempis”) in the Duchy of Cleves around 1380. He was educated by the Brethren of the Common Life and joined their order in 1399 at their house of Mount St. Agnus in Zwolle (in the Low Countries). He took his vows there in 1407 and was ordained a priest in 1415. His “The Imitation of Christ” is one of the most popular and best known Christian devotional books, and has been translated into more languages than any other book except the Bible. He died in Zwolle on July 25, 1471.

**Bonus question**- how many verses can you find with reference to summer in them? For a starter, there is a passage in Amos about a bowl of summer fruit. Have fun and stay safe! .....thanks and have a good summer!
Christ Church Virtual Worship Services
Available Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays

CHRIST CHURCH
A CANDLELIT SERVICE OF COMPLINE

FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM LIVE

SATURDAY
6PM

FACEBOOK | YOUTUBE
CHRISTCHURCHWESTERLY.ORG

Please Join Us Online!
Sunday Morning 10am

CHRIST CHURCH WESTERLY
MORNING EUCHARIST SERVICE
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
For more detail please navigate to: https://www.churchwesterly.org/events/calendar/
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
- **Bless**: Share faith and unselfishly give and serve
- **Turn**: Pause, listen and choose to follow Jesus
- **Rest**: Receive the gift of God’s grace, peace, and restoration

**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
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 Gruhzt, 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

COME JOIN US!

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401-596-0197
christ-church@verizon.net