Dear Friends in Christ,

On Sunday, September 13th, Christ Church will celebrate Homecoming Sunday. Over the past six years, we have had some elaborate Homecoming Sunday experiences as we welcomed back to church parishioners and children on the weekend following Labor Day.

We have had choir reunions, bouncy ball houses, games, live music, and the list goes on. Although Covid-19 has altered some of our plans for Homecoming this year, we will still joyfully celebrate our return to our spiritual home after a long summer.
For more than four months, our 10am Holy Eucharist service has been an online experience. On Homecoming Sunday, we will reintroduce this service as an in-person Holy Eucharist service with music. The 10am Holy Eucharist service will also offer communion of one kind (consecrated bread—the body of Christ). This service will also be available online through our various platforms (our Website, Facebook live at Christ Church Westerly, and through public access television on PEG RI-TV). We hope to continue to offer this in-person service through the Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons. Please note that we will continue our Saturday in-person 5pm Holy Eucharist Rite I service and our Saturday online 6pm Compline service. During the weekend, our in-person services will continue to follow Federal, State, and Diocesan social distancing guidelines. Our Reopening Task Force Committee has applied these guidelines to fit our needs at Christ Church to keep our parishioners safe if they desire to participate in an in-person service.

We do, however, recommend that those in compromised or high-risk health situations continue to enjoy our online services.

One Homecoming Sunday tradition that will continue is the commissioning of our Sunday School teachers. And yes, our Sunday school classes will begin immediately after the 10am service!! Our Sunday school parents may have received information already from Kristy Allardyce, our Sunday
School Coordinator. There will be more information in this newsletter, so please watch for it.

Friends, please continue to pray for our church and the world as we meet our days’ challenges with God's help.

With Blessings
Your Priest,

Sunil Chandy

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
How to sign up to attend church next week

Option 1: Scan the QR code to do straight to the website

1. open up the camera on your phone
2. Hold up the camera to the code image
3. Click on the top of your screen where the notification appears
4. Scroll to the bottom
5. Choose next week’s slot by checking the box
6. Click “Submit & Sign Up”
7. Fill out the Form

Option 2: Please call the church office during office hours or email

(401) 596-0197 or (401) 261-6040
Parishadmin@christchurchwesterly.org

Option 3: Check out our Eblast for the link

If you are not on our mailing list go to ChristChurchWesterly.org and sign up by scrolling all the way to the bottom.
NEWS FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

We hope our message finds you all well and staying healthy during these difficult times. We miss all of you and each other!

We continue to find new ways of performing our duties. For most of the summer, we prepared one set up each week for the Sunday 10AM service with only enough for the celebrant. When the in-person 5PM service began, we were challenged with a new way of offering only the host to those attending. We worked very closely with Fr. Sunil, Sarah Starkweather, Barbara Capalbo and the Covid-19 Committee and came up with a plan for communion.

During this time Cheryl Leong, Natalie Pukas and Sandra Thibault have been responsible for weekly set-ups. Sandra goes to church every Monday morning and takes care of the cleaning up as well as taking home the linens to be washed. Since the 5PM service began, Sarah Starkweather, Wendy Hyde and Sandra Thibault have cleaned after the service and set up the credence table for Sunday. A big THANK YOU to these three ladies for all of their help and support!

We would like to remind all of you how important it is to notify the church ahead of time (by each Friday morning) if you plan to attend an in-person service. In order for us to set up correctly, we need to know how many hosts to place in the ciborium. This will become even more crucial if we begin offering more than one in-person service per week. We appreciate this so much. We are not saving Blessed Sacrament each week and if we do have correct numbers, it requires that they be disposed of correctly as they are blessed. THANK YOU!
At long last, the chairs that we purchased from part of the monies raised for Mothering Sunday’s Rose Orders have arrived. These were requested by Lisa Kitchen of the Fundraising Committee to have for church functions. We purchased 14 chairs without arms and 4 chairs with arms for those who might need a little extra help in getting out of a chair. Many thanks to Steve Kitchen and Molly and Bob Schonenberg for meeting the truck and unloading the chairs. A big thank you also to Steve Kitchen for putting together the arm chairs. Now, let’s hope we can use them soon!!
Being at home all spring and into the summer months has not been a real hardship. Home for me is a haven of peace, order, and comfort for the soul. In some ways, these months of solitary refuge have been a gift.

Home, for so many families, has been a place of stress, chaos and isolation. For some, cabin fever is as virulent as the virus, and almost as damaging. No matter how confining they may seem, our homes (our cabins, our four walls) are more than they measure in square feet. Home is where we “let our hair down,” slip into default mode and be our true selves - for better or for worse. Even in a peaceful and loving environment, home is still the place where we negotiate rights and privileges, learn to make compromises and accept disappointment.

Come September, Christ Church will not be celebrating Homecoming in our usual festive manner. We will sorely miss the opportunity to personally re-connect and re-affirm our relationships as a family in our spiritual home. You may be feeling “homeless,” without the Choir, without your usual seat, without in person fellowship. But the feeling of being “at home” is not just being comfortable with familiar people in a familiar place. It is a grounding in love and trust and shared experience that we carry in our hearts wherever we may live, work or worship. Even in these disorienting times, we can be “at home” anywhere.

Faithfully,
Anne
Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Commission wants you to know we are here and care for you.

We are definitely dealing with a different time with being in the throes of the pandemic due to the active corona virus- Covid19. Due to the ability of the virus spreading to others especially by upfront conversation, we are not able to visit in your homes. We are however, available by phone and will be more than happy to speak with you. If you call the church office at 401-596-0197 a message can be given to any member of the Pastoral CoVid Outreach Team who will then contact you. The team has been actively calling parishioners to check on them and offering support. If you have not been called and feel the need to speak with us, please don’t feel you are left out. Call the office. We do not want to miss anyone!

Please help us keep our prayer list current! Take a look and send any updates to communicate@christchurchwesterly.org. Also, contact us if you would like to be placed on the Thanksgiving List of Healing. Thank you,
The Pastoral Care Commission.
Remembering Meg Frost Roy

If you’re like me, you’re still having a hard time believing that this beautiful soul has left us. Meg had endured a myriad of physical trials over the years, but she never let them stop her. “Indomitable” is certainly one way to describe her ~ joyful, loving, and enthusiastic are but a few more ~ the list goes on and on.

Ever since Meg joined Christ Church, she longed to sing in the choir. Making the trip up the spiral staircase to the organ gallery was a big challenge though, so she started just attending choir rehearsals. Finally, on October 1, 2017, her dream came true, and with the help of her husband, Rich, she sang her first Sunday service with the choir ~ in the gallery! The smile on her face could have lit up the world!
Before she was able to join the choir, Meg had become one of our lay readers, and she continued to make the schedule of who was to read which lesson at which service. This was often fraught with last minute changes when someone was suddenly unavailable, but Meg met those challenges with humor and grace, as she always did with everything else.

She served two terms on the Vestry, and in addition, was a faithful and dependable volunteer in the Parish Office, handling every situation with compassion and true concern. And lest we forget, she was also that ever-smiling face behind the bar at our parish dinners, a duty she shared with her husband, Rich, which she enjoyed immensely! Making people happy was her middle name!

If anyone missed her obituary in the Westerly Sun, it can be found at the following link if you are viewing this on an electronic device: Click here for Meg's Obituary

Or, you can search Legacy.com, search words "Meg Roy"
It’s an amazing life story, and reading it will fill you with joy and gratitude at having known her.

In it, her family requested that donations in her memory be made to three organizations that were the most meaningful to her ~ the Chorus of Westerly, the Shriner’s Hospital, and of course, Christ Church. Ryan Saunders, Executive Director of the Chorus of Westerly also wrote a beautiful tribute which is available on the Chorus’ Facebook page.

If you would like to help us remember Meg, I hope you’ll consider honoring her presence at Christ Church with a donation in her memory. It would make her smile ~ and just think of that smile, and how she brightened so many people’s days with it. We love you, Meg, and we’ll never forget what a difference you made in our lives.

Pam Young
A message from Kristy Allardyce...
Christian Formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others and all creation.

Homecoming Sunday
In Person Sunday School
September 13, 2020

Following the 10AM service, we will have Sunday School, open to all children, pre-school thru grade 7 and youth group grades 8 - 12. Contact Kristy Allardyce with any questions at 401-596-0197

Stay healthy and safe...
I look forward to seeing you all soon!
-Kristy

AUGUST TRIVIA
Some Saints and Scholars for September

1. Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, is observed on Sept. 16. What do we know about him?
2. Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, is observed on Sept. 26. What are some of his accomplishments?
3. We might have heard of St. Jerome before, whose feast day is on Sept. 30, but who is he?
TRIVIA ANSWERS
Questions found on page 12

1. Although the dates of Ninian’s life and the exact extent of his work are disputed, the earliest and possibly the best account comes from the Venerable Bede’s “Ecclesiastical History,” which tell us that Ninian was a Romanized Briton, born around 360, in southern Scotland. He is said to have been educated in Rome, and to have received episcopal ordination, but the main influence on his life was Martin of Tours, with whom he spent some time and from whom he gained his ideals of an episcopal-monastic structure designed for missionary work. Around the time of Martin’s death in 397, Ninian built a stone church at Whithorn in Galloway, which he dedicated to Martin. His work as the first Bishop of Galloway reached into the Lake District of northern England and also into northern Scotland, where he converted many Picts. Together with Patrick, he is viewed as one of the links of continuity between the ancient Roman-British Church and the developing Celtic Christianity of Ireland and Scotland. He died in 432.

2. Born in 1555, Lancelot Andrewes, was the favorite preacher of King James I and the author of a great number of eloquent sermons. He was also a distinguished biblical scholar and was one of the translators of the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible. He was Dean of Westminster and headmaster of the school there before he became a Bishop in 1605, and was influential in the education of a number of noted Churchmen of his time. He was respected by many as the very model of a bishop at a time when bishops were held in low esteem. He died on Sept. 26, 1626.

3. Jerome was the foremost biblical scholar of the ancient church. His Latin translation of the Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek texts, known as the Vulgate version, along with his commentaries and homilies, have made him a major intellectual force in the Western Church. He is recognized as a saint and a Doctor of the Church. He was born in the north Italian town of Stridon around 347, and was converted and baptized during his student days in Rome. He was ordained at Antioch in 378, and then was secretary to Pope Damasus I in Rome from 382-384. It was the Pope who set him to the task of making a new translation of the Bible into Latin- the vulgar tongue (hence the name Vulgate) from the Classical Greek. After the Pope’s death, Jerome returned to the East and established a monastery at Bethlehem, where he lived and worked until his death in 420.
Sunday, September 13th
Christ Church Westerly

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Please join us for one service at 10AM. Fr. Sunil will be preaching. If you are already a member of our Christ Church family or are interested in joining, we'd love to see you!

Following the service, we will have Sunday School, open to all children, pre-school thru grade 7 and Youth Group Grades 8 - 12. Contact Kristy Allardyce with any questions at 401-596-0197
Christ Church Virtual Worship Services
Available Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays

MORNING PRAYER
WEDNESDAY MORNING 10AM
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM LIVE

CHRIST CHURCH

Compline
6pm Live
Every Wednesday & Saturday
Facebook & ChristChurchWesterly.org
Please Join Us Online!
Sunday Morning 10am

CHRIST CHURCH WESTERLY
MORNING EUCHARIST SERVICE

Christ Church Virtual
Coffee Hour!

Every Sunday after the 10 AM Facebook Live Service via Zoom
Food For Thought
with Fr. Sunil Chandy
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[https://www.christchurchwestery.org/eventcalendar](https://www.christchurchwestery.org/eventcalendar) for more detail. Please navigate to:

**September 2020**
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-Murdock, 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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