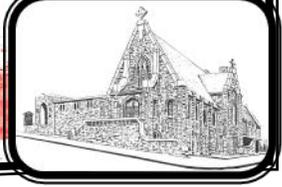


# The Rainbow



November, 2020

## Baptism at Christ Church



William Lawrence Kersey, grandson of Christ Church members Delia and John Kersey, was baptized on October 18 at the church. The infant's parents are Kyle S. and Tara H. Kersey, and his brothers are Edgar and Owen. Kyle Kersey grew up in Christ Church and was an acolyte. William wore the baptismal dress that had belonged to Delia's father, Francis S. Chamberlin. Given the current state of things in the world, the event was a wonderful and uplifting moment for all. Congratulations William!



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## A Celebration of Unity & Creation

On a gorgeous sunny morning in early October, the parking lot on Duhring Street was the scene of a festive ecumenical service attended by humans and their beloved pets as well.

Christ Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Immanuel Lutheran Church joined forces on World Communion Sunday, October 4, for a Celebration of Unity and Creation, a time for all to strive to work together as neighbors, friends, and stewards of creation for the common good of our world.



Because it was also the day of the Feast of St. Francis, many pets attended for the Blessing of the Animals. The Rev. Maggie Rust was Presiding Minister, assisted by the Rev. Tom Conley. The Rev. Chad Slater gave the sermon.

The outdoor worship service followed COVID-19 protocol, with everyone masked and welcome to either gather in appropriately distanced chairs in the parking lot or remain in their vehicles while tuning in to the service as broadcast on 97.3 FM and 1440 AM radio.

It was the first time since COVID-19 has altered our services that the churches' worshipers sang. Some attendees commented that they were so moved by joining voices together in song that they cried. Music was provided by Dr. Harold Brown.



## Worship Services at CEC

The Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church has taken very seriously our response to the present pandemic. We have enacted safety protocols in accordance with local, state, and diocesan guidelines to ensure a safe and responsible worship setting. Many of us have grave concerns about what this disease might do to us or to our loved ones. As a community of believers who love and seek to respect each other it is important for all of us to take these concerns seriously whether or not we personally have any qualms about the COVID-19 virus.

Over the last several days the number of active cases of COVID-19 have risen drastically in our area. Last night at our regular meeting we held a long conversation about how we maintain a safe environment in worship so that there is never any question that we are not doing all we can to prevent the spread of this illness. One thing that was immediately clear was our desire to have a standard metric to govern our in-person worship. With a standard set of protocols we could fairly judge the level of safety we have in meeting in-person without the call becoming something arbitrary.

The following motion was made and was unanimously approved by the Vestry of this parish: “If at any point in the week prior to Sunday the Harvard map on COVID-19 Risk Levels indicates a ‘Red,’ or high risk, level in Mercer or Tazewell Counties there will be no in-person worship at Christ Episcopal Church and the Congregation will be notified by Facebook and Email.”

The Harvard map in question is the one most commonly used to determine the community spread of the illness in the United States. The map, which is updated daily, can be found here: <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/>

We are happy to have established this protocol, even though we are sad to have to develop it. Although we acted independently, we have since been made aware that several other congregations in our area have made similar decisions—a fact that strengthens our decision as the right thing to do at this time.

We ask that you continue to pray for relief from our current circumstances—that the doctors, nurses, researchers, and scientists may continue to make great strides in combating this scourge.



### Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia Virtual Convention 2020 by *Susanne Pulse*

The 2020 Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia Virtual Convention was held Saturday, October 31, via zoom. Approximately 105 delegates and clergy virtually attended, including Susanne Pulse and Alyson Bowling from Christ Church, and others who were interested could view the convention via the Diocese’s Facebook page. The theme for the 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention was “Together in Spirit.”

Ballots for several diocesan committees were mailed out several weeks prior to the Convention so that the results could be tallied prior to Convention and announced that morning. All were uncontested except for the lay member of the Standing Committee.

There were two (2) resolutions, both of which passed: (1) to temporarily permit virtual annual meetings in the months of November and December, 2020, or January 2021; (2) to establish a Regional Disciplinary Board to deal with the clergy disciplinary process. The Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Ohio, Southern Ohio, Western New York and West Virginia will share resources associated with the clergy disciplinary process.

The business of the diocese was concluded within two hours.

## Ministry Report

### Bluefield Union Mission

On Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> there were 123 meals prepared (67 meals served on Wednesday and 56 served by staff on Thursday). On the menu was BBQ on a bun, coleslaw, baked beans, chocolate dessert, and a beverage. Volunteers from Christ Church, Bluefield WV, were Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa, and Eleazer Resurreccion. Charlie Helmandollar and Susan Helmandollar volunteered from Christ Episcopal Church in Pocahontas, Virginia; Freda Morris and granddaughter, Ellie William of Cumberland Heights Baptist and Cross Roads Baptist Churches also assisted.



### CEC Food Pantry

Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

35 bags distributed

13 kerosene vouchers

Volunteers: Peter Taylor, Donald Kersey, Betty Nash, Charlie Blevins

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**Prayer List:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Patsy Arnold, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarett Joplin, Scott Rust, Emily Broome and her son Randy, David, Joe Graham's family, Cady, Martin Marion Lowe, Margaret Westfall, Maggie Casto



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**New Address for the Pucketts:** Bruce, Dee, and Will Puckett  
930 Campbellton Drive  
North Augusta SC 29841



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### Christmas Poinsettias



If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia for the church on Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one, please email the Parish Administrator, Ms. Emma Bennett, at [secretary@cecbf.org](mailto:secretary@cecbf.org) or call the church office at 304-327-6861 and let her know. Poinsettias will be \$15 this year. Checks may be made out to Christ Episcopal Church. Requests for poinsettias must be in the church office by Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.



## Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

October 21, 2020

Present: Becky Beckett, Senior Warden  
Tom Coughlan, Junior Warden  
Linda Ammar, Elizabeth Clement  
Frank Dragotto, Delia Kersey,  
the Rev. Chad Slater, Rector

Absent: Donald Kersey, David Kersey, Allyson Bowling

Senior Warden, Becky Becket, called the meeting to order and Father Chad led everyone in the Lord's Prayer.

### Treasurer's Report

Frank delivered the treasurer's report stating the congregation had responded in a positive manner financially over the past month and the church's accounts were now stable. The report indicates that we are down forty-three thousand dollars but this is due to market variations. The Profit/Loss budget performance is good and we are down \$2500 for the year. The loan we took out for \$17,500 will be forgiven. Chad and Frank will meet to create the budget for next year to be presented at the annual meeting. Delia Kersey made a motion to approve the minutes and Linda Ammar seconded the motion.

Father Slater discussed the stewardship flyer, *Hope Grows Here*, which has been mailed to all church members. A letter and pledge card will be sent out next week. It was suggested that this information also be posted to our Facebook page. Discussion was held concerning the line items that Chad has not availed himself of during the past months. Elizabeth Clement made a motion that Chad be reimbursed for those expenses and these items will also be reinstated in his income. Tom Coughlan seconded the motion.

A copy of the proposed maintenance contract for our Heating/Cooling system was handed out. The vestry is to review and debate this contract via email. There are two proposals; one costing \$103 a month and one which is \$224 a month. The \$224 per month contract includes the labor for any repairs needed. Chad stated that certain doors within the church need to be closed to prevent air/heat from escaping.

### Committee Reports

Senior Warden: Becky stated that Chad's mailing had been received. A nominating committee needs to be put in place to replace Becky, Frank and Donald on next year's vestry. Frank stated he will continue as treasurer although he will not be on the vestry and will not attend the meetings.

Junior Warden: Tom stated that Mary Catherine Williams said an anonymous donor has given money to replace the storm door outside the kitchen.

Education: Elizabeth has been working on an online Children's Education Program which will kick off in November. Patty Richardson will present the first lesson.

Outreach: Fewer people are showing up for the food pantry although several came for kerosene vouchers last week. Chad mentioned that new signs are needed to display throughout the community.

## **Rector's Report**

Susanne Pulse has been going through the information collected through the bishop survey taken by the church members and she will attend the Diocesan Convention via Zoom during the weekend of November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Fr. Chad has been named the Dean of the Southern Deanery and will now be addressed as “the Very Reverend Chad Slater” by everyone but his wife.

Delia Kersey's grandson was baptized during the month of October.

An anonymous person has donated money to purchase a new IPAD with the best cameras, microphone and stand to allow a better online presentation of our worship service and other events.

## **Other Business**

Discussion followed concerning the upcoming cold/flu season and the rise in COVID cases across the surrounding area, particularly Mercer and Tazewell counties. Fr. Chad presented information from the Harvard Map which showed Mercer County as the fastest growing hot spot in West Virginia. It depicts Mercer County as red and is trending upward. This information led to concerns and discussion as to whether or not we should conduct in worship services at this time. The following policy was decided upon and Frank made the motion to adopt this policy, seconded by Tom Coughlan. The vote was unanimous in favor of this policy.

“If at any point within the week prior to Sunday the Harvard Map on COVID 19 risk levels indicates red in Mercer or Tazewell County, there will be no in person worship at Christ Episcopal Church. The congregation will be informed of the current status on Facebook and via email.”

It was agreed upon that the next vestry meeting will probably be held via Zoom.

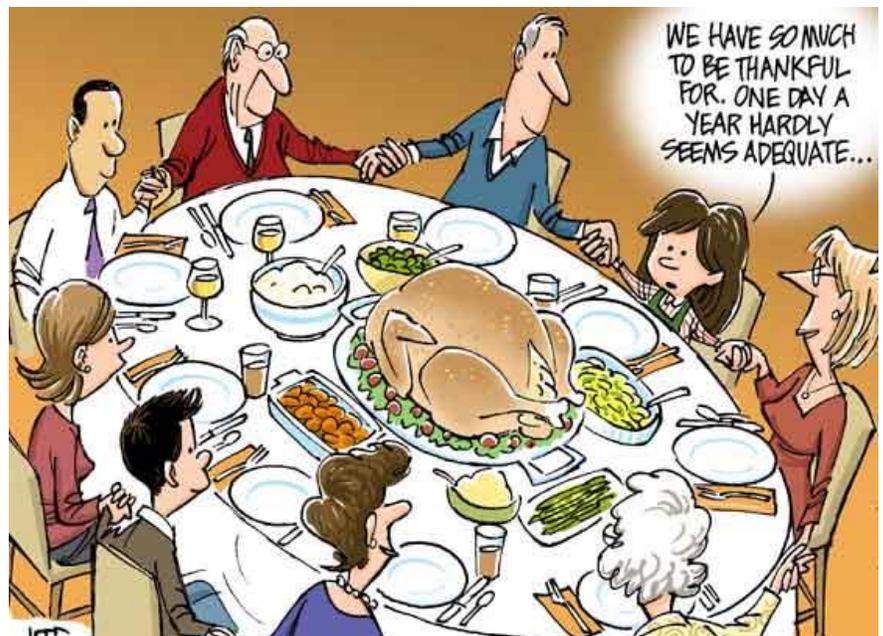
Father Chad led us in prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

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## **The Collect for Thanksgiving Day**

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**May you have a happy and  
blessed Thanksgiving!**



## November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> ALL SAINTS DAY 10:00 Holy Eucharist	<b>2</b> ALL SOULS ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:30 Online Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:30 Online Bible Study 3:30 Union Mission	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	<b>16</b> St. Margaret of Scotland	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:30 Online Bible Study 7:00 Vestry	<b>19</b> 9:00 Food Pantry	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Last Sunday after Pentecost CHRIST THE KING 10:00 Holy Eucharist	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:30 Online Bible Study 3:30 Union Mission	<b>26</b> THANKSGIVING	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> First Sunday of Advent 10:00 Holy Eucharist	<b>30</b> Saint Andrew The Apostle					

**The following people have graciously donated flowers for the month of November:**

November 1, 2020	Becky Steorts
November 8, 2020	Peter and Patricia Taylor
November 15, 2020	Dr. Teresa Paine
November 22, 2020	Paul and Rebecca Broyles
November 29, 2020	Stan and Grey Kiser

**Birthdays:**

1 Eleazer Resurreccion	6 Tricia Hein Brewster	14 Rob Merritt	22 Linda Ammar
3 Charlie Blevins	9 Frank Dragotto	15 Art Mead	23 Bill Denney
3 Chas Davis	9 Russ Hatfield	18 Debbie Faber	24 Patrick Paine
4 Kate Faber Tombillo	10 Kathy Burge	19 Jaret Taylor	28 Grey Kiser
			30 Elizabeth Burton

**Altar Guild for November:**

Delia Kersey and Elizabeth Clement



**“The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,  
and the one the sows abundantly will reap abundantly.”**

*II Corinthians 9:6*



There's a lot to be concerned about in our world...but there's a lot to be hopeful for as well. While the society around us may change, our God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We have a God who loves us and by the gift of His Son has saved us. Upon this fertile and solid ground we have the opportunity for faith to take root and allow hope to grow in abundance.

Hope Grows Here at Christ Episcopal Church. We reach out to each other and our community in love and generosity. We feed the hungry, give comfort to those in sorrow and anxiety, lift up those whom society has cast down, and proclaim the Good News of God in Christ to Bluefield and beyond. The world needs hope in this strange time. We have the opportunity to nurture it here and let it blossom out across our community. Your prayer, work, and support ensures that Hope will continue to grow here.

Our worship has changed. Our service has changed. Our resolve has not.

Please consider returning an Estimate of Gifts and Tithes Card this year. Prayerfully consider how you will support the work of ministry here at Christ Church. Discern your own spirit to see how you will cultivate hope, faith, and love in the coming year. How you do that in 2021 may not look like it did before—and that's okay. We grow where we are planted. Sow the seeds and God will give the increase.

May God bless you as you tend the garden of your soul now and in the year to come.

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## **Rector's Corner**

*by the Rev. Chad Slater*

Thanksgiving is going to look a little different this year—and I for one don't like the changes one bit. Behind turkey and all the trimmings, what is there to be thankful for, especially this year?

I cannot help but be reminded of how Paul closed his first letter to the Thessalonians: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances.” Isn't it interesting that Paul does not say “give thanks *for* all circumstances?” Instead, the Apostle says “give thanks *in* all circumstances.” That one word makes all the difference. What Paul is calling for us to do is find the glimpses of hope around us in the midst of anxiety. Our hearts and minds are not moved to give thanks for circumstances that bring trouble, hardship, or heartache. However, it is through faith that we are able to see and discern the blessings and the promises that are present—present even in adversity and sorrow. Because of this, no matter what surrounds us, we can give thanks.

Will Thanksgiving be different this year? Give thanks in all circumstances.

Did the election go as I hoped it would? Give thanks in all circumstances.

What do the days ahead hold for us? Give thanks in all circumstances.

For the Christian, Thanksgiving is not a one-day event in late November. Instead, it is an ongoing, daily offering of ourselves, our time, our possessions – all that we are and have – to the Lord, giving thanks for His mercy and grace.

Thanksgiving may be different this year...but our God, our faith, and our hope have not changed at all. For this, let us all be thankful.

Amen.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
200 DUHRING STREET  
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



**November 2020**

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