



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

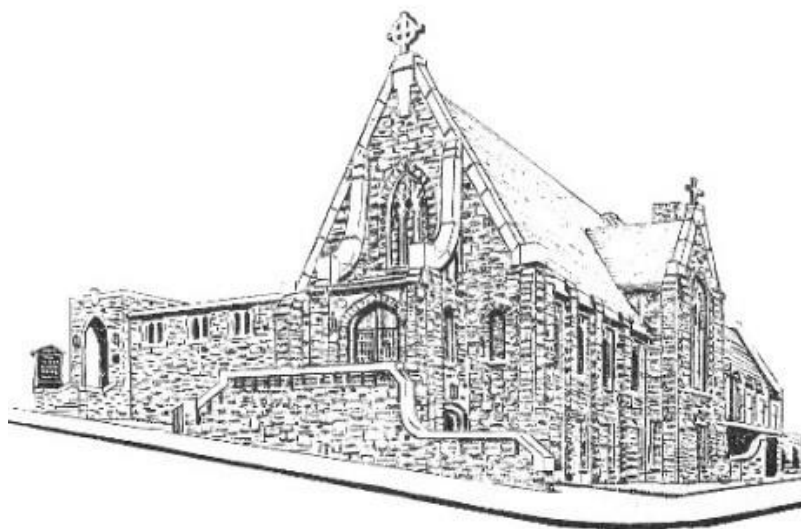
[www.christchurchbluefield.org](http://www.christchurchbluefield.org)



## The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

and being Proper XVI of the Church Year

August 22, 2021



This bulletin contains our liturgy today.

Given the circumstances during this pandemic era our worship is somewhat different. We respectfully ask that you wear and keep a face mask on during this service. We hope that you will feel safe in this place and leave edified by our celebration of Word and Sacrament today.

The Vestry of Christ Church encourages everyone, out of love and respect to all, to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Our Parish Nurse can answer any questions you may have about the vaccine. Our ushers can direct you to a Vestry Member or the Parish Nurse for more information.

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time, we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate located in the back of the church. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

## Prelude

### Our Service Begins

#### The Opening Sentences

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Gloria is then sung, all standing*



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly



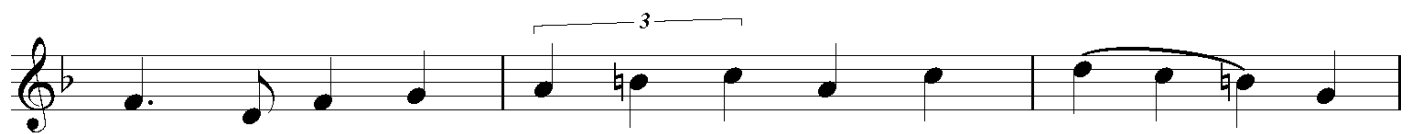
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## **The Collect of the Day**

*Our collective prayer for the day*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **We Hear and Respond to God's Word**

### **The First Lesson**

*Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel:

"Now therefore revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River

and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

*Lector*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God!

### The Psalm

Psalm 34:15-22

*Benedicam Dominum*

*The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse*

15. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their cry.
16. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,  
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
17. The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them  
and delivers them from all their troubles.
18. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.
19. Many are the troubles of the righteous,  
but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.
20. He will keep safe all his bones;  
not one of them shall be broken.
21. Evil shall slay the wicked,  
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
22. The Lord ransoms the life of his servants,  
and none will be punished who trust in him.

*Said together*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## The Second Lesson

*Ephesians 6:10-20*

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thank be to God!

## The Gospel Lesson

*John 6:56-69*

*Please stand for the Gospel Lesson*

*Celebrant*    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People*        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives

life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

*Celebrant*      The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*          Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### The Sermon

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

### The Nicene Creed

*All stand as they are able*

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church\*.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*\*meaning the church universal, that all Christians are one people regardless of denomination*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The intercessor greets the congregation with the following words and leads us in prayer.*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mike, our own Bishop, Chad, our priest, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For those in positions of public trust, especially Ron and Donnie, our mayors, Jim and Ralph, our Governors, and Joe, our President, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, especially Susanne Pulse and Mary Lynne Williams, who celebrate birthdays this week, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially those on our prayer list; for our families, friends, and neighbors and for all those we now name before you either silently or aloud...; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*



For all who have died in the communion of your Church, especially the loved ones of David and Debbie Faber, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. Margaret, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

*To you, O Lord our God.*

*The Celebrant then offers the concluding collect for the prayers*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Confession and Absolution**

*The Celebrant then calls the people to confess their sins to God*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

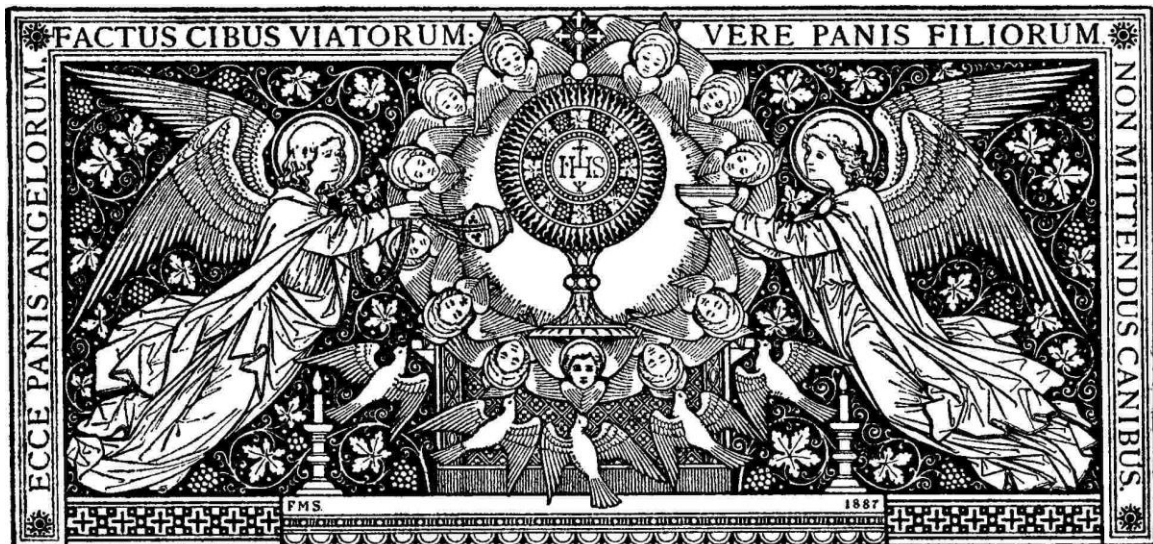
*People* And also with you.

*At this time we will greet those around us in the name of the Lord. Please refrain from physical touch during this time so as to ensure proper social distancing for all members of the congregation. Thank you.*

## The Holy Eucharist, sometimes call *The Mass*

Offertory H 707 *You are invited to sing along with your mask on or silently in your heart*

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.  
Take my will, and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.



## The Eucharistic Prayer

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*The Celebrant continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*            Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### The Fraction

*The Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread and says*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*The People then respond*

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*The Celebrant then presents the Sacrament to the People*

These are the Gifts of God, for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*Should you prefer not to receive the physical elements of the Holy Communion you are invited to read the following in silent prayer as the physical sacrament is being distributed.*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

### The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. Everyone, regardless of faith, is welcome to receive a blessing— simply cross your arms in front of you approach the priest. Each row, beginning in the front, should come up to the chancel step to receive the Blessed Bread. The Chalice cannot be offered at this time by direction of the Bishop of West Virginia. Once the priest has dropped the Blessed Bread in your hand you should return by the side aisle to your pew. Once a row has been Communed, the next is free to come to the chancel steps.

Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

## Our Prayer after Communion

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **The Blessing**

*The Celebrant then pronounces the following blessing over the people*

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.

Put on the armor of God, so that you may stand against evil and injustice.

Fasten the belt of truth around your waist;

Put on the breastplate of righteousness.

Take the shield of faith.

Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit,--the word of God.

Put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

*People* Amen!

## **The Dismissal**

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with:

*Thanks be to God!*

## Postlude



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The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by David and Debbie Faber.

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## **Participants in Today's Liturgy**

<u>Celebrant</u>	the Very Rev. Chad Slater
<u>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Acolyte</u>	Emma Slater
<u>Lector</u>	Alyson Bowling
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Betty Nash and Mimi Merritt

**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Mabeline Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarete Joplin, Emily Broome, David, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Harry, Ben Rose, Jay Kephart, Rick Longworth, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kathy, Hamilton Jones, Kensley, John, Kathleen Nieman, Alan Riggins, Brenda Payne, Buck and Louisa Sowers, Elizabeth Kane, Betty, Matt, Eric, Carol, Dave, Gail, Jean, the people of Haiti, the people of Afghanistan

**Birthdays This Week:** Susanne Pulse, Mary Lynne Williams

## **Attendance Last Sunday:**

37

## **Calendar of Events**

Wednesday – August 25	Serving Dinner at Union Mission 4:00 pm
Sunday – August 29	Church Picnic 10:30 am at Lotito Park
Wednesday – September 8	Serving Dinner at Union Mission 3:00 pm
Sunday – September 12	Bagging Groceries after Church
Wednesday – September 15	Vestry Meeting 7:00pm
Thursday – September 16	Food Pantry 9:00am – 11:00am
Wednesday – September 22	Serving Dinner at Union Mission 4:00 pm
Sunday – October 24	CEC Building 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## **Announcements:**

**Dinners at the Union Mission:** We will resume our service preparing and serving dinner at the Bluefield Union Mission this month. Please see Art Mead for more information. Thank you!

**Bishop Candidates Tour Cancelled:** Due to the rise of active COVID-19 cases across the state the candidate tour has been cancelled. Candidates will now be introduced in a series of video interviews. Links to these interviews will be emailed out.

**Memorial Donations Accepted for Fall & Winter Pansies:** Our beautiful Columbarium Garden will be planted with pansies this fall to last through the winter months. If you would like to contribute to the cost of purchasing the pansies for the Garden, please send your check to the church office with "Pansies" in the memo line. If you would like your name published, along with who you give the donation in memory or honor of, please include that information with your check.

**Church Picnic:** Join us on August 29th at Lotito Park (the City Park) at Shelter #1 (beside the playground) at 10:30 a.m. for our annual Church Picnic! We will have worship and fellowship at what has become one of the favorite events on the parish calendar! This is no longer a potluck. All food will be provided.



## **Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish**

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mr. David Kersey

Mr. Peter Richardson

Rector

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden