



Christ Church

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The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

August 18, 2021

Dear Friends and Parishioners of Christ Church,

I write with a brief update on some of our ministries and planning at Christ Church this autumn.

WORSHIP & EVENT GUIDELINES

Please review our guidelines for in-person worship and events at Christ Church (attached on the third page). These guidelines have been updated due to the news of the Delta Variant. They are available on our website and large print copies are posted at every entrance to the church.

LIVESTREAM UPDATE

We are installing our permanent livestream setup over the final weeks of August, and there will be NO livestream on August 22 & 29. We will record the sermon each Sunday and publish it around 1pm. Once the livestream is permanently set up, we will need a few volunteers to help run the control booth each Sunday: if you or one of your high schoolers would like to learn more please contact me (** community service hours available **).

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Upcoming outdoor Eucharists in the Garden will be offered on the following dates.

- Sunday, August 22 at 5PM
- Tuesday, August 24 at 5PM, St. Bartholomew's Day
- Sunday, August 29 at 5PM
- Sunday, September 12 at 5PM, Blessing of Backpacks
- Tuesday, September, 14, Holy Cross Day
- Tuesday, September 21, Saint Matthew's Day

SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIALS

The town of Pelham memorial service for September 11, 2001, is scheduled to take place Saturday, September 11, at 8:30am, at the 9-11 Memorial (near the Gazebo by the train station). Christ Church will also offer a Requiem Eucharist with prayers for the departed at 5pm, Saturday, September 11.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & FAMILY EVENTS

We are planning a three tier Sunday School program for the autumn in the hopes that every family can engage at a level that works for them during the ongoing pandemic. Please contact Marie Main to register for Sunday School and/or StoryMakers. If you are interested in teaching, please reach out to Eileen Peluso or to me.

1. There will be one outdoor, family event each month:
 - a. September 12, 5pm, Family Eucharist with Blessing of Backpacks
 - b. October 2, 5pm, Family Eucharist with Blessing of Animals
 - c. Sunday, October 31, noon, Halloween Party
2. We will offer a limited in-person Sunday school on certain Sundays at 10am.
3. We will offer a "take home" StoryMakers lesson each for every family, with books, curriculum, and video overview.

CONFIRMATION WITH THE BISHOP

Bishop Dietsche will be with us to Confirm our 2020 and 2021 Teen Confirmation Classes on Sunday, September 19, at 3pm. We have a total of 14 Teens in these two classes. Please keep them all in your prayers. Adults who wish to be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church in 2021 should contact me ASAP. We are now taking names for the 2021-2022 Confirmation Class. If you (or your teen) are interested in being Confirmed in 2022, please contact Marie Main or me. Teen Confirmation Class for 2021-2022 will start in October.

BENEDICTION

Though the pandemic has not yet ended, we are still all in this together. Please keep all of your family members, friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners in your prayers as you all are in mine, and write these words of Saint Paul upon your heart:

Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil... Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

In Christ,



The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

ATTENDING IN-PERSON EVENTS & WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH (UPDATED 8/19/2021)

These guidelines are updated regularly: please review them each week. We expect all persons who attend indoor and outdoor in-person events & worship at Christ Church to follow New York State guidelines on travel, in-person gatherings, testing, and quarantines.

Masks & Face Coverings at Indoor Worship & Events:

- We recommend that all attendees wear a mask for indoor worship and indoor events whenever persons who are not vaccinated might be present. At such events:
 - Fully vaccinated worship and event leaders may remove their masks while leading worship, leading an event, preaching, offering eulogies, or reading lessons.
 - Fully vaccinated persons may remove their masks when they are in their pews/seats so long as they are more than 6 feet away from anyone who might not be fully vaccinated.
 - Please wear your mask whenever you are not in your pew/seat.
 - All persons should wear a mask while singing indoors, no exceptions.

Social Distancing:

- All persons are encouraged to maintain social distance from others indoors and outdoors whenever persons who are not vaccinated might be present. If you aren't fully vaccinated or you aren't sure if a person is fully vaccinated – KEEP 6 FEET DISTANCE.

Vaccination Status:

- All of the clergy and staff members at Christ Church are fully vaccinated, and we strongly encourage every eligible person to get vaccinated immediately.
- We require that those who participate in any the following in-person ministries and activities at Christ Church be fully vaccinated:
 - Leading worship and preaching
 - Serving as an usher
 - Serving as a lector/reader
 - Participating in choir

Food & Fellowship:

- No food or fellowship activities will take place or be offered in-doors, unless the Rector has given explicit permission and every person present is fully vaccinated.

NOTE: Definition of “Fully Vaccinated”

- People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).
- Unvaccinated people refers to individuals of all ages, including children, that have not completed a vaccination series or received a single-dose vaccine. — “I had Covid” or “I tested positive for antibodies” or “I’ve gotten one dose, so its close enough” does not mean you are fully vaccinated. **Please be honest.**