



## FROM THE RECTOR:

Next Thursday, in homes across the country, we will remember and give thanks for the Christians who landed in the New World on November 11, 1620 and built a new community. Their prayers, vision, and hard work created the foundation for the United States.

Even as we anticipate Thanksgiving, preparations are already underway for celebrating Christmas!

The Church has observed a season of preparation for Christmas for over 1600 years. In fact, the first mention of Advent as a season of deliberate spiritual preparation is found in the notes of the Church Council of Zaragoza, Spain in A.D. 380!

Christ Church offers a number of special worship services, fellowship gatherings, and wonderful events to help the community to prepare again to celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus.

From **Advent Wreaths** to **Christmas Caroling**, the **Tidings of Joy** concerts on Tuesdays to the **Service of Nine Lessons & Carols** on December 7, I invite you to join the festivities and worship as we give thanks to God for His blessings and prepare anew to celebrate the coming of our Savior.

God bless you and yours with a joy-filled Thanksgiving and a powerful Advent!

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David F." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sometimes I forget some of the subtle differences between Canada and America.

Little things remind me that I'm not from around here.

Recently, I was at the optometrist, getting my yearly vision check. The good doctor dimmed the lights, fired up the projector, and asked me to read rows of letters. I could see them all fine. At his asking, I read them aloud.

The smallest row read something like E Z B L.

When I pronounced the Z as "zed" instead of "zee" the doctor stopped me. "What was the second letter you said?"

"Right," I said, as it clicked in my mind, "zee."

We moved on to the next slide.

And there are other differences too: In America the holiday season really begins with Thanksgiving and goes through to Christmas and the New Year.

In Canada, since Thanksgiving falls so much earlier in the fall (early October), there is not a real "holiday season," just Thanksgiving and then the long stretch until Christmas.



I like the American set up best. But it also brings to the fore all of the character traits I share with Charlie Brown.

One in particular has been a thorn in my side, which is a tendency toward disappointment around holidays that we see in A Charlie

*Brown Christmas*. He is just not feeling the spirit of the holidays like he used to.

I often feel the same way. I think I build up the whole Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays in my mind into these attainably perfect events. And then when they are just great, I feel disappointed.

Lately, though, I've been trying to reframe this feeling of being let down. I've realized that the perfection I long for in these holidays – a sense of rest, of peace, of communion with friends and family, of beautiful worship – this longing is really a longing for more intimate communion with God.

The longing never seems to be satisfied because it is a longing that will only find its consummation when Christ is all and all. So the disappointment isn't a failure on my part (and maybe not even on Charlie Brown's!) but a recognition that no matter how wonderful the best bits of life are, we still live in a broken world. Life will never be perfect this side of eternity.

Even here, even now, we can see good glimpses into what God in Christ has in store for us. But we never get the full picture, only an intimation of what is to come. And it might be good to be a little disappointed now and then, so that, in the words of the Collect for Proper 20, God might "grant us... not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those things that shall abide."

## LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS:

### *Supporting Our Ukrainian Family*



*Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.*  
 Matthew 22:36–39

Christ Church has a long and cherished tradition of loving our neighbors, as Jesus commanded us. In the summer of 2022, parishioner Charles Johnson and Christ Church answered that call in a special way—by sponsoring a Ukrainian family seeking refuge from the devastation of war.

Amid unimaginable loss, Iryna and Nora arrived in Tyler with courage, faith, and hope for a new beginning. Through the compassion of our parish family, Christ Church opened its arms to provide food, shelter, transportation, guidance, and a loving community when it was needed most.

Now, as the war in Ukraine enters its fourth winter, this family remains separated from their loved ones and homeland. Yet, through grace and determination, they continue to thrive within our church community—sharing their gifts, strengthening our fellowship, and inspiring all who meet them. Their faith and perseverance remind us that God's light shines even in the darkest moments.



**TUESDAYS in  
ADVENT NOON-TIME CONCERT SERIES**  
*followed by a light lunch*



**CHRIST CHURCH TYLER**  
*Downtown*  
118 S. BOIS D'ARC | 12:00PM

**Tuesday DECEMBER 2**  
**SUE BUGG & FRIENDS**  
*flute ensemble*

**Tidings  
of Joy**

**Tuesday DECEMBER 9**  
**WESTON JENNINGS & FRIENDS**  
*harpsichord & more*

**Tuesday DECEMBER 16**  
**LORI SMITH & FRIENDS**  
*harp, organ, strings & soprano*



Supporting this Ukrainian family is a living expression of our mission and our deepest Christian values. It is love in action—the very heart of outreach. To help coordinate and sustain this ministry, Christ Church established the **Loving Our Neighbors Taskforce**, dedicated to identifying and assisting those in need within our community.

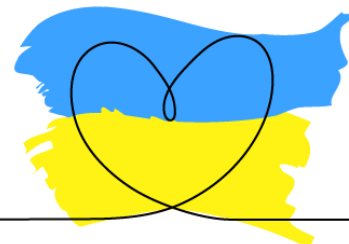
For nearly three years, the generosity of this congregation has provided housing, food, clothing, healthcare, transportation, and spiritual care for our Ukrainian family. As time goes on and challenges persist, the need for continued support remains. Their journey is not over and our call to walk beside them continues.

We now invite our Christ Church family to **renew and expand your support** for our Ukrainian family. Together, we can continue to offer stability, dignity, and hope to these two remarkable women who have already endured so much. Their story is one of survival, faith, and grace—and a testament to what love can accomplish when God's people unite in service.

Please prayerfully consider a gift to the **Ukrainian Family Support Fund**, in-person, by mail, or using the link below:  
[www.christchurchtyler.aware3.net/give/](http://www.christchurchtyler.aware3.net/give/)

Every contribution, large or small, makes a difference and reaffirms who we are as a community of faith. Let us continue to walk alongside our Ukrainian neighbors as they rebuild their lives in peace, surrounded by the love and care of this congregation.

As Jesus taught us, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40



# Christmas Pageant

Practice during Sunday school  
starts November 30

CCD: December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM

CCS: December 21st at 11:05 AM

register here>>>



[christchurchtyler.org/christmas-pageant](http://christchurchtyler.org/christmas-pageant)



Sunday, December 14  
12:30pm @ CCS

## CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

11/19 **Geo Hernandez,**  
11/21 **Sarah Chambers,**  
11/27 **Kate Eagleton,**  
11/28 **Hunter Jensen, 12/2 Amelia Ayres**

WEAR AN UGLY SWEATER!



## Caroling in the Azalea District

6:00PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

MEET BY THE STAGE AT BERGFELD PARK.



Trees are at  
both campuses!

DOING THE MOST GOOD

**Please adopt an angel  
by taking a tag & a bag.**

Return gifts to the church by November 30th.

Contact McKinley Terry, Interim Director of Student Ministries,  
for more info [mterry@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:mterry@christchurchtyler.org).

Ushering in Advent

# ADVENT WREATHS BONFIRE

hosted by  
**venite**  
open to all

Friday, November 21  
6:00pm | South Campus Pavilion

Join us under the pavilion for an evening of  
advent wreath making,  
followed by a time of  
worship around the fire.  
Mulled wine for adults, hot chocolate for kids.

Please RSVP  
\$10/wreath







# Advent

December 2-16<sup>th</sup> | 12:00pm Tuesdays

**Tidings of Joy Concert Series**

*followed by a light lunch*

Christ Church **Downtown**

11:30am *Praying the Anglican Rosary*

December 4-18<sup>th</sup> | 12:00pm Thursdays

**1928 Holy Eucharist**

Christ Church **Downtown**

December 7<sup>th</sup> | 6:00pm

**Service of Nine Lessons & Carols+**

Christ Church **Downtown**

December 13<sup>th</sup> | 6:00pm

**Caroling in the Azalea District**

meet up location TBD

December 21<sup>st</sup> | 11:05am

Christ Church **South**

**Children's Christmas Pageant+**

# Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*This was the true Light that,  
coming into the world,  
enlightens every person.  
John 1:9*

# Christmas

Christmas Eve - December 24<sup>th</sup>

Christ Church **Downtown**

4:00pm **Children's Christmas Pageant+**

7:30pm **Christmas Eve Eucharist+~**

10:30pm **Service of Lessons & Carols; THE SOLEMN EUCHARIST~**

Christmas Day - December 25<sup>th</sup>

Christ Church **Downtown**

10:00am **Holy Eucharist**

 **CHRIST**  
CHURCH • EPISCOPAL

*Advent & Christmas 2025*

+ Nursery Available  
~ Candlelight Service

*In Our Prayers*

**Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:**

Luba, Maria, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Lisa, Anna Marie, Joshua, Pam, AJ, Jim, Frank, Angela, Ben, Artimus, WF, Christian, SW, Lauren, Maggie, Jennifer, Carmen, Carolyn, Linda, Chris, Dalton, Mike, Mark, Marian, Ann, Naomi, Desiree, Matthew, Frank, Amanda, Daniel, Warren, Graham, Jerry, Clara, FF, Casey, Lamar, Dominic, Carole, David, Hunter, Rhonda, Mark, Max, Joey, Mike, Jeremy, Austin, Kerry, Dot, Rylan

**The Anglican Communion:** *The Diocese of Remo (Nigeria)*

**The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of Virginia & Washington DC & MD*

**Diocese of Texas:** *St. Timothy's—Lake Jackson & St. Michael's—LaMarque*

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Re-sets 11/30/25

Please contact The Rev. Stephen Stine if you'd like to keep or add someone to the prayer list 903.530.8168 or ssti@tjc.edu.

**Welcome the newly baptized:**

*Caroline Mae Fletcher,*  
daughter of Lauren & Jeff Fletcher.

November 16, 2025

Christ Church South

**upcoming**

**FRIDAY | November 21**

**Wreath-Making & Bonfire**

6:00pm | CCS

RSVP: [christchurchtyler.org/venite](http://christchurchtyler.org/venite)

**WEDNESDAY | November 26**

**Church offices close at noon** for Thanksgiving  
reopen Monday December 1st

**MONDAY | DECEMBER 1**

**Decorating the Christmas Tree**

9am—Noon | Downtown

All are welcome!

**TUESDAYS IN ADVENT | December 2, 9, 16**

**Tidings of Joy Concerts**

Noon | Downtown in the Nave

followed by light lunch in the Parish Hall

**WEDNESDAY | December 3**

**Women's Depth Group**

6:00pm | CCS

**THURSDAYS IN ADVENT | December 4, 11, 18**

**1928 Eucharist**

Noon | CCD

**SUNDAY | December 7**

**Coffee Time**

10:00am Downtown in the Guild Hall

**Service of Nine Lessons & Carols**

6:00pm in the Nave | CCD

**TUESDAY | December 9**

**DOK Christmas Party**

5:30-7 @ the home of Melissa Day

2820 Pecan Drive, Tyler

**THURSDAY | December 11**

**Keys to the Kingdom | Theology Book Study**

3:00pm Downtown in the Guild Hall

\*RSVP [office@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:office@christchurchtyler.org)

**SATURDAY | December 13**

**Primetimers Theater Outing**

\*if you purchased tickets, they can be picked up at the  
Parish Secretary's desk downtown.

2:30 Tyler Civic Theater (see graphic below)

**Caroling in the Azalea District**

6:00pm meet at Bergfeld Park Stage

**SUNDAY | December 14**

**5th Gear** [5th Grade Program]

12:30pm | CCS

**SUNDAY | December 21st**

**Children's Christmas Pageant**

11:05am Christ Church South

**WEDNESDAY | Christmas Eve - December 24th**

Church offices close at noon & reopen December 29th

Christ Church Downtown

4:00pm **Children's Christmas Pageant**

7:30pm **Christmas Eve Eucharist**

10:30pm **Candlelight Service**

**THURSDAY | Christmas Day - December 25th**

10:00am **Holy Eucharist**

Christ Church Downtown

**SUNDAY | December 28 & January 4**

7:30am & 10:00am **Holy Eucharist** | CCD

11:05am **Holy Eucharist** | CCS



**Christmas Tree Decorating**  
**DOWNTOWN Campus**

Monday, December 1st | 9am-12

*Let's trim the tree together!! Join us!*



**Next one: Dec 7th**



## THE VESTRY

Mr. Bill Clawater, *Treasurer*  
Mr. Tim Alexander, *Asst. Treasurer*  
CLASS OF 2025

Mr. Julius Bergfeld, Mrs. Catherine Buhrkuhl,  
Mr. Steven Comte, Mrs. Karen Hughes,  
Mr. Mark Shuttlesworth-Jr. *Warden CCD*  
CLASS OF 2026

Mr. Ashley Bracken, Mr. John Bufo  
Ms. Joyce McGee, Mrs. Sara McElroy,  
Mrs. Ann Weissmann-*Clerk*  
CLASS OF 2027

Dr. Roger Fowler-*Sr. Warden*,  
Mr. Jim Johnson-*Jr. Warden CCS*, Mr. George Lollis,  
Dr. Bob McKinney, Mrs. Shannon Teagarden

### Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year C BCP 1979 Lectionary

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

The Last Sunday of Pentecost | Christ the King  
Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 46, Colossians 1:11-20  
Luke 23:35-43 or Luke 19:29-38

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Advent 1 (Year A begins)  
Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122  
Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 24:37-44

Sustained  
**GOD'S HAND**  
STEWARDSHIP 2026



210 pledges as of 11.19.2025

{25% increased their pledge from last year | 27 new pledges}

Scan the QR code for more info & to make your pledge!

Questions: contact Michael Osburn, Parish Administrator.  
903.597.9854 or mardoin@christchurchtyler.org

Christ Church  
EPISCOPAL  
GIFT SHOP

#### OPEN HOURS:

Sunday 9am–11am

Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am–1:00pm

giftshop@christchurchtyler.org

{2026 liturgical calendars now for sale}

Come on in! The Gift Shop is decked out for Christmas with Advent wreaths, nativities, scents, ornaments, gifts, etc.

Shop early - limited quantities

## CLERGY & STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Doyle  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Texas*

The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher  
*Bishop Suffragan*

The Rt. Rev. Kai Ryan  
*Bishop Suffragan*

The Rt. Rev. Hector Monterroso  
*Bishop Assistant*

The Rev. David Luckenbach  
*Rector* dluckenbach@christchurchtyler.org

The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin  
*Associate Rector* chartin@christchurchtyler.org

The Rev. Ted Welty  
*Associate Rector* twelty@christchurchtyler.org

The Rev. Stephen Stine  
*Deacon* ssti@tjc.edu

The Rev. Tim Kennedy  
*All Saints Episcopal School Senior Chaplain, Assisting Priest*

The Rev. Leesa Lewis  
*All Saints Episcopal School Assistant Chaplain, Assisting Priest*

Ms. Michael Osburn  
*Parish Administrator* mardoin@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. Jeffrey Ford  
*Organist/Choirmaster* jford@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. A.J. Meals  
*Assistant Organist* mealsa@gladewaterisd.com

Mr. McKinley Terry  
*Interim Director of Student Ministries* mterry@christchurchtyler.org

Mrs. Zoe Montes  
*Director of Children's Ministries* zward@christchurchtyler.org

Ms. Jessica Creel  
*Assistant Director of Children's Ministries* jcreel@christchurchtyler.org

Mrs. Valerie Huggler  
*Parish Secretary* office@christchurchtyler.org

Mrs. Samantha Hague  
*Director of Communications* shague@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. Robert Finney  
*Music Leader, Christ Church South* epiphanyttx@gmail.com

Ms. Jennifer Ducote *Sexton*  
Mr. Anthony Moore *Sexton*  
Mr. Kendrick Milton *Assistant Sexton*

Jessi Mayes *Nursery Coordinator*, Reagan Darling,  
Priscilla Yeboah, Kimberly Wanjiru, Jada Akrong *Nursery*

#### Pastoral Emergency Contacts

In the event of a pastoral emergency,  
Call the church office during office hours 903.597.9854;  
after hours call The Rev. David Luckenbach 903-279-8777,  
The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin 903-952-3850,  
or The Rev. Stephen Stine, Deacon, 903-530-8168.



Christ Church | Episcopal  
118 S. Bois d'Arc  
Tyler, TX 75702

903.597.9854  
office@christchurchtyler.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

## ***Worship Schedule***

### **Sunday Worship Services**

7:30am **CCD:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite I*

9:00am **CCD:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite II*

11:00am **CCD:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite I*

11:05am~ **CCS:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite II*

*~live-streamed [christchurchtyler.org](http://christchurchtyler.org)*

### **CHRIST CHURCH: ONE CHURCH—TWO CAMPUSES**

**CCD:** Christ Church *Downtown*, 118 S. Bois d' Arc, Tyler, TX 75702 (*office address*)

**CCS:** Christ Church *South*, 15747 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler, TX 75703

[www.christchurchtyler.org](http://www.christchurchtyler.org) | [office@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:office@christchurchtyler.org)

Please Note: *The Crucifer* is published twice monthly (once in July & December).  
If you have something you would like to see published in *The Crucifer*, please contact  
Samantha Hague at 903-597-9854, [shague@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:shague@christchurchtyler.org).



*The vision of Christ Church is  
to be recognized as a joyful,  
spirit-filled community of  
apostles reaching out and  
transforming lives for Christ.*