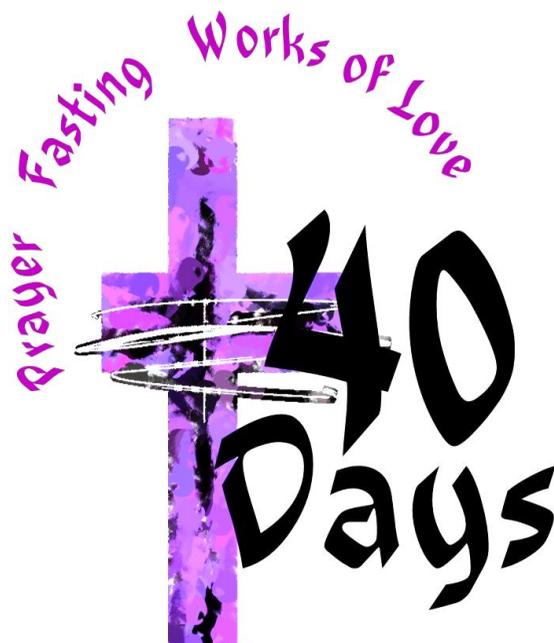


CHRIST CHURCH

NEWTON, NEW JERSEY

The Episcopal Church in the Heart of Sussex County



Founded in 1769

Chartered on August 15, 1774

62 Main Street, Newton, NJ 07860

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www.christchurchnewton.org

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NEWTON

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

8:00 & 10:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite I

**omitted at 8:00 am*

As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship, please keep conversation to a minimum.

***Prelude** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light *arr. Wayne L. Wold*

***Processional Hymn #645** The King of love my shepherd is *St. Columba*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People **His mercy endureth for ever.**

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

The Confession of Sin & Absolution

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The Congregation is invited to kneel. A period of silence is kept.

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

Celebrant The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Kyrie *8 am: spoken*
Lord, have mercy upon us. **Christ, have mercy upon us.** Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show

you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

prayed responsively

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
 I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
 and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
 and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
 for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
 you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

***Sequence Hymn #490** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Houston

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a

prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Chris Streeter, Rector

The Nicene Creed

Please stand.

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.

The Prayers of the People

Please stand or kneel.

Let us pray for the Church, the world and all people according to their needs.

A brief silence is kept.

God our Creator, we acknowledge that you are the God of all people, the God of all generations. We thank you for our lives, which are in your hands; for our souls, which are in your keeping; and for the signs of your presence we encounter everyday.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all people in their daily life and work; for our families, friends, and neighbors; for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, including those on our prayer list. Comfort and relieve those who suffer, and help us to be agents of your healing and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers in this time of uncertainty for all enduring the consequences of war. Protect those serving in our Armed Forces. Equip our leaders to help accomplish a cessation of violence and establish lasting peace. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

The season of Lent calls us to a time of self-reflection. Guide us, O God, as we look inward so that we may see the truth of our lives; and give us the courage and strength to make an honest effort to live according to your will. We pray for your pardon, forgiveness, and support. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all whom we love, but see no longer. Grant them light and peace in that place where there is no pain or sorrow, but life eternal. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant may add a concluding collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**



Welcome & Announcements

The Rev. Chris Streeter

*To make a donation or to pay your pledge online,
please visit www.christchurchnewton.org
and click on the "Make a Contribution" tab.*



*Scan the QR Code with your phone
and you will be directed to our online giving portal.*

*Offertory Anthem

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Virgil Thompson

*My Shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is His Name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wand'ring spirit back
When I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.*

*When I walk thru the shades of death,
Thy presence is my stay;
A word of Thy supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows;
Thine oil anoints my head.*

*The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be mine abode,
And all my work be praise!
There would I find a settled rest
(While others go and come),
No more a stranger or a guest,
But like a child at home.*

- paraphrase of Psalm 23

And through these days of that pen - i - tence, and of
 A - bide with us, that so, this life of
 through thy Pas - sion - tide, yea, ev - er - more, in
 suf - fering o - ver - past, an Eas - ter of un -
 life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
 end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

The Holy Communion Eucharistic Prayer II

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant
 It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus and Benedictus

8 am: spoken; 10 am: S-114

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
 Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
 - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth -
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

8 am: *Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
 People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

10 am:

*Agnus Dei (S158)

Men

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

Women

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

All

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

All are welcome at God's Table

Please come forward, at the direction of the ushers. The bread is received in the open palm. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the priest. The wine, if desired, may be taken from the common cup by drinking (placing your hand gently on the base of the chalice to guide it). If you do not wish to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing from the priest.

***Communion** Deck Thyself, My Soul with Gladness *arr. Johannes Brahms*

***Communion Hymn #343** Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless *St. Agnes*

Thanksgiving after Communion

Please stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Solemn Prayer

During the season of Lent, in place of a blessing, a Solemn Prayer over the People is used:

Celebrant Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this thy people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn #663

The Lord, my God, my shepherd is

Crimond

The Dismissal

Clergy Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

There is no Voluntary during the season of Lent.

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Serving in God's House Today

8 am

Lector: Walter Kiechel

L.E.M.: Mary Ann Risley

Usher: Mike Ragsdale

10 am

Crucifer: Brad Hodgins

Lectors: Eric Dietz, Geri Livengood, Lori Parks

L.E.M.: Tim Profeta

Ushers: Diana Riker and John Jaqueth

Christ Church Prayer List

We offer our prayers for those who are ill, including:

Carl, Chandler, Chelsee, Craig, Daryl, Ed, Georgeann, Gizelle,
Irene, Ishi, Jason, Jim, Jim D., Jim W., Joyce, Lorraine, Lorraine,
Lynn, Marsha, Mary, Mary Ellen, Ruth, Steve, and Tricia

We offer our prayers for those serving in the armed forces, including:

Angel, Dean, Jonathan, Michael, Nicholas, Parker, and Robert

We rejoice with those celebrating birthdays this week, including:

Agnes Beatty, Jessica Caruso, Micaela Ciccolella, John Jaqueth, John Pachnos

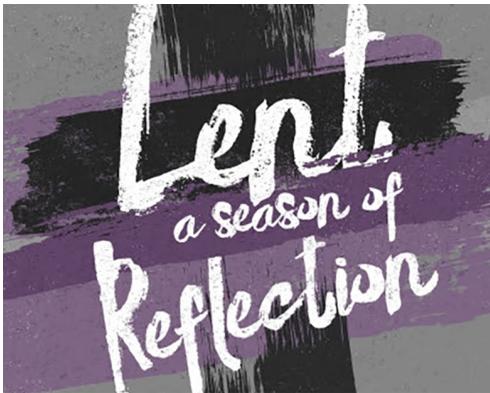
*Please contact the church office to have names added or removed from our prayer list,
or to add a birthday or anniversary to our list. We want to be praying with you!*

Joining us in worship & fellowship on March 8, 2026

8:00 am: 33

10:00 am: 150

Announcements & Events



Lenten Series 2026
Wednesday Evenings in Lent
7:00-8:00 pm

Spiritual Struggles:
Strategies for Strengthening
& Sustaining our Faith

Led by Chris Streeter and Tricia Lyons, we will spend time identifying some of the spiritual struggles and pitfalls that can challenge and discourage us. We hope you will join us throughout the season of Lent, preparing our ourselves in heart, body, mind and spirit for the coming of Easter and reclaiming the joys given to us through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our series continues this Wednesday, March 18 from 7:00-8:00 pm in Holley Hall.



Holy Week 2026 at Christ Church

Join us throughout this most sacred week as we mark the story of Christ's death and resurrection.

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday: The Sunday of the Passion

We will gather at 9:45 am in the Newton Town Square for our opening procession

8 am & 10 am

Holy Eucharist w/ Procession

Monday, March 30

Tuesday, March 31

Wednesday, April 1

7 pm: Evening Prayer

7 pm: Sung Tenebrae Service

7 pm: Evening Prayer

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday

7 pm

Holy Eucharist & The Stripping of the Altar

Our night-long Watch begins immediately following the service.

Friday, April 3

Good Friday

8 am: Mass of the Presanctified

4 pm: Holy Week Family Service

This 45-minute offering is geared especially for families and young children.

We'll begin in the sanctuary and walk to different stations to learn the story of Holy Week.

7 pm: Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, April 4

Holy Saturday

8 am: Holy Saturday Liturgy

7 pm: The Great Vigil of Easter

Festive Greek Dinner immediately following in Holley Hall

Sunday, April 5

The Sunday of the Resurrection

8 am & 10 am

Holy Eucharist

Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the 10 am service



Easter Flower Donations Due by Sunday, March 29

Envelopes for Easter flower donations can be found in your pew, or by speaking with one of our ushers.

Please have your donations submitted by
Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday)
for inclusion in our Easter Sunday bulletin.

For questions, please reach out to the church office:
office@christchurchnewton.org or 973-383-2245.

Christ Church Staff & Leadership

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, 11th Bishop of Newark

The Rev. Christopher M. Streeter, Rector

cstreeter@christchurchnewton.org
585-730-0904: *pastoral emergencies*

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Lyons, Associate Priest

The Rev. Candace Sandfort
& The Rev. Jeanette Hile, Assisting Clergy

Geri Livengood & Mary Ann Risley, Wardens

Lisa Pachnos, Interim Admin. Asst.

Joseph Mello, Director of Music/Choirmaster

Diana Greene, Organist

Deborah Mello, Youth Choir

The Rev. Jenny Streeter, Director of Christian Formation

Sue Mittelstadt, Children's Ministry

Luz Quintero, Sexton