
Christ Church News - Please Read!

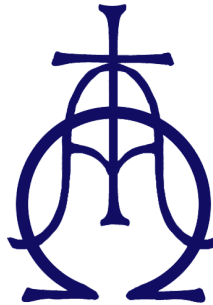
2 messages

Christ Episcopal Church <joldstonemoore@wittenberg.edu>
Reply-To: joldstonemoore@wittenberg.edu
To: tcwildstar@gmail.com

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 1:09 PM

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH XENIA

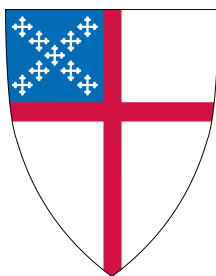
NewsNote Vol. 2, No. 41
Sunday After Pentecost
Proper 18

**Welcome!**

Celebrant and Preacher: Rev. Dr. Jennifer Oldstone-Moore

We WILL stream to Facebook this week

[Link to Facebook page](#)



A Message from Rev. Jen...

This note comes with a long attachment. I think it will be of interest, but if it is not, **please scroll down to the announcements below**—there's lots, and they are important! --Jen+

Dear friends:

I've spoken with many of you who have been confronted by friends, relatives, or even strangers about your faith—and who have “proof texting,” or using an out-of-context quote from the Bible to “prove” their point. It can be frustrating or even scary: we know in our hearts that a teaching or practice of the church is true (for instance, that having females speak in church), yet they have a sentence in plain English that says the opposite.

I was so inspired by the Gospel passage assigned last week (Mark 7:1-23) which shows us that Jesus reads the Bible in an expansive rather than literal way, gauging the heart of the actor and the results of the actions as his starting place. He's taken to task by religious leaders whom Jesus accuses of being so committed to the traditions that stem from the “words in plain English [actually, they were in Greek, as Jews in this time used the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the original Hebrew Bible]. Jesus' standard way of assessing any idea, or practice, or way of living, as we see over and over again, is to ask “who is kept out?” and then to figure out how to keep them in. Jesus leads with compassion and mercy, as well as affirming that we can't ever be as dirty on the outside as our hearts make us, all generated from the inside.

This question about how to read and what to prioritize is a vitally important question. The Bible is our indispensable connection with the words and teachings of Jesus and many other teachers and prophets of the faith. And it is so important—and takes so much work-- to understand the Bible. We can't just pretend that what is normal in our day in our country was normal in the lives of those we read of in the Bible.

In my reading I came across a letter to radio personality Dr. Laura in response to comments she made about gays and lesbians. The letter humorously makes the serious points that **a) we can't take the Bible literally, and b) that God is still speaking to us and changing our minds, and thus our lives.** The church DOES change its understanding of scripture, just as Jesus changed the understanding of scripture and appropriate action in his day. We see the early church change when they decide not to make circumcision and rules about food a part of the Jesus movement. We see the church change when the Bible is no longer evidence in favor of slavery, but rather in favor of freedom. We see the church change when letters in the New Testament are no longer used as authority to keep women from speaking in or even leading (!) church. We see the church change as Jesus changed when we affirm loving relationships that are not heterosexual, and that LGBTQ people can be ordained and consecrated. God is still speaking to us. The Bible is a living

document. The primary principle is loving God with everything we have, and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

This letter shows how “text proofing,” or pulling one line of scripture from the Bible out of context to prove a point, is not a good method, and maybe is even dangerous. I hope you see the humor, and the seriousness, in this letter, and that you double down your resolve to understand the Bible as fully as possible, in addition to knowing its words.

Peace be with you,
Jennifer+

Dear Dr. Laura,
Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God’s Law. I have learned a great deal from your show, and I try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind him that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate.

I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some of the specific laws and how to best follow them.

a) When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord (Lev 1:9). The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?

b) I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?

c) I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness (Lev 15:19-24). The problem is, how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.

d) Lev. 25:44 states that I may indeed possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighboring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can’t I own Canadians?

e) I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself?

f) A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an Abomination (Lev 11:10), it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don’t agree. Can you settle this?

g) Lev 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here?

h) Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev 19:27. How should they die?

i) I know from Lev 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?

j) My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev 19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? (Lev 24:10-16) Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)

I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help.

Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.

Your devoted disciple and adoring fan.

From <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/letter-to-dr-laura/>
Accessed August 31, 2021

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NEW Parish Office Emails

We need to split up the main email (ChristEpiscopalXenia@gmail.com) so we three women can keep it all straight. Please update the emails in your computer for when you want to contact Rev. Jen, Becky or Nikki.

Rev. "Head Coach" Jen - CECX.Priest@gmail.com

Bookkeeper "Quarterback" Becky - CECX.Bookkeeper@gmail.com

Parish Administrator "Playmaker" Nikki - CECX.Office@gmail.com

New Healing Service

We will begin a midweek service on most first, second, and third Wednesdays. This will be a liturgy for healing and communion.

The next service is September 1st at 11:00 am in the sanctuary.

Karen Ingraham will be undergoing knee surgery at the same the Healing Service is underway; please keep her in your prayers.

As we learn what times are best for those who wish to attend, we may adjust the time for this service--do read your newsletter.

*In order to protect the ill and those who care for them, **masks will be worn over nose and mouth by all at this service, regardless of vaccine status.***

Proclaiming the Dream: Diocesan Convocation

Saturday, September 25 ~ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ~ Procter Center

We're gathering the diocesan family for our first in-person event in almost 2 years! Part country fair, part tent revival, there will be fun, formation and fellowship for all ages –

- Story Sharing
- Liturgical Free-Cycle tent
- DSO Bake-off
- Revival Eucharist at 3 p.m.
- Exhibits & Vendors
- Games
- Kid's activities
- Arts & Crafts
- Music
- and more!

Activities will be mainly outdoors. Masks will be required for any activities inside buildings at Procter.

This event is free! Food will be available for purchase or you can bring your own. **Registration is required for planning purposes.**

Learn more and register!



We Need Your Musical Input!

What's *your* favorite hymn? We want to know! You can either email Nikki [here](#), give the office a quick ring at 937-372-1594, or add it to the form in the Church!

Current COVID-19 Protocols

New Update from our diocese (as of August 2, 2021):

- *People attending services and meetings held indoors are to resume wearing masks, even if they are vaccinated*
- *Communion in one kind, bread, only.*
- *singing with masks on*
- *no seating limitations*

Read the complete guidelines [here](#). Please be prepared for changes as we continue to learn about this virus.

Third Dose For Immune-Compromised Individuals Available at GCPH

Greene County Public Health (GCPH) is providing the 3rd dose of the COVID-19 vaccine only to those individuals who are immune-compromised who have had either Pfizer or Moderna. At this time, it is not recommended for an additional dose for those who received the J&J vaccine.

- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (20 milligrams or more of prednisone daily or an equivalent) including:
 - alkylating agents
 - antimetabolites
 - cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive
 - transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs
 - tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers
 - other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Moderate or severe immunodeficiency such as DiGeorge or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome
- Received a CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant and are within two years of transplant or taking immunosuppression therapy

- Received a solid-organ transplant and are presently taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Undergoing cancer treatment – solid tumors and hematologic malignancies

GCPH holds a COVID-19 vaccine clinic on Thursday of each week from 2:00 – 3:30pm at its main office located at [360 Wilson Drive](#) in Xenia. You can visit [this website](#) to schedule a time, or simply stop by our clinic on any Thursday during the above hours. Be sure to bring your COVID-19 vaccination card with you to your appointment. If you have any questions, please call 937-374-5600.

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Scripture Readings for Proper 18 (September 1st)

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

James 2:1-10, [11-13], 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

*If you're on a computer, you can [click here to read the Scripture Readings](#).
You can find copies of our weekly devotional at the bottom of this note.*

Two Workshops with Faith Background Speakers

How can we help create welcoming communities in Christ when people face mental health challenges and/or substance use disorder in themselves or their loved ones?

Please join us for two workshops by well-known speakers in our area who will address us as the faith community:

Thursday, Sept. 9th, 7 pm - Dr. Ebony Speakes-Hall, "The Face to be Free: Erasing the Stigma of Mental Health" at 7:00 pm.

Thursday, Sept. 16th 3:30 pm - Wendy Dolittle, speaking on Understanding the Brain and Addiction.

[Click here to register for either speaker.](#) For more information, click [here to email Pastor Rachel Tune.](#)

You Oughta Be in Pictures!

We need your help to take pictures of our church, parish hall, and people! We will use them to not only update our website but also to have for other needs as they arise. Once you have pictures, you can contact Nikki via phone or email and she can help you get the pictures to the office once she knows the details of the camera you are using. Please take pictures whenever the opportunity presents itself - or when the mood strikes you!

Prayers for your daily devotions:

Current Prayer List

We pray for healing for those who suffer from any illness or distress, especially Ron, Tom, Rick, Kim, Ruth, Cynda, Heather, and for all who suffer because of COVID-19.

Long Term Prayer List

Holly, Madysun, John T, Ken, Lamar, Jess and Tim, Greg, David E, Heidi, Karen, David O., John G., Carolyn, and Diana and Peter.

Our Vivacious Vestry

Want to keep up with our vaunted Vestry? We will begin posting a link to the minutes for their meetings. Just check this space after the second Wednesday of each month when the Vestry meet to stay in the know. **Vestry Minutes 8/11/21**

Your Vestry members are:

- Jennie Hudson, Senior Warden
- Bradley Alexander, Junior Warden
- Debbie Gillespie, Member at Large
- Rick Bayless, Member at Large
- Jim Goins, Member at Large

Spare Calendars

Do you have any 2022 calendars that you won't use? Brad needs them! Please bring them by the office or the church whenever is convenient.

Free Classes From the Learning Portal

Click on the title of the class for more information and to take any or all of these courses at any time that's convenient for you.

Holy Hardware

Learn about the architecture, furnishings, and beliefs that make up Christian worship. Priest and liturgist Deon Johnson unpacks the theology and meaning behind some of the more common elements of 'holy hardware.'

Contemplative Knitting

Learn how connecting a creative passion, such as knitting, to a contemplative prayer practice can change the consistency with which you pray, thereby deepening your relationship with God and helping you to serve others.

The Bible and Evangelism

Evangelism, intentionally sharing our Christian faith through word and deed, is being centered in the Jesus Movement and its important for us to search the immense resources of scripture in order to inform and empower our work and mission. In this course, Learn how to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

Weekly Devotional

Our weekly devotional comes from Suzanne Guthrie's "At the Edge of the Enclosure: Soul Work for Sunday." This is a lovely devotional that takes a spiritual pilgrimage each week with reflection, prayer, art, poetry, and commentary on the scriptures. There are links to other resources; Rev. Jen loves the Visual Commentary on Scripture **Edge of the Enclosure**

There is a tab on the main page that will take you to the scripture readings for the week.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Last Week's Sermon

Click the link for Rev. Steve's sermon. **Sermon from August 29th, 2021.**

NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY

Christ Church Clothes Etc. Outreach:

We are starting a special area to collect clothes for Children in foster care! Please spread the word and donate as able.

******We need volunteers to help with our Community Closet!******

Do you have a little spare time? Want to help our community? Would you like to spend time with other people doing the same? Even if you just have an hour or two, please give the office a call and we'll figure out a time that works. *This includes people who might like to come in when the office only has one or two people in it.*

We need clothes for our community! While we gladly accept all clothing in good condition, we especially need items for school-aged kiddos, teens, and men. Hygiene items are always in great need. Contact the office for details.

...I know that I have life
only insofar as I have love.

I have no love
except it come from Thee.

Help me, please, to carry
this candle against the wind.

--Wendell Berry, *Leavings* (2012)

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