

Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, Pennsylvania

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Blessing of School Backpacks

August 10, 2025

8am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (spoken)

Page 5

10am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (sung)

Page 9



Today's Readings

The First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram; I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

!

The Holy Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: As we hear of God's love for this world, we give thanks for the gift of love in our own lives. We pray for a deepening and enriching of all the relationships in which we share, as we say, in your mercy, hear us.

Child: Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations. We pray for those living in any kind of fear and danger, the people of Ukraine and the Holy Land, especially those suffering from malnutrition and starvation. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Child Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word. Be especially with those who are celebrating this week: Carolyn Richie Taveres, Jae Marie Gonzalez, Dail Richie, Nathanael Faust-Shucker, Fernando Corona, Robert Keeler, William Widing III, David and Dail Richie and Dane and Chiyo Miller. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Child Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way, especially Bryce, our rector, Kevin, our bishop, Sean, our presiding bishop, Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda and Christ Church, Forest City. Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Child Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures. Be especially with those printed on our prayer list in the bulletin and any that we name now... Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Child Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you, remembering Mr. and Mrs. Matthias Roland and Mr. and Mrs. Solan Parkes. Raise us with them to eternal life. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

All: O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, PA

8am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Page numbers on the right side of this bulletin are from "The Book of Common Prayer" (BCP) - the black book in the pew racks.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please stand

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

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 Kyrie

Celebrant: Lord have mercy

People: **Christ have mercy**

Celebrant: Lord have mercy

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray:

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6 (full text on page 2 of this bulletin)

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord:

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24 (Read responsively by whole verse)

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken;
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God reveals himself in glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence;
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.

**He calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of his people.**

"Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."

**Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause;
for God himself is judge.**

Hear, O my people, and I will speak:
"O Israel, I will bear witness against you;
for I am God, your God.

**I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;
your offerings are always before me.**

Consider this well, you who forget God,
lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.

**Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me;
but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God."**

The Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (full text on page 2 of this bulletin)

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

The Gospel Reading: Luke 12:32-40 (full text on page 3 of this bulletin)

Before the reading

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

People: **Glory be to you, Lord Christ.**

After the reading

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord:

People: **Praise be to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated

The Homily

Please stand

The Nicene Creed 358

The Prayers of the People (page 4 of this bulletin)

Intercessor: Jesus, Lord of life,

People: **in your mercy, hear us.**

Confession of Sin 360

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A on page 361)

The Sanctus 362

The Celebrant concludes the Great Thanksgiving on page 11

The Lord's Prayer and Breaking of the Bread 364

The Invitation to Communion 364

Everyone is invited to receive. There will be two chalices for receiving: the first to drink from and the second chalice is for intinction (dipping the host instead of drinking.) Gluten Free wafers are available; if you require gluten free please indicate this when receiving. If you would prefer to receive a blessing please indicate this by crossing your arms while at the communion rail.

The Post-Communion Prayers

The Celebrant first prays the following:

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then all say together on page 365

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

8:00 AM Service Participants

Celebrant and Homilist

Reverend Bryce Wandrey

Communion Assistant

Ellen Sunderman

Lector and Intercessor

Dane Miller

Altar Guild

Linda Jones (captain,) Linda Lacey,

Brittany Underkofler, Armani

Rodroquez and

Julie-Anna Gonzalez (Trainee)

Usher

Chris Spohn

Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, PA

10am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Page numbers on the right side of this bulletin are from "The Book of Common Prayer" (BCP) - the black book in the pew racks.

Hymns can be found in the blue Hymnal 1982

Prelude

Prelude (Suite, Op. 5)

Maurice Durufle

Please stand

Processional Hymn 412 *Earth and all stars* (vss 1, 3, 5 and 6)

The Liturgy of the Word

Liturgist: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

All: 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.

Kyrie

Gregory Murray

Lord, have mer - cy Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray:

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6 (full text on page 2 of this bulletin)

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord:

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Hymn 490 *I want to walk as a child of the light*

The Holy Gospel: Luke 12:13-21 (full text on page 3 of this bulletin)

Before the reading

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

After the reading

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated

The Homily

Please stand

The Nicene Creed

358

The Prayers of the People (page 4 of this bulletin)

Intercessor: Jesus, Lord of life,

People: **in your mercy, hear us.**

Confession of Sin

360

The Peace

Liturgist: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements and Blessing of the Bookbags

All: Lord, bless these bags and everything within, May our children excel at math and at gym. Lord, bless our students and our teachers, Bless our classrooms and our bleachers. May this coming year be the best in every way, Lord, bless our steps now and every day. God, be in our minds and in our hearts, Be in our endings and in our starts. Amen.

The Offertory Anthem *O Salutaris*

Giuseppe Concone

Alison Whalen and Milah Smith, *Soloists*

Presentation Hymn Praise to God, immortal praise (Hymn 288 verse 1)

Praise to God, immortal praise,
for the love that crowns our days;
bounteous source of every joy,
let thy praise our tongues employ:
all to thee, our God, we owe,
source whence all our blessings flow.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A on page 361)

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 with the Great Thanksgiving on page 361

The Sanctus

Richard Proulx

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

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant concludes the Great Thanksgiving on page 362

The Lord's Prayer

364

The Fraction Anthem

Taize

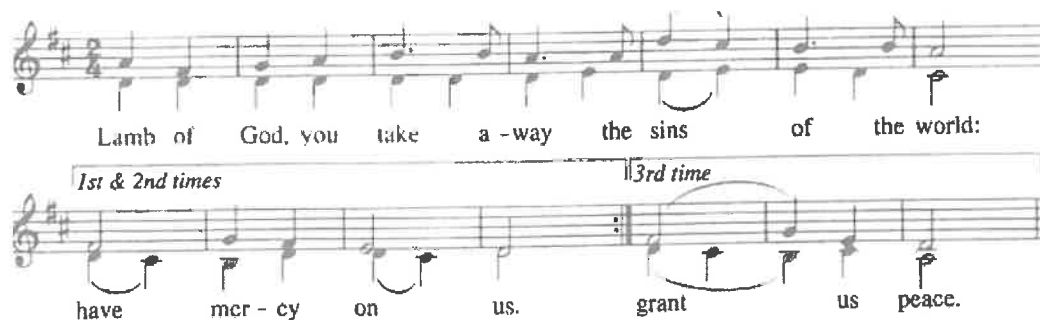
Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and ne-ver be
 hun - gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup,
 trust in him and you will not thirst.

The Invitation to Communion

Everyone is invited to receive. There will be two chalices for receiving: the first to drink from and the second chalice is for intinction (dipping the host instead of drinking.) Gluten Free wafers are available; if you require gluten free please indicate this when receiving. If you would prefer to receive a blessing please indicate this by crossing your arms while at the communion rail.

The Agnus Dei

Gregory Murray



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The Communion Hymns 711 *Seek ye first* and 325 *Let us break bread together*

If Eucharistic visitors are being sent forth today to take the sacrament to people at home, the following prayer is said after Communion:

Celebrant: In the name of God, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

All: **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

The Post-Communion Prayers

The Celebrant first prays the following:

Child: God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then all say together on page 365

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn 527 *Singing songs of expectation*

The Dismissal

Liturgist: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Toccata

Eugene Gigout

Covenant Cup



Join us for the first annual Covenant Cup, a friendly golf outing between Trinity Lutheran Church and Christ Episcopal Church, held at Heidelberg Country Club on Saturday, September 7th, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start.

The afternoon will feature men's and women's longest drive and closest-to-the-pin contests, followed by a celebratory banquet buffet featuring brisket and salmon. Registration is \$100 per player, or become a \$1,000 sponsor and receive four player spots along with event recognition. Final registration deadline is August 30th.

Come enjoy fellowship, fairways, and a little friendly competition!

Scan the QR code to
register today!

10AM Service Participants

Celebrant

Reverend Bryce Wandrey

Homilist

Alex Brantman

Organist and Choir Director

John Painter

Liturgist

Lauren Hoelscher

Verger

Matthew Hoelscher

Lector

Elizabeth West

Intercessor

Ian Hoelscher

Ushers

Luke Weyandt, Cora Handy, Olivia West, Ben West, Elliott Brantman, Scarlett Frymoyer

Gospel Book Bearer

Ian Hoelscher

Communion Assistants

Milah Smith and Victoria Wilson
Eliza Handy, Hannah Weyandt

Crucifer

Benjamin Frymoyer

Acolytes

Lauren Hoelscher and Zoe Morris

Altar Guild

Linda Jones (captain,) Linda Lacey,
Brittany Underkofler, Armani
Rodroquez and
Julie-Anna Gonzalez (Trainee)

For those in need of our prayers....

Runette	Kristin	Wyatt	Beverly
Connie	Randall	Cindy V.	Elaine
Chase	Parker-Stewart Family		Jeri
John Ryan	Ivar	Zach	Doris
Lisa S	Pat	Nancy	Kevin
Michael	Jeff	Earl	Cindy
Marlene	Lola	Sandi	MJ

Kindly submit any names you would like to be added to the prayer list by emailing Kim @officemgr@rdgchristchurch.org or writing the name on the paper on the table outside

Many thanks go to the Vestry and the Angels who helped them last night to feed the hungry people of Reading at Opportunity House. We are blessed by you!



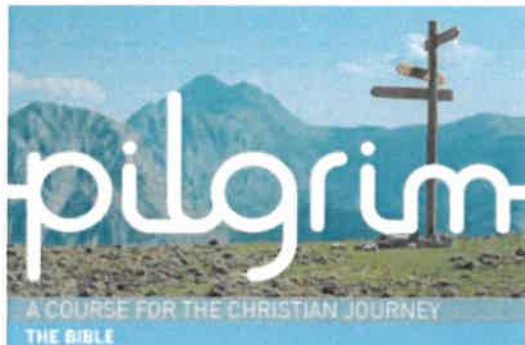
Are you ready for some football? On Sunday August 31st, at both 8am and 10am, we will be blessing the football teams again. Come dressed in your favorite teams gear and bring helmets and balls and anything else you would like to have blessed! This is another great chance to invite your football loving friends to Christ Church.



It's Christ Church night out with the Fightin' Phils on Friday September 12th at 6:45pm. We have 50 reserved tickets available for purchase at \$12 each and they are available to purchase after the service. Mark your calendars today!



Are you having a birthday or anniversary that we haven't mentioned? Please contact Kim in the office at officemgr@rdgchristchurch.org and we will be sure to add it to our list!



Adult Forum

What is the Bible? How was it given to us? How can we read it today? This six week Pilgrim Course on The Bible will help us answer all of those questions and more. The Bible is one of the most influential books in the world and is still the bestselling book of all time. Join us in the Parlor at 9:05am every Sunday as we journey with the many books and authors of The Bible.

Regular Christ Church Office hours:

Monday: 8:00 am - 2:00 PM; Tuesday 8:00AM-12:30PM

Wednesday 8:00 am - 2:00 PM

The Christ Church Mission

We are grounded in the values of love, service and faithful stewardship. Firmly rooted in compassionate collaboration, we welcome partnerships that nurture our neighbors and address pressing issues in our community. We endeavor to be a cornerstone for the city of Reading, enabling all that come through our doors to experience the dignity, purpose and opportunities that God desires for everyone.

Welcome to Christ Church

We are happy to welcome you to our church and worship services. Here are some things that you may find helpful. If you would like to know more about us there are cards that you can fill out hanging in each pew. Please hand your completed card to an usher as you leave today. Please join us after the service in our Fellowship Hall (down the stairs near the front of the church and on your right at the bottom of the stairs) to get to know us better. The most readily accessible restroom is through the door near the front of the sanctuary. Once you go through that door turn right; the restroom is across from the elevator. Parking is available for free on the street on Sundays and in the M&T parking lot behind the church on the corner of Washington Street and Madison Ave.



August 10th is Children and Youth Sunday!

Kicking it off at 9:05AM in the Parlor, our Appalachian Service Project Team will be presenting on their trip to West Virginia. Don't miss it!

Then, at the 10AM service, not only are we Blessing our Children's Backpacks but our children and youth will also be leading the service and there will

be a special homily! Help us get our students and teachers ready for a new school year by joining us for this wonderful service.

After the service Sweet Ride Ice Cream truck will be parked on Court Street and serving free ice cream! Please invite a friend who is going back to school to be with us. They will receive a special gift to clip to their backpack and free ice cream - what could be better?



Vestry

Diane Morris (Senior Warden/Stewardship)
Chuck Brantman (Junior Warden/Property)
Anita Powell (Pastoral Care)
Pam Wheat (Grants)
Carolyn Handy (Hospitality)
Rick Wolf (Finances)
Bob Kappenstein (Worship)
Kim Alarcon (Security Task Force)
Mary Arguelles (Children/Youth)
Jill Braun (Community Ministries)
Matt Hoelscher (Community Ministries)
Michelle Rowles-Cranmer (Daycare/Nursery Initiatives)

Our Ministries

Worship

Acolytes
Altar Guild
Eucharistic Ministers
Lectors and Intercessors
Vergers
Guitar and Taizé Services
Healing Team
Centering Prayer
Morning Prayer
Ushers
Kristallnacht Service

Music

Parish Choir
Bell Ringers
Children's Choir
Fall Festival of Arts

Education

Adult Forum
Library
Children's Ministries
Education For Ministry
Bible Study
EYC

Pastoral Care

Cards and notes
Prayer Lists
Eucharistic Visitors
Flower Delivery
Pastoral Visits

Fellowship

Sunday Fellowship Hour
50+ Club
Hospitality Committee

Business

Property
Churchyard Maintenance
Stewardship Team
Planned Giving
Communications
Capital Campaign
Security Task Force

Community Outreach

Opportunity House
Rummage
Mary's Shelter
Narcotics Anonymous
Literacy Council of
Reading-Berks
ESL Dinners
Daughters of the King
Episcopal Church Women
Helping Harvest
Veterans Coalition of PA
Angel Tree
Berks Youth Chorus
Sunday Service
Livestream
Berks County Community Foundation

Altar Candle Memorials for August are given for Blessings Received by Susan Frankowski; Paul and Alice Swain and Arthur and Mary Hoare by Stephen and Charlotte Hoare and Sherry Feick Chandler by David and Judy Feick.

Altar flowers are given today for the Glory of God and in Loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Matthias Roland and Mr. and Mrs. Solan Parkes by the estates of Charles and Grace Parkes.



Do you need prayers? All of us have our times when we don't feel whole and we need someone to pray for us. Or, we have someone in our lives who is broken and needs healing. Our Healing Prayer Team is back on the 3rd Sunday of every month to pray for you and with you. If you would like to join them please come up to communion early (after the ushers and choir), commune with our prayer team, receive anointing with holy oil and then proceed to the baptistry for healing prayers.

**This Week at Christ Church
Sunday, August 10—Ninth Sunday
after Pentecost (Children and Youth
Sunday)**

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9:05AM Adult Forum *featuring
Appalachian Service Project
Presentation*
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung) with
Blessing of the Backpacks and Sweet
Ride Ice cream
4PM—5PM NA meeting

Monday, August 11
12PM—1PM NA meeting

Tuesday, August 12
9:30AM Zoom Centering Prayer
12PM—1PM NA meeting

Wednesday, August 13
9AM Staff Meeting
12PM—Noonday Eucharist
12PM—1PM NA Meeting
5:30-7PM NA Meeting

Thursday, August 14
9:30AM Bible Study
9:30AM Zoom Centering Prayer
11AM Morning Prayer in the Chapel
12PM—1PM NA Meeting
5PM-6:30PM NA Meeting

Friday, August 15
12PM—1PM NA Meeting

Saturday, August 16
12PM-2PM NA meeting

**Sunday, August 17—Tenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9:05AM Adult Forum
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)
4PM—5PM NA meeting

Upcoming Events

August 31 The Twelfth Sunday after
Pentecost with the Blessing of the
Football Teams at 8AM and 10AM

September 7 Christ Church and Trinity
Covenant Golf Tournament at Heidelberg
CC at 1PM

September 10 9/11 Remembrance with
Eucharist at 12 noon
Interfaith Service at Christ Church at
7PM

September 12 Christ Church Night with
the Fightin' Phils at 6:45PM

September 14 Service Participants
Training with a pizza party