

Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, Pennsylvania

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

8AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (spoken)

Page 2

10AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (sung)

Page 9



Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, PA

8am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Page numbers on the right hand side of the bulletin refer to parts of the service that can be found in *The Book of Common Prayer* (the black book in the pews).

Please stand

The Liturgy of the Word

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

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

The Collect for Purity (said together)

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.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban,

"What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him,
and speak of all his marvelous works.**

Glory in his holy Name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Search for the Lord and his strength;
continually seek his face.**

Remember the marvels he has done,
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

**O offspring of Abraham his servant,
O children of Jacob his chosen.**

He is the Lord our God;
his judgments prevail in all the world.

**He has always been mindful of his covenant,
the promise he made for a thousand generations:**

The covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath that he swore to Isaac,

**Which he established as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel,**

Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan
to be your allotted inheritance."

Hallelujah!

The Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord:

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Before the reading

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

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great

value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Celebrant: Lord, we pray for this world and all people; may we hear your words, receive your grace and be filled with all you have to offer, as we say, in your mercy, hear us.

Intercessor: 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, especially those living in places of war, where innocent lives are being lost. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

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: Scott Androne and Lauren Hoelscher. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way, especially Bryce, our rector, Audrey, our bishop, Kevin, our assistant bishop, Sean, our presiding bishop, Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, The Anglican Church of Tanzania and the churches and ministries of the Diocese of the Susquehanna. Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

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.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you, remembering Jane and Joseph Chase. Raise us with them to eternal life. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Celebrant: Merciful Father,
All: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Confession of Sin 360

The Peace 360

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer B from *The Book of Common Prayer*) 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you
All: **and also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The celebrant continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 367

The Sanctus

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 368

Celebrant: Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant and People: **We remember his death
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory**

The Celebrant concludes the Great Thanksgiving on page 369

The Lord's Prayer

364

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Invitation to Communion

364

Everyone is invited to receive. There will be two chalices for receiving: communion rail. 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 Prayer

365

The Blessing

366

Celebrant: ...; and the blessing God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen**

The Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant and Homilist at 8AM and 10AM

The Reverend Michelle Moyer

Altar Guild Team

Victoria Wilson (Captain), Doris Schilpp, Helen Peemoeller

8am Service Participants

Lector and Intercessor

Dane Miller

Usher

Ellen Sunderman

Communion Assistant

Ellen Sunderman

10am Service Participants

Organist and Choir Director

John Painter

Crucifer

Kate Schuler

Lector

Diane Morris

Gospel Book

Zoe Morris

Intercessor

Anita Powell

Acolytes

Derek Morris and Joshua West

Communion Assistants

Victoria Wilson and Milah
Smith

Ushers

Walt Frankowski, Doris Schilpp, Linda
Jones and Sherry Faust

Verger

Jeff Morris

Safety Team

Brenda Guardian and Daniel Harris

Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, PA

10am Holy Eucharist with Holy Baptism: Rite Two

Hymns can be found in the blue books labelled *Hymnal 1982* or the green books labelled *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Page numbers on the right hand side of the bulletin refer to parts of the service that can be found in *The Book of Common Prayer* (the black book in the pews).

Prelude

Nave

Robert Hebble

Processional Hymn 366

*Holy God we praise thy name (omit * verses)*

The Liturgy of the Word

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

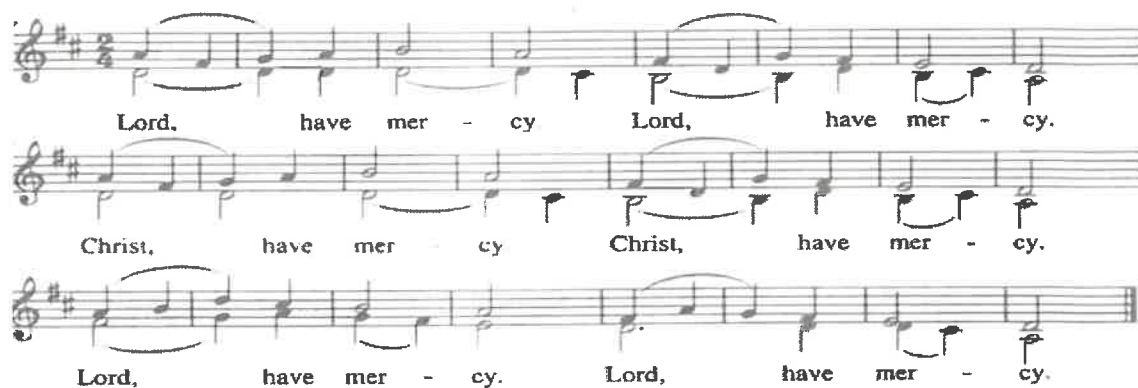
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity (said together)

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



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Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Please be seated

The First Reading: Genesis 29:15-28 (see page 2 for the text of the reading)

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Hymn 447

The Christ who died but rose again

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52 (see page 4 for the text of the reading)

Before the reading

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

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

After the reading

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord**

Please be seated

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

358

The Prayers of the People (see page 5)

Intercessor Jesus, Lord of life,

All 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.**

Announcements and Children's Message

The Offertory Anthem

At the Foot of the Cross
Milah Smith, Soloist

Kathryn Scott

The Presentation Hymn 380 From all the dwell below the skies (vs 3)
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer B from *The Book of Common Prayer*)

367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

All: **and also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The celebrant continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 367

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 continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 368

Celebrant: Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant and People: **We remember his death**
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory

The Celebrant concludes the Great Thanksgiving on page 369

The Lord's Prayer

364

The Fraction Anthem

Taste and see, Taste and see the good - ness
of the Lord, O taste and see, Taste and
see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. **Fine**

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. communion rail.

The Agnus Dei

Gregory Murray

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. grant us peace.

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The Communion Hymn 693

Just as I am

If Eucharist 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 Prayer

365

The Blessing

366

Celebrant: ...; and the blessing God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and
remain with you always. **Amen**

The Closing Hymn 665

All my hope on God is founded

The Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Toccata

Leon Boellmann

Altar Candle Memorials for June 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 for today are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Jane and Joseph Chase by their daughter, Eleanor Chase

Cover images:

Center: Detail of stained glass at Christ Church, Reading

Bottom left: The shield of the Diocese of the Susquehanna

Bottom right: Line drawing of Christ Church, Reading

We are taking time after our 10AM service on August 23rd to celebrate Mila Smith's time of ministry at Christ Church. We will have a celebratory lunch at 11:00AM. If you would like to contribute to Milah's gift which will be given on that Sunday, please submit it to the office clearly marked "Milah's Gift." We thank Milah for all that she has given our community as Director of Children and Youth.

For those in need of our prayers....

Runette	Todd	Beverly	Mertz Family
Connie	Randall	Byron and Sherry	Randi
Albert	Matt	Angelica	Antonio
Ara	Terra	Joshua	Ashley
Sharon	Cat	Robert	Elizabeth
Meg	Kim	David	Lou
Katie	Albert	Darryl	Mary Ann
Kevin	Penny	Mary and Bev	Scott
Nate	Victor	Lois	Kate
Max	Carol	Mark	Anthony

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 the church.

Please be advised that there is no Rummage Sale in August. Come see us in September and preview some of our fall merchandise. The dates are September 2, 5 and 9 from 10AM to 1PM.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH @CCR

Parents Meeting
about Children's
and Youth Work

Please join us in the classroom
upstairs on Sunday August 2nd at
9am to discuss the exciting future of
Children's and Youth Work at Christ
Church.

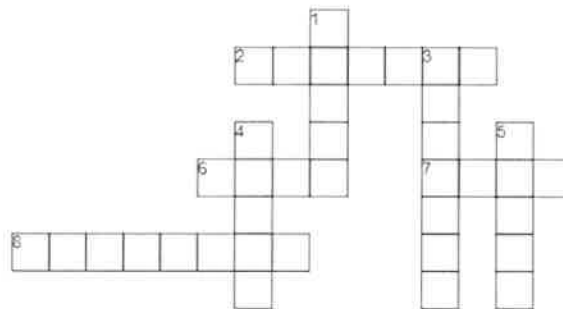
Mustard Seeds and Yeast

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. Matthew 13:34 (NIV)

This activity is based on Matthew 13:31-33.



Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct words in the numbered grid below.



ACROSS

2. A story told by Jesus to help explain his teachings
6. A small grain of a plant placed in the ground for growing another plant
7. To become larger; to increase in size or amount
8. Not as big as any of the others

DOWN

1. A food made from dough of flour or meal
3. Bigger than any of the others
4. A member of the fungus family used in baking to help make the dough rise
5. A mixture of flour, water, and other ingredients to make bread

LARGEST
SMALLEST

YEAST
SEED

DOUGH
PARABLE

BREAD
GROW

Mustard Seeds and Yeast

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. Matthew 13:34 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 13:31-33

1. Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.

D	O	U	H	T	C	S	B	M	D	P	T	T	V	P	
N	N	R	Q	Z	K	S	U	B	G	D	Q	W	Z	T	
Y	R	N	W	G	H	E	Z	P	O	U	N	D	S	O	
E	O	H	E	A	V	E	N	U	S	R	C	E	T	H	
A	W	J	X	K	I	D	S	M	A	L	L	E	S	T	
S	V	J	D	L							W	O	M	A	N
T	M	N	O	A							U	Q	T	M	M
K	W	A	U	R							G	R	O	W	S
I	G	B	G	G							R	Y	H	I	J
N	T	Z	H	E							B	I	R	D	S
G	L	K	W	S	M	U	S	T	A	R	D	Y	R	D	
D	W	L	O	T	H	W	F	L	O	U	R	P	G	N	
O	P	B	S	I	X	T	Y	H	S	D	I	J	T	B	
M	J	N	H	K	S	M	F	Y	X	D	I	N	N	J	
D	D	G	Y	H	X	J	B	P	A	R	A	B	L	E	



MUSTARD	KINGDOM	GROWS	FLOUR	LARGEST
SMALLEST	HEAVEN	WOMAN	PARABLE	SIXTY
POUNDS	YEAST	DOUGH	BIRDS	SEED

Regular Christ Church Office hours:
Monday: 8:00 am - 2:00 PM; Tuesday 8:00AM-12:30PM
Wednesday 8:00 am - 2:00 PM

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.

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.



Bookbag Drive August 2nd, 2026 at Christ Church, Reading

Below is a checklist of items needed to complete a full backpack which we will bless on August 3rd and then take to Mary's Shelter. You can team up with others to complete a backpack or go it alone! It's up to you.

- ☐ 1 backpack of any color
- ☐ 2 spiral notebooks
- ☐ 3 2-pocket folders
- ☐ 1 pack of index cards
- ☐ 1 box of crayons (pack of 16 or 24)
- ☐ 1 coloring book
- ☐ 1 pack of washable markers (pack of 8)
- ☐ 1 safety scissors
- ☐ 1 box of color pencils (10 in a box)
- ☐ 1 pack of mechanical pencils (10 or 12 in a pack)
- ☐ 1 ruler
- ☐ 1 pack of erasers
- ☐ 1 glue stick
- ☐ 1 lunch box or an insulated lunch bag

Alice Training

(Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate)

The Security Task Force will be holding another ALICE training session at the Church on Saturday August 22 at 8AM. All congregants are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The training session, which will be conducted by Chris Spohn and Ellen Sunderman, our own trained ALICE instructors, will last for approximately 4 hours and will include classroom instruction as well as various mock exercises involving the types of threats we might possibly encounter in the event that an intruder entered the Church. Please use the following link if you wish to register for this training: <https://forms.gle/eDnMcVZmRdnuvjfR8>

Participation in the mock exercises is strictly voluntary. (You may come and simply observe if you wish!)



Blessing of the Backpacks and free Ice Cream!

Sunday August 23rd at 10am

This Week at Christ Church
Sunday, July 26—The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Food Pantry Collection

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)

9:05AM Adult Forum - Pilgrim Course on The Beatitudes

10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)

4PM—5PM NA meeting

Monday, July 27

12PM—1PM NA meeting

Tuesday, July 28

10AM-2PM Church Open Day

9:30AM Centering Prayer

12PM—1PM NA meeting

Wednesday, July 29

9AM Staff meeting

12PM Noon Eucharist

12PM—1PM NA Meeting

5:30-7PM NA Meeting

Thursday, July 30

9:30AM Centering Prayer

11AM Morning Prayer

12PM—1PM NA Meeting

5PM-6:30PM NA Meeting

Friday, July 31

12PM—1PM NA Meeting

Saturday, August 1

12PM-2PM NA meeting

Sunday, August 2—The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Blessing of the Mary's Shelter Backpacks at 8AM and 10AM

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)

9:05AM Adult Forum - Pilgrim Course on The Beatitudes

10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)

4PM—5PM NA meeting

Upcoming Events

July 26 Food Pantry Collection Sunday

August 2 Blessing of *Mary's Shelter Backpacks* at 8AM and 10AM

August 12 Christ Church at the Highlands 2PM

August 22 ALICE Training at 8AM

August 23 Blessing of *our children's Backpacks* and Sweet Ride Ice Cream at 10AM

August 29 CCR at the Fightin' Phils at 6:45PM

