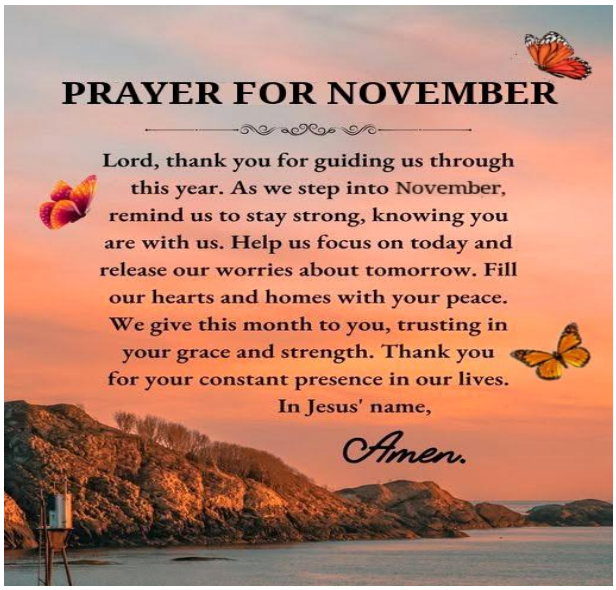
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

321 E. Church Street
Martinsville, VA 24112
276-632-2896
www.christchurchmvl.org

November 2026



We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

November 3 is, of course, election day, also known as our annual celebration of freedom from campaign ads. I jest, but over the course of my lifetime it has become increasingly difficult for the Church to say anything about elections without being considered partisan. That said, in a nation where citizens have the responsibility of voting for the leaders of our government, I hope it is not controversial to say that Christians who can vote should vote. Voting is an opportunity to love God and our neighbors by supporting government that promotes Christian values like justice and fairness, empathy and compassion, welcome, mercy, and peace for all. Which is to say that, if you are eligible to vote and have not voted early, I encourage you to cast your ballot on November 3.

Regardless of whether or not you vote, I encourage you to pray to God on Tuesday, if nothing else saying the prayer from page 822 of our *Book of Common Prayer*: Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* If you are interested in longer and more communal prayer on election day, I encourage you to spend some time with the livestream of the all-day vigil (9am-9pm) of my friends at the Benedictine Way in Omaha (https://www.youtube.com/thebenedictineway), which will alternate periods of silent prayer with readings, music, and reflections from bishops and other leaders from across the Episcopal Church.

- Fr. John

Winter Clothes Needed for Henry County Public School Students
Henry County Public Schools is collecting any new or gently used clothing items such as coats, hoodies, long sleeve shirts, etc.) that can benefit their students (high school, middle school, and elementary school. **If you would love to donate coats or clothing items or make a donation to purchase clothing items for this cause, please contact Mr. Garrett Dillard at gdillard@henry.k12.va.us or 336-253-0663.**

Kings Grant Eucharist
Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant at 1:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. The next services will be **November 10** and December 8.

Women's Group Meeting
Please plan to join me on **Tuesday, November 10th at 5:30 in the Parish House**. I will be providing water, wine, and soft drinks. If you can provide a snack item, wonderful; if not, bring yourself. If you plan to attend, please sign up at **Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia** or call the church office.

As usual, we will be accepting donations for Grace Network. Saltine Crackers (box), bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes (individually wrapped), and other hygiene items.

Church History Class
On **November 11 at 10:30 am in the Undercroft**, we will begin another exploration of the History of the Medieval Church, this time through the lens of the Holy Roman Empire beginning with Charlemagne. All are welcome to join (and encouraged to stick around for the Noon Eucharist in the Chapel).

Public Theology
Public Theology meets on **November 11 at the Ground Floor** (1 E Church St); food and drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be available from the usual menu. We begin gathering at 6:00 pm, with the program going from 7:00 to 8:00.

Stewardship
The 2027 pledge campaign is underway. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, please get one from the narthex (church entrance area) or office. We invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge of financial support to Christ Church for 2027 and return your pledge in the offering plate or to the office as soon as you are comfortable doing so. **During the service on November 15**, Fr. John will offer a special prayer of thanksgiving for the gifts that have been pledged.

Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting of Christ Church will take place **after the 10:30 service on November 15, with lunch provided**. In addition to discussing our ongoing efforts to improve the grounds and offer more fellowship opportunities, we will consider the current state of the finances and elect four members to three-year terms on the Vestry.

Thanksgiving Holiday
There will be **no Monday Bible Study on November 23 or Wednesday Eucharist on November 25**, and the **Office will be closed Thursday and Friday (November 26 and 27)**.

Angel Tree
This Advent, we will once again partner with Boys & Girls Club in the Angel Tree ministry. Members of Christ Church will be invited to purchase Christmas presents for a specific child and/or write a check to Boys & Girls Club. Stay tuned for more details later this month.

Loaves & Fishes
Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner) is on hiatus for November (Thanksgiving week) and December (the week between Christmas and New Year's); **it will return January 27.**

Let Deborah or Fr. John know if anyone needs to be added or removed from the prayer list.
Comfort and heal ***Sue (Rosser), Julia (Hall), Mallory, Ginger C., Jay J., Ashley F., Michael (Martin), Jim A., Valerie B., LaRue (Powers), Jean, Dorothy C., Nancy (King), Honore*** and all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy.

Picture Policy
We are in the process of developing a new website, which we hope will go live after the Oyster Roast; we have been collecting recent pictures and taking new ones to enliven said website. If you are 18 or older and attend

worship, fellowship, or other church events and DO NOT want pictures of you to appear on our website, please email or mail a message to Deborah stating as much. If you are the parent (or legal guardian) of a child under 18, please send us written permission without which we will not post pictures of your child. With a few exceptions (primarily staff), we do not identify people by name in pictures on the website.

Scam Alert

As we approach the holiday season, please continue to be aware of the possibility of scammers. On multiple occasions in recent years, church members have received texts or emails purporting to be from Fr. John and asking for an unspecified favor. This is an unfortunately common scam targeting churches: unscrupulous actors obtain a church's contact list or directory and, using a fake phone number or email, contact church members identifying themselves as the church's clergyperson. Those who respond are typically asked for money in the form of a gift card. Although we have taken steps to make sure our contacts are not easily available, we know at least one of our lists is already out there, and another scam using that list at some point in the future is likely. **Fr. John will never ask you to send money (as a gift card or otherwise) to him directly**. If a text or email is purported to be from Fr. John but you are in doubt, contact him or the office by different means (for example, send him an email if you are suspicious about a text).

November Server Schedule

10:30AM	November 1 ALL SAINTS	November 8 The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost	November 15 The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost	November 22 The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King	November 29 The First Sunday of Advent
Lector Prayers	Will Zimmer	Kelly Cain	Susan Critz	Pete Scouras	Ann Gardner
Chalist	Rives Coleman Dawn Stone	Bob Bushnell Hank Long	Natalie Coleman Steve Keyser	Bob Bushnell John Swezey	Dawn Stone Tom Webster
Acolyte					
Ushers	Ben Beeler Gus Barber	John Swezey Bob Weatherall	Hank Long Pete Scouras	Jay Dickens Rives Coleman	Dan Cahill Ben Lewis
Camera Operator	Vicki Crosby	Linda O'Dell	Rives Coleman	Hank Long	Natalie Coleman
Counters	Steve Keyser Jay Dickens	Steve Keyser Jay Dickens	Steve Keyser Jay Dickens	Steve Keyser Jay Dickens	Steve Keyser Jay Dickens
Nursery Attendants	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis	Volunteer Needed

Altar Guild Team #5 – Lloyd Barber, Debbie Lewis, Jill Dickens, Amy Joyce, Pat Russell, Vicki Crosby

Please remember that if you cannot serve on your scheduled date, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. If, however, you cannot find a replacement, please contact your chairperson. Fr. John Adams – Lectors, Chalist, Acolytes, and camera operator; Ben Beeler – Ushers; Deborah Scearce - Counters

Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for **November thru December: Saltine Crackers (box).** For **November: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes (individually wrapped), and other hygiene items.** As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network by stocking their food pantry for those in need. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store. **You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthe**