

Christ Church

Rector Search Profile



Letter to Prospective Rector Candidates

Christ Church Search Prayer

Dear God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your whole church and our parish. Help us, we pray, as we search both for a new rector and for your proper direction of our life together. Open our minds to your guidance through prayer, peacefulness, and through listening attentively to the people of the parish, in love. Prepare us to receive a faithful pastor who will care for all your people and equip us to serve you in the parish, in our families, in the community and beyond, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Dear Sister/ Brother in Christ,

Thank you for your interest in Christ Church, Manlius. We hope our parish profile and website give you the information you need to begin to know our parish. Christ Church is known as a welcoming, caring, generous community where we strive to be open and respectful to all who come into our church. We love music and creative liturgy. We are looking for a new rector who can both nurture this welcoming and open community and who will challenge us to continue to seek out new ways to show God's love in our ministries.

Our Mission statement reads: "Transforming ourselves and our community through the unconditional love of Jesus Christ". Our congregation has similar challenges in today's world, and we seek a rector who finds these as opportunities for growing both within our congregation and outside to our greater community.

Table of Contents

[Who We Are](#)

[Spiritual Life and Faith Formation](#)

[Worship](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[Christian Education and Faith Formation](#)

[Outreach](#)

[Fellowship and Community](#)

[Stewardship](#)

[Our Next Rector](#)

[Appendices](#)

[Our Manlius Community](#)

[Town of Manlius Demographic Information](#)

[Stained Glass Windows Restoration](#)

[Links to the Christ Church Area Information and Recreation](#)

Click on [link](#) to view location

Who We Are

Making God's presence and unconditional love real in the community goes back to the beginning of Christ Church, when the first services were held in a schoolhouse, and when the vestry first met regularly in a tavern. Church construction began in 1811 at the southwest corner of the grounds of the current Christ Church Cemetery. It was completed in 1813.

In 1815, John Henry Hobart, third Episcopal Bishop of New York State, consecrated Christ Church, and he returned regularly until he died in 1830. In 1832, the congregation felt compelled to be a larger presence in the growing community, so the building was rolled on logs to the present site. Early church lore tells us that the move was achieved "with bell hanging and organ ready to play without so much as to remove even a square foot of plaster."

We are blessed with a rich and deep history and traditions that we are very proud of and hold dear. At the same time, we believe you will learn that we are embracing the changes in our world so that we can continue to grow our Parish, through Fellowship, Faith Formation while increasing our presence in the community through Outreach and events designed to give back and strengthen with love all those we meet.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



Spiritual Life and Faith Formation

Worship

The Eucharist is the center of our common life at Christ Church. We strive to provide a welcoming, inclusive, creative, and adaptable experience. We utilize a printed bulletin that contains all of the service in a single document and encourages participation by all in attendance. Our invitation to the Holy Eucharist completes our expression of welcome.

“If you are led by your faith and your conscience to receive the Holy Eucharist, you are welcome.”



We worship together on Sunday mornings offering two services at 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM during the school year. The later service is supported by an extensive music program and choir. A single 9:00 AM service is offered in the summer months. Most services follow the Expansive Language Text of the Book of Common Prayer Rite II. Rite I is used upon request for certain services such as funerals. Our services are followed by an engaging and well-attended coffee hour.

In our efforts to be adaptable, we have held more casual worship experiences such as a weekly Taizé service during Lent, a Blue Christmas service, and used Crosby Hall for an Agape meal on Holy Thursday and the boisterous Animal Blessing in the fall. We have found these experiences, with a less formal structure and setting, have provided a “soft” experience of Christ Church and the Episcopal Church to newcomers as well as our own members.

During the current pandemic closure, the church has utilized the wonderful expertise of four parishioners, our Interim Rector, and our musicians to film and present weekly Morning Prayer services each Sunday. This has been a great gift to experience by all, and we have realized how resilient and blessed we are. You can find this on our YouTube site ([Christ Church of Manlius YouTube Channel](#)).



At Christ Church, a dedicated group of women and men prepare the worship space-for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and other services creating a peaceful, reflective, and engaging environment. During special seasons such as Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost, particular care is taken to transform our beautiful space so that individual season highlights are reflected in color, texture and sound. Each Sunday a member of the

congregation prepares fresh bread for communion and a small but mighty group of ushers, greeters, crucifers, readers and servers all work together to enable our worship to give glory to God.

We are fortunate to have a long-time member who over the years has taken on considerable responsibility for the organization of our services. Ultimately, he joined the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church in 2015, completed the year-long course work and became a Fellow of the Verger Guild. He was commissioned as Verger in 2017.

Music is a central part of the worship experience at Christ Church. We are grateful to have two very collaborative, talented, and dedicated musicians who have led a vibrant music program together for over two decades. The music program is intergenerational, including active adult, youth, and cherub choirs. Amateur and professional musicians from the parish and wider community also participate for special services. Additionally, a



dedicated volunteer parishioner directs our adult and youth handbell choirs. While rooted in a strong Episcopal tradition, the music at Christ Church is carefully selected to reflect a variety of genres and forms including traditional hymns, spiritual songs, contemporary praise, chant, and multi-cultural music. The Choirmaster, Adult Choir and Organist/Pianist provide leadership and support for people actively engaged in congregational song as a form of worship, prayer, and praise.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



Pastoral Care



Our *Pastoral Care Ministry* seeks to offer prayer and support to members of Christ Church who are sick, injured, disabled, aged, and to those who find themselves in crisis or in challenging transitions. The Pastoral Care Ministry also provides meals for those recovering from surgery or illness, rides to church or doctor's appointments, cakes for celebrations such as baptisms and confirmations, funeral receptions and caring for those who have lost a loved one. Although

much of the work of the Pastoral Care is confidential, its presence is felt throughout the congregation.

The parish administrator maintains the Prayer List to pray for the needs of those in crisis. The Prayer List is used during the weekly service and relays requests and concerns of our parish members to our Prayer Chain.

Eucharistic Visitors are licensed by the Diocese and work with the Rector to bring communion to those who cannot attend church. Eucharistic Visitors bring communion to people who are in the hospital, rehabilitation centers, assisted living facilities, nursing homes and to those who are at home.





Our *Communications Committee* focuses on utilizing software and web-based resources to better communicate within the parish and the greater community. The committee provides quick access to relevant church information through the church website and social media. Newsletters are provided monthly via email. Members of the committee also offer support and training for existing software and hardware.



To meet the challenges posed by restrictions on in-person gatherings, a Facebook group was also recently started to help parishioners stay in touch and support each other during a time when face-to-face contact was not possible. And with the help of technologically savvy members, we were able to begin recording services to share with our community during the stay-at-home order, using YouTube and Zoom.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Christian Education and Faith Formation



For the last several years, our Christian Ed program was coordinated by one of our Vestry members and supported by our Parish Administrator. Their support has been a blessing for us, but we knew that we needed a more focused Christian Education Director. In early 2020, we hired a Youth and Christian Education Director, a Christ Church member, whose job it will be to coordinate and expand our Christian Education Program. She has 28 years of professional experience in music education, and years of experiences as a participant and leader in Young Life. We look forward to the focus on our children's Christian Education and the growth and strengthening of Youth Ministry and Youth Activities.



Preparing our youth to be good and active Christians in our world is a focal point of our ministry at Christ Church. Our children and young adults are an integral part of our parish life and are active participants in many stewardship and outreach activities. Depending on children's ages, we offer 3 groups of Christian Education during the 10:15 AM service. All Christian Education classes are taught by the generous support of several committed and faithful members of our church. At the conclusion of class, the children are accompanied to the service to share Eucharist with their families.

For those too young for formal Christian Education, children aged 6 months–3 years, we provide Nursery care hosted by a paid staff member in support of our care to young families.

Pre-school and elementary aged children are split into two classes, Pre-K–3rd Grade and 4th–5th Grade. During school breaks and summer, one multi-age class is offered for Pre-K4th grade.



For the older children and teenagers in 6th–12th grade, we also have a Youth Group that focuses on real-world subjects in order to help develop a more mature relationship with God and a long-lasting Christian faith after High School. During our Parish shutdown, we

have also sustained monthly youth group meetings and church school classes via Zoom. This has been a great support to our families and youth.



In addition to the normal in-class curriculum, we have many out of class activities that focus on the areas of stewardship and outreach. These experiences allow the children to put Christian principles into practice. One example of this is a relationship with the residents of an assisted living facility in our community where we make our twice-annual field trips, during which the children visit with the 70+ residents and deliver hand-made personal gifts to each of them. Another example is an annual visit to one of our parishioners' working farm, where the children get a tour of the farm, an understanding of where God's plenty originates and a look at a real manger scene, complete with live animals. Lastly, the Children and Youth Group also make items to sell at our annual Christmas Mart, of which proceeds are donated to the church.

As a way to close each program year in June, we have two special services highlighting the children and youth of the parish. Participation in church activities, school milestones, and post-graduate plans are recognized, and the youth participate in all aspects of worship.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Outreach

A spirit of community interaction and services lives on in the congregation's DNA. In 1869, Christ Church created St. John's Episcopal boarding school for boys, which would become a military academy. In the 1970s, the congregation helped found Limestone Gardens, housing for low-income seniors, and A Better Chance house, so gifted young women of color from low-performing schools could study here. Inspired and steeped in the parish DNA, some members of Christ Church founded Clear Path for Veterans in 2010 to serve military veterans and their families.



Our congregation continues to generously support Outreach locally and worldwide, focusing on programs that touch our lives and our community. Locally, the parish supports both the Fayetteville-Manlius Community Outreach's Food Pantry and the Grace Church Food Pantry in Syracuse. We make weekly food deliveries to Grace Church, and work to help distribute food. Every year we also organize special drives such as cereal and canned fruit during school

breaks (when free and reduced-price lunches are not available at school), birthday bags for FM Food Pantry, paper products for ABC House, a diaper drive for the CNY Diaper Bank, and funds to buy turkey dinners for Grace Church's food pantry participants. We continue to offer support to the A Better Chance (ABC) House, a residence for inner city girls attending our local schools in FM. A former rector of Christ Church was one of the founding members of ABC House, and a member of the parish serves on the board. We collect gifts annually for the Salvation Army Angel Tree and work twice a year at the Samaritan Center to prepare and serve a meal. We support Vera House's White Ribbon Campaign, which seeks to increase awareness in our local community about domestic violence. We collect travel-size toiletries and work at Sandwich Saturdays for "We Rise Above the Streets," an inner-city initiative to serve the homeless. The common thread for these projects is that our members have personally worked on each, devoting time as well as treasure.





Overseas, we continue to support the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York and our companion diocese in El Salvador. We collect donations for the Cristosal Foundation, led by Noah Bullock, a former parishioner. We recently conducted a fundraiser to buy mosquito nets and raise awareness for medical ministries in South Sudan.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Fellowship and Community

Christ Church’s fellowship events are closely tied to our outreach activities. Our Parish Center was dedicated in September of 2009. This contemporary and beautiful facility includes a Great Room (Crosby Hall) for large events, meeting rooms, classrooms, a nursery, and a kitchen, and it creates an enclosed garden. This new space enables the congregation to welcome community organizations and the Diocese of CNY, who regularly use it for meetings and special events. The Center also enables the congregation to connect with the community during events like a Chicken and Biscuits dinner, Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast, Lenten Fish Fry, Chicken BBQ, and a multi-day rummage sale. Additionally, on the stage in Crosby Hall, we held humorous biblical productions such as “Fish Eyes” and an all parishioner acted “Excellent Trouble”.

Christmas Mart



Last year marked our 67th Annual Christmas Mart, which is known far and wide for the hand-painted wooden ornaments that are made throughout the year by a talented group of parish volunteers. Many parishioners put in tireless hours to make the Mart a success, including a luncheon and raffle baskets, as well as displays

by local artists. The youth of the parish participate by making items for sale and serving meals at the luncheon. Every year a portion of the proceeds is distributed as part of our Outreach ministries, with the remainder allocated to parish operation funds.



The Fall Ministries Fair

Each year in September, we welcome our parish family back from summer activities with the Fall Ministries Fair. The week after Labor Day, each of the parish ministries has a booth to present their story and recruit new members. To ease the transition from summer to fall, the Outreach Committee provides traditional summer fare of hot dogs and burgers for all comers.



First Friday Dinners

During the fall and spring (after Easter), Christ Church offers a First Friday Dinner on the first Friday of the month. A dedicated team prepares a menu, does the shopping and cooking, and invite all members of the parish for an evening of fellowship and good food. Parishioners also bring friends to these meals, and it proves to be an avenue to experience Christ Church. A small fee is charged to cover the cost of the food, and attendees bring their own place settings and beverages. In December, the meal is more elaborate, and candles are lit for a festive evening.



Chicken Barbecues, Lenten Fish Fries, Chicken and Biscuits, and Pancake Breakfast

In recent years, Christ Church has begun seasonal, food-based fundraisers that invite the community in to our church, while providing fellowship and fun for the people who prepare the food, volunteers who keep it running smoothly, and the local residents who stop in for a bite. Chicken Barbecues are offered several times during the spring and summer, Lenten Fish “Frydays” every Friday during Lent, and a Pancake Breakfast before the village Memorial Day parade.



Rummage Sale



The Rummage Sale is another event that started as a fundraiser and has turned into a community event. For one week in the spring, Crosby Hall is transformed as parishioners bring in items that are no longer needed, which are then carefully sorted, priced, and displayed. The sale lasts three days, with the final day being a “one price, fill your bag” sale, which is very popular among members of the community. Remaining items are donated to non-profit organizations.

Community Hospitality Tables

On Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, village and town parades begin in the parking lot of the church across the street from Christ Church. As parade participants and onlookers gather for the parade and walk by, members of Christ Church offer hospitality with water, cookies, bowls of water for dogs, and use of parish bathrooms.



ABC House Pancake Breakfast with St. Ann’s Church

Every year on the Fourth of July, members of Christ Church and St. Ann’s Catholic Church team up to offer a pancake breakfast before the local parade, with proceeds going to benefit ABC (A Better Chance) House, which is located next door to Christ Church. The FM ABC program provides academically talented and exceptionally motivated young women of color access to a quality secondary education. These young women come and live here and attend FM High School.



[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Stewardship

As the newest generations of stewards for Christ Church we strive to continually demonstrate true reverence and care for all we have been given and all we are called to provide. The measures of our dedication are found in both our ministry expansion and development and in our sustaining of our historic grounds and buildings.



There have been many structural and stylistic changes to the sanctuary over the years. Perhaps most dramatic was the placement of stained-glass windows, begun in 1867. Taken as a whole, the windows in Christ Church represent a visual history, of both the first 150 years of American stained glass, and of many of the lives of the area's founding fathers. Two of the windows are from the

Tiffany studio in New York City. Over two years, beginning in July 2014, the windows were removed, cleaned, and restored. More information about this process is contained in the [Appendix](#). In 1997 the interior of the church was redesigned with the expansion of the balcony, creation of a baptistry, and a new organ.



As the original location of Christ Church, the Cemetery was founded in 1813. In 2007, the cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior. Many veterans are buried in the cemetery dating from the Revolutionary War to World War II. Inside the cemetery grounds, a relatively new Memorial Garden was created and is beautifully maintained. The church maintains the database records for all cemetery locations and continues to fulfill the needs of the

cemetery through new burials and professionally maintained grounds. This year our Interim Rector suggested that we establish a Cemetery Board for oversight and management of this valuable and cherished property. The board will be setting structure around procedures for burials and interments, and maintenance of grounds. The board will also be seeking more financial support such as grants and donations. The end goal is to have this be a self-sustaining part of our properties.

Our Stewardship Committee faithfully oversees the Annual Giving Campaign, working closely with the Finance Committee to establish a financial goal for the campaign while also providing a spiritual focus. The campaign is always based on a scripture text, which forms the basis of the message sent out to the parish.

Eighty pledges were received in 2019, an increase from 75 in 2018. The average pledge for 2019 is \$3278, up from an average of \$3048 in 2018.

Our Parish Center was completed in 2009, at a cost of \$1.2 million. The current remaining balance on the Center is only \$130,000. This is due to a successful capital campaign and continual contributions that have reduced the debt.



Our fiscal management benefits from a dedicated team of lay leaders and from an informed and involved Vestry. Lay volunteers serving as finance committee members, financial treasurers, financial secretary and counter teams carry out the planning, management, and accounting functions of our Church, under the guidance of the Vestry. Christ Church recently added a page on its website to receive online donations.

Our congregation has a history of consistently meeting their pledges and we are known within the Diocese for this. Financially, Christ Church is in a favorable position with over \$300,000 in cash and investments at the end of 2019. This financial integrity will allow us to assure the new rector that they will not experience the all too common struggle with funding and balanced budgeting.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Our Next Rector

We are excited for the opportunity to write the next chapter of our history of this parish and to expand and fulfill our mission statement: “Transforming ourselves and our community through the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.”

We are seeking a new Rector who makes known God’s loving presence to all our Parishioners. We are a congregation that spans multiple generations, and we strive to love, value, support, and honor all who come to us. We seek a new Rector who exhibits and has a desire and conviction for Social Ministry and Justice actions in a variety of experiences.

Our congregation enjoys the diversity of our worship experiences in both liturgy and music. We like sermons that challenge us to live as better Christians through witty, humorous, scripture-based examples in the 21st century world we live in. Our next Rector should possess the qualities of a faithful teacher along with leadership skills of one who guides and works as a full partner in our Adult/Youth Christian education and worship planning. Our paid staff organist and music director are eager to engage in a full partnership with you. Our recent use of Zoom and YouTube has taught us that there are many avenues to making our ministry and community known in a broader arena. In our search for a new Rector, we will be seeking an individual with both experience in current technology, and creativity for this evolving use of technology in worship and making connections in our parish.

The lighted steeple of Christ Church in the night sky reminds us of Christ Church’s place in the community where our congregation has lived and worked for over 200 years. We believe that the candidate who has had experience developing and sustaining creative, new social and community ministries with all age groups can take us forward into our new chapter for living out all aspects of our Baptismal vows.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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Appendices

[Our Manlius Community](#)

[Town of Manlius Demographic Information](#)

[Stained Glass Windows Restoration \(link to website\)](#)

[Links to the Christ Church, Area Information, and Recreation](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Our Manlius Community

The Town of Manlius is located in the southeastern suburbs of Syracuse, New York. You'll find that it provides all the amenities of a large city with the convenience and comfort of a small community, as Syracuse is an approximate 15-minute drive away. The Fayetteville-Manlius area includes the villages of Fayetteville and Manlius, and is surrounded by beautiful hills, valleys, forests, lakes and streams. Green Lakes State Park is located within the town of Manlius; and Cazenovia Lake, Lake Ontario, and the Finger Lakes are all close by, providing ample seasonal recreational opportunities such as: hiking, skiing, boating, and fishing.

The Fayetteville-Manlius school district is one of the top education programs in New York State. Graduation rates are 96% (Census 2019). There is one high school, two middle schools and three elementary schools. While some families choose for their children to attend one of the few private schools in the area, the vast majority attend the award-winning F-M schools. In 2019, over 4000 students attended F-M schools. The students are split evenly between the three elementary schools (1,506 students), two middle schools (1,356 students) and the high school (1,368 students).

With the city of Syracuse in close proximity, you will find multiple arts, music and theatre venues, and great opportunities for diverse ethnic restaurants. Symphoria, Syracuse Stage, Syracuse Ballet, Syracuse Opera, touring Broadway productions, the Museum of Science and Technology, and the Everson Museum are some examples. The sports scene is supported by several college teams along with minor league baseball and hockey teams. During the summer, weekend festivals celebrate the diverse ethnic heritage of our communities, and the New York State Fair marks the end of summer with livestock exhibitions, concerts, and a large midway. Stalls at the Regional Market and at the Fayetteville Farmer's Market offer local produce along with jams, honey, maple syrup and other tasty treats. We also boast a highly rated medical services community with SUNY Upstate and Golisano Children's Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital and Crouse Hospital. Finally, we are proud to have Wegmans, Trader Joe's and Aldi supermarkets, which ranked in the 10 Best Supermarkets in the US by Food and Wine March 2019.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Town of Manlius Demographic Information

Year settled:	1794
Villages	3
Population	31,737
Racial/ethnic:	Predominantly Caucasian

Age trends have shown a gradual increase in age, but there has also been an increase in the number of early elementary aged children.

Median age:	43
Age under 18:	22%
Age 65 and older:	20.7%
Female:	52%
Household:	26% single parent
	73% married couple
	68% households with children

Marital status trends show a slight increase in divorce, with a relatively stable percentage of never married/ married.

Adult Education: The rate of post-high school education is much higher than the state average, with more than 60% holding a bachelor or Graduate degree

Median household income: \$80,068

(census Bureau Quick facts: Manlius 2018)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Links to the Christ Church Area Information and Recreation

Click on [link](#) to view webpage

- Christ Church Links:
 - Web Page: christchurchmanlius.org
 - Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Christ-Church...
 - YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/...
- Episcopal Diocese of Central New York: cnyepiscopal.org
- Outreach Organizations:
 - [We Rise Above the Streets](#)
 - [Clear Path for Veterans](#)
 - [Cristosal](#)
 - [FM Food Pantry](#)
 - [Grace Episcopal Food Pantry](#)
 - [Samaritan Center](#)
- Fayetteville-Manlius School District: www.fmschools.org
- Manlius Chamber of Commerce: www.manliuschamber.com
- Visit Syracuse Web Page and Visitor Site:
 - www.syr.gov.net/Visiting
 - www.visitsyracuse.com
- Syracuse University: www.syracuse.edu
- Syracuse University Athletics: cuse.com
- Destiny USA (4th Largest Mall in USA): www.destinyusa.com
- NY State Parks and local Green Lakes State Park:
 - parks.ny.gov/parks
 - parks.ny.gov/parks/greenlakes...
- Adirondack State Park: visitadirondacks.com
- Finger Lakes Region:
 - www.fingerlakestravelny.com
 - www.fingerlakes.org

[Return to Table of Contents](#)