



July 2021

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To Connect to Christ Church via Zoom

<https://christlockport.info/>

Compline – Wednesday 7:00 pm
Zoom Coffee Hour – Sunday 12:30
Sunday Service Options
Donate with PayPal

The Harvest

Common Good

This month our nation will celebrate its 245th birthday. Many people will celebrate with outdoor family picnics and top it off with the watching of fireworks. It is estimated that 47.7 million Americans will hit the road between July 1st and July 5th, the second largest on record as we celebrate our freedoms of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness guaranteed us by the Constitution.¹ That was not the case in 1776.

“the 4th of July 1776 the Americans appointed as a day of fasting and prayer, preparatory to their dedicating the country to god, which was done in the following manner: The Congress being assembled, after having declared American independent, they had a crown placed on a bible which by prayer and solemn devotion they offered to God. This religious ceremony being ended they divided the crown into thirteen parts each of the united provinces taking a part.”²

The battle for independence was waged between 1775 and 1783 with an estimated 6,800 colonists killed, 6,100 wounded, and upwards of 20,000 taken prisoner. Freedom is not free; it comes at a very high cost: human life. Nor does it come without conditions. Rights without responsibilities, according to John Ryan of The Lincoln Institute, is tyranny!

2nd Saturday Food Drive

The next monthly Food Drive is **this Saturday, July 10th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Christ Church**. The items that are especially needed this month are:

- No more water
- Tooth brushes and toothpaste
- Personal care items
- Cereal
- Canned veggies and fruits
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Protein
- Meals in a can (spaghettios, etc.)

In addition to food, from now until August 1st we are still collecting *wide ruled notebook paper*. This will be used by Youth Mentoring to fill backpacks with school supplies for students who won't be able to gather the school supplies they will need for the year ahead.



Our founding fathers and mothers left us a unique legacy: a federal representative democratic republic. According to the preamble of the Constitution our nation was established in order to “**form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.**”

A careful reading points out that the goal of our nation was not merely personal liberty but sought the **common** defense, **general** Welfare, and to secure the Blessings of liberty for **our Posterity**. The freedoms we cherish will only be fully realized when they are secured for all and celebrated by everyone. Then we will be a more perfect Union; a more just society.

Freedom is an essential part of the Christian life also as our Founders were aware. But, it was not then, nor is it today, simply freedom for its own sake. It is always freedom **for** something else. And that something for which we are freed is to more fully live the life of a follower of Jesus, the Christ.

On this Independence Day, I invite you to take a part of the day to imitate our Founders and prayerfully reflect on places where God is calling you to freedom. Then you might sing as Zechariah did:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
He has come to his people and set them free.
Free to worship him without fear,
Holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

A joyous and prayerful 4th!!

Fr. Thomas+

¹ USA Today

² EDINBURGH EVENING COURANT dated 9/17/1776

What Will We Do Today to Build the Kingdom of God?

What a difference a few months can make. In May, I reflected about change being inevitable, while growth is optional. In June, I offered my thoughts about growing in trust.

Here we are in July. Many of the pandemic restrictions have been lifted in our little corner of the world. We still need to exercise caution and be considerate for those whose health may be endangered if they are exposed to Covid.

Like the kingdom of God, we are “here and now” and also “not yet”. A recent Forward Day-by-Day reflection spoke to this reality. The kingdom of God is here and now; God is within and among us. And yet, the kingdom of God is not fully realized while any of God’s Creation is in need.

While we build our foundation of trust and till the soil of our hearts to begin growing, the work of God (through our hands and hearts) must continue. The author of the Day-by-Day reflection challenges us with this question: “What will you do today to build the kingdom of God?” Indeed, what will we as a faith community do? Our Outreach Ministry continued throughout the pandemic and our parishioners provided much-needed nutrition, school supplies and other items to many people. It was and is an important and life-giving ministry that will continue. Now that our world has “reopened”, how will we respond to the encouragement of the Holy Spirit to imagine Christ Church serving others in ways we’ve not thought of in the past? What will Christ Church’s contribution look like in our local community that has been so adversely affected by the pandemic? Whether we feel ready or not, might we begin those honest and respectful conversations, learning to listen carefully?

I offer this quote that my husband, Fr. Joe, used as his Ordination theme. It was written by Lacordaire: “All I know of tomorrow is that Providence will rise before the sun. I believe in the concerned presence of our God and in His steadfast love which is ever-present. Because I believe, I can hope in Him and continue to do my part, however small it is in the vast plan of salvation.”

We are God’s hands and hearts in this ever-changing world. What will we do today to build the kingdom of God?

Peace,
Robin Kozlowski
Aspirant for Ordination to the Diaconate

Mary Hunt Fundraiser

Mary Hunt Guild is organizing a fundraiser to support Christ Church. If you have suggestions on what we might do, please tell Joan Weet your ideas so they can be included in future discussions. If you need Joan’s phone, please call the office at 433-9229.

The Mary Hunt Guild, and anyone else who would like to be part of planning the fundraiser, is invited to lunch at Noon on July 15th at Willowbrook Golf Club. To signup, please call Gloria Bryant. If you need Gloria’s phone, please call the office at 433-9229



Birthdays

3	Michael Steen
4	Jean Taylor
5	Ava Baker
6	Janet Howell
9	Gloria Bryant
12	Emma Lupo
15	John Heschke
16	Christopher Buchanan
21	Dawn Dominguez-Salerno
	Sue Strassel
23	Betsey Ersing
	Max Faust
27	Jo Southard
31	Ed Taylor

Anniversaries

1	Rick & Linda Few
14	John & Barb Scott
28	Bill & Leona Muscato



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2nd Saturday Food Drive

Sat., July 10th

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Christ Church by the Bell Tower

Details on Page 2

Also collecting wide-ruled notebook
paper for Youth Mentoring



Christ Episcopal Church
7145 Fieldcrest Drive
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