



Notices March 1st, 2026 - Lent 2

Readings for this Sunday: Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Readings for next Sunday: Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Sunday Services: 8am and 10.30am

Weekly Events at Christ Church

Wednesdays 11am - **Lectio Divina & Holy Eucharist** in the Chapel

Wednesdays 5pm - **Meditation** in the Sitting Room

Wednesdays 1pm - **Seniors Bridge** - All are welcome

Thursdays 10.30am - **Bible Study** in the Crump Room

Prayer List

Please note that beginning March 1st we will be putting a Prayer List request in the Narthex every Sunday. This will better help us streamline the prayer requests and give everyone a chance to pray for their loved ones.

Prayers of the People Intercession List & Prayer Chain

Did you know: if you have a loved one you want prayed for in the service there is a list that is kept on the table in the narthex before the services where you can add their name. Many people gain comfort from the knowledge that their loved ones are being upheld in prayer by a group of faithful people.

To give everyone a chance to avail themselves of the Prayers of the People intercession list **we are making a change to how the list is managed**. Starting this Sunday, names will be kept on the list for a maximum of four weeks. If you feel you need your loved one on the list longer, please speak with the clergy. This way no one is deterred from adding a name for fear that they are making the list too long.

For long-term, ongoing prayer needs I **strongly encourage you to send your prayer requests to the prayer chain**. We have a group of people who pray regularly for a list of needs that are made known to them. The prayer chain operates under strict confidentiality and will not share information they receive through the chain with anyone else - just God. Prayer requests for the prayer chain may be sent to the chair, Alicia Hampshire: aliciahampshire@hotmail.com.

Flowers

There is an available spot for Altar flowers for November 8th. If you would like to purchase flowers for these days please contact Cynthia at the office



Christ Church Family Ministries Updates!

Ignite Volunteer of the Week!

We had a suggestion from a parishioner to profile a volunteer each week, to help the congregation get to know our Family Ministries team!

Our Volunteer of the Week is the incredible **Alicia Hampshire!**



Name: Alicia Hampshire

How long have you been volunteering? One month!

Why do you volunteer? I have always had an affinity with children and love to be around them and watch them play and learn.

What is something that you wish the rest of the church knew about Ignite? Getting the chance to volunteer at IGNITE is really a great experience. The area in our church for our youth learning is wonderful. There is space for all the age groups to enjoy their time. From the efficient check-in to getting the lesson

plan the week before is another big plus. Having the Plan to Protect course endorsed by our church and having a qualified instructor, thank you Laurel, has made IGNITE a Sunday school to be proud of. I feel blessed to be a part of it.

Anything else? Not at the moment!

Interested in Volunteering with Our Youth and Children?

We need more hands to help us keep up with our incredible growth! We need people to help with greeting children, holding babies, crafts, games and so much more. You don't have to lead the lesson if you are not comfortable and everything is provided for you. We would love to have you. Please speak to Laurel if you are interested!

Upcoming Youth Group Events

Friday, March 13th @ 7pm: High Energy Games and Snacks (at the church!)

Friday, March 27th @ 7pm: Arcadia Escape Room

Reminder - Youth Sunday Morning Lessons

Just a reminder that we now offer Sunday morning lessons for our youth at 1030am! We hope to see your youth there! We are thrilled to welcome Kyle Antoni Agbing as our Youth Lesson facilitator for the next nine weeks. Kyle has taught several of our lessons before and he is an important part of our volunteer team. This coming Sunday he will be talking about Land, Judges, and Kings!

Family Ministries Instagram

Just a friendly reminder that I have created an Instagram account to document our adventures in Family Ministries! Please follow us @christchurchfamilyministries

Warmly,
Laurel Hatch

**Rev Brandon Witwer. Associate 2017-2021
Rector 2022- March 2026**

Originally from Lacombe, Brandon had worked in youth ministry in a number of Baptist churches and ministries in his twenties

before moving into the Anglican tradition. He and his wife Deanna were confirmed at Christ Church (while members of St. Laurence's) in 2014.

Brandon has served as a student intern in parishes in Ontario as part of his Masters of Divinity degree from Wycliffe College, at the U of T.

Brandon started at Christ Church on August 1st 2017, as an assistant to the Rector. He was ordained deacon on October 4, 2017 and priest on April 8, 2018, both at the cathedral. During his time as assistant, in addition to the usual priestly duties, he initiated the youth-orientated 'Messy Church' service on Sunday evenings once a month, which Gary Mak helped sustain for a couple of years.

During this time Deanna served as director of Family Ministries and had a successful ministry growing the Sunday School which was re-branded as Kids Church and incorporated liturgical formation into the children's program.

Brandon became Interim Rector, after the sudden departure of David Pickett just before Easter 2021. He was appointed as Rector on March 1st. 2022 and inducted on June 5th that year. Brandon was the youngest Rector since Luxton in 1933 and the only Rector of the twelve previous appointments who was born in Alberta. He was away on Sabbatical leave from April through June in 2024. Brandon was on medical leave for the removal of a benign splenic tumor between July 1 and Oct 1, 2025 but soon fully recovered.

Aspects of his ministry that must be mentioned are as follows: Maintaining a steady atmosphere after the previous Rector left and coping with the many rumors about what had happened. Subsequently instituting a healing process led by retired priest Rev Brian Way.

Shepherding the church through the Covid pandemic and reinstituting in-person services in late 2022/early 2023. The Mission and Management Committees of Parish Council blended during the pandemic and then separated again afterwards in 2023. The mission Committee lost its sense of direction at that time, but, encouraged by Brandon, it found renewed focus with the help of The Revive Program which helps lay people deepen their spirituality and sense of calling. New programs included Feasting with the Saints and ACORN, both started by lay members of the parish.

The steady growth of attendees since the end of the pandemic. There were 100 more people at Christmas services in 2025 compared with Christmas 2019, before the Covid outbreak.

This growth has spilled over into Outreach which is supporting various families facing difficulties.

The first new Stained-Glass window for some time, in memory of Canon Herb O'Driscoll, which we might call the "All shall be well" window.

The Endowment Trust Fund reached two million.

Brandon felt privileged to provide mentorship to three people at various phases in their call to ordained ministry. Supporting Rev Adam Bedford as he was ordained priest in Feb 2023 in the beginning of his priestly ministry. Accompanying Daylon Tilitzky through his discernment process to his ordination as deacon in June 2025. And recently offering guidance to Matthew McNaughton as he begins his ordination discernment process.

Brandon's last day at Christ Church is March 1st 2026. He hopes to be remembered for assisting and empowering ordained and lay people in the parish to pursue the ministries God has called them to and gifted them for.

Outreach Update

Bottoms Up



This Lenten season, please consider supporting young mothers and their babies with Diapers and baby care items for the Highbanks Society's Sharing Closet!!

Highbanks supports vulnerable pregnant or parenting women between 16-24 years old who are fleeing situations of incredible adversity. Highbanks offers these young moms and their children hope by eliminating barriers to growth which allow them to break free from the cycle of trauma and build a future of resilience, joy, and contribution. The Sharing Closet is for their moms to access items for baby and themselves whenever they are needed!

Diapers of all sizes, especially 5/6!

But also:

Aveeno oatmeal bath

Diaper rash cream

Baby Wipes

Hand soap

Laundry detergent

All purpose cleaner

Dish soap

Bleach

Body wash

Shampoo/conditioner

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Garbage bags - large black and small kitchen sized white ones

Tylenol and Aspirin - adult, infant, toddler, child

March 1st, 2026 Flower Memorials

The flowers at the Altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of my late husband, Jim Crawford by his wife
Rosemary

The flowers at the Chapel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Maurice Pochailo by his wife, Erika and family

The flowers at the Font are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Reg Tanner, the gift of the family

The Power of Prayer

Forward Day by Day

Prayer books for February - April are available in the Narthex
Additional prayer resources can be found on Forward Movement's website: https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/forward_day_by_day.php?d=29&m=4&y=2020

Prayer Shawls - "Tangible Evidence of Prayer" (ref: "The Prayer Shawl Ministry")

Each of our shawls, handmade by the members of this ministry includes the prayers of the shawl maker as it is made, receives a special blessing, then is available to be given to offer peace, and comfort to someone in need. Shawls are always available here. Please contact Cynthia at the office: 403-243-4680, or Barbara Robinson: barbrobinson@gmail.com if you know of someone for whom a shawl would be helpful.

The Parish Prayer Chain

Have a friend who needs someone to pray for them? Our prayer chain does this daily, and welcomes requests for confidential prayer. Contact Alicia Hampshire, Adam Bedford.

Praying with Alongside Hope

On the second Thursday of each month praying with Alongside Hope takes place over zoom at 11am (Calgary time). On the fourth Thursday of each month the Alongside Hope team in Toronto plans an educational webinar in the same time slot. Please contact Kim Umbach at kumbach@pwrdf.org for the zoom link to be included and for further details.



Anyone can be added to our email list... they just need to ask!
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Just forward this to them, and...
They can [click here](#) to be added to our mailing list!



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