



THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

June 2023

Introducing

Pastor Aaron Twait

Hello!

I'm Pastor Aaron Twait –

I wanted to take a few minutes to introduce myself to you and let you know how excited I am to be joining Christ Church as priest-in-charge on July 1!

I'm an Iowa native and spent about half my childhood growing up on the same farm my dad did in the north-west part of the state, where we farmed 320 acres and raised 1,000 hogs a year. After graduating from high school, I attended the University of Iowa (Hawkeyes, not Cyclones), where I studied history and philosophy, and then attended graduate school at the University of Minnesota, where I earned a Masters degree in Public Policy. My first career was as a public policy analyst and researcher in the nonprofit and public sectors – as I often tell people, I went from working with numbers to working with people! I was ordained as a priest last June, and have served at Christ Church in Woodbury since then on a very part-time basis while I've been working toward my Master of Divinity degree at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

I've had lots of experience in church life, having first wandered into an Episcopal church in 2006. I've served as parish treasurer, taught Sunday School, been a cantor and a choir member, hosted coffee hour, and all sorts of things in between. As a priest I've been heavily involved with providing pastoral care, planning worship, and facilitating adult education – in addition to preaching and presiding at worship. IN other words, I've had my fingers in lots of different things!

My passions in ministry include helping congregations listen for how the Spirit is calling them to join in God's mission of reconciliation and loving the neighbor, helping people grow in their Christian discipleship, and creating opportunities for worship that bring us closer to the God who loves us.

In my spare time, I enjoy medium-distance running, cooking (including cooking shows!), reading, and board games. I live in Woodbury with my wife Christine, who co-owns a software company, and our three youngest children: Elisabeth, Madeleine, and Sonja. Our oldest child, Chara, just moved to Menomonie to start college. If my position with you becomes permanent we're looking forward to moving to Red Wing, but the timing will depend on a variety of factors.

One question I'm often asked is – "what do you want to be called?" For those of you who wish to give me a title, I prefer "Pastor Aaron" over "Father Aaron" – but I answer to either. Otherwise, "Aaron" works, too. Please feel free to choose whichever of those options you're most comfortable with.

Please know that my door – physical, virtual, or otherwise – is always open. I'm looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you starting very soon!

***Blessings,
Pastor Aaron Twait***



Bishop
The Right Rev. Craig Loya

Deacon
The Rev Vicki Lambert
deacon@christchurchrw.org

Music Director
John Albright
albright303@hotmail.com

Sunday School Director
Heather Flueger-Whalen
heather.flueger@gmail.com

Christ Church Vestry 2023
Sr. Warden: Angela Shefvland
Jr. Warden: Kris Blaney
Zoe Malinchoc-DeVoe (2024)
Hugh Wronski (2024)
Elaine Hoisington (2025)
Erik Prink (2025)
Ron Weitnauer (2026)
Brendan Kelly (2026)
Teri Van Allen (2026)

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Living into the Spirit

by Deacon Vicki

Pentecost has arrived! We remember this every year. In Fr. Nick's Pentecost sermon, he stated this is the second most important day in the church year following Easter. That places this event even in front of Christmas!

This blessing of the Holy Spirit can help guide us in every decision, every thought, and every prayer. I don't know about you, but I sometimes struggle with leaning into the Spirit for guidance. This requires time to develop the relationship with the Spirit and help it reckon with our will. Remember: it is God who calls and the Holy Spirit who moves our hearts.

The Holy Spirit helps us live into true freedom. Free, in the first place, from selfishness, from pride and the desire to stand out. Remember this spirit of freedom doesn't mean we can follow our own impulses as though everything that doesn't come from ourselves were an imposition we had to free ourselves from. Rather, it means acting with the same Spirit as Jesus: "I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me" (*John 6:38*). This freedom allows us to lean into all our talents, initiative, and creativity with God's help.

Living with freedom of spirit means letting the Holy Spirit be the one who shapes and guides us, and who also makes use of those God has placed at our side to help us. John 3:8 tells us:

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."



The times have changed. We are moving into a new era. Pastor Aaron is starting. I am transitioning out of the youth and young adult position. We are in this together. Let us continue to be flexible and forgiving, allowing the Spirit to blow us in a new direction.



Calling all parishioners! Especially Youth and Young Adults!

Feed My Starving Children packing day.
Date: June 28, 2023
Time: 10:00 am to 3:30 pm
Place: FMSC Eagan location

We will meet at church and ride together.
Contact Vicki for more information.



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Centering Yourself

by Kris Blaney

June is here and the weather is starting to feel like summer. Flowers are blooming, grass is growing, whirlybirds are in abundance, and allergy season is upon us. We have been waiting what feels like an eternal winter to get to this season. It feels good to absorb the sun and let it shine. I look forward to this season, it's an opportunity to get outside, take in some vitamin D. And if you are like me, dig in the dirt and watch the wonder of plants grow; along with the weeds. When I'm out digging in the dirt, I use that time to think about things, or not. I enjoy just being one with nature, it helps center me. I feel like I have left the day in the dirt as it absorbs my stresses. Call it my "Zen".

What do you do to center yourself?

Do you dig in the dirt, read a book, lay in the sun, or have a hobby that melts the daily stress away? We all should have something that helps us relax or release from the daily stresses. If you are struggling with finding your "Zen", here are some ideas that can help:

- ◆ Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories
- ◆ Take care of yourself. Eat healthy, exercise, and get plenty of sleep
- ◆ Take care of your body- try yoga, deep breathing or meditation
- ◆ Make time to unwind- find a hobby
- ◆ Talk to others – talking helps release emotion
- ◆ Connect with your community or faith-based organizations
- ◆ Avoid drugs and alcohol
- ◆ Recognize when you need more help.



Enjoy the sun and the warmth that comes with it. Take in what nature provides and use it to calm you and bring you peace, you deserve it.

Blessings,

Kris Blaney, Junior Warden

Our Partners in God's Work: Goodhue County Resource Center



Helping families and individuals access resources in our community.

NEW HOURS:

Monday 11am—4pm
 Tuesday 12pm—7pm
 Thursday 11am—4pm
 Friday 11am—4pm

- Housing
- Physical & Mental Health
- Chemical Dependency
- Legal Services
- Child Care
- Eviction Litigation

- Education
- Employment
- Pregnancy
- Food
- Social Services
- And More...



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Faithful Innovations Team Update



Questions we might all ponder...



The final group meeting for Faithful Innovation took place in Faribault on April 29. We all shared our experiences: for us that included the coffee hour we hosted where we listened to your individual stories, the neighborhood walk, the prayer wall, the magnet for the Welcome Wagon, and our hope for a reflection bench in our church yard. Parting questions we left with included:

**“What might God be leading you to do next?” and
“What might God be leading our congregation to try next?”**

The Community Engagement Team Notes

The Community Engagement Team decided to hold quarterly drives. They will be as follows:

1st Quarter— Food Shelf (But we will still collect year round)

2nd Quarter— “Between There Care” (See flyer on page 5)

3rd Quarter— Pick a Non-Profit (There will be several to choose from!)

4th Quarter— Coat Shed (Still welcomes donations year round)

The Coat Shed is closed for the season after an extremely successful run. Donations may be left in the office or on the bench outside the office, any time of the year.

We needed a dolly to carry all the boxes and bags from the car to the Food Shelf this past month! Please continue to drop off items in the bins in the back of the church or in the Parish Hall entryway.

The drive continuing through June is for “Between There Care”. Please bring any personal hygiene items to the bins in the Parish Hall entryway. This could include toilet paper, diapers, feminine napkins, tampons, and incontinence products. These will be distributed through Hope Coalition, Goods for Girls, Youth outreach or wherever a local need is expressed.

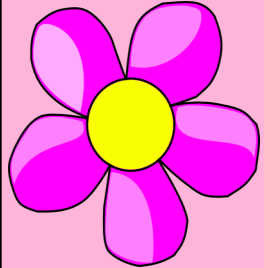


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“BETWEEN THERE” Care Quarterly Drive



Ideas:

Toilet Paper

Feminine Napkins

Diapers

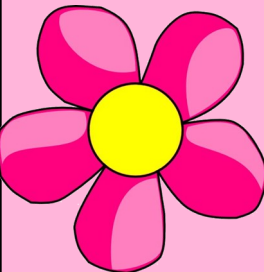
Tampons

Creams, Lotions

Incontinence Products

Shave Cream

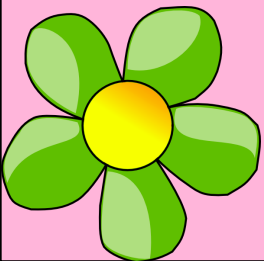
**Please bring any personal hygiene items to the bins
In the 4th Street hallway or the church office.**



Presented by:

**Christ Episcopal
Community Engagement Team**

**651-388-0411
www.christchurchrw.org**



Any Craftsman?!

I'm looking for someone to build a storage unit for the letters and numbers for our sandwich signs. I'm open to suggestions too! Contact or come see Dawne at the church office.



Thank you for your help!



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Mark Your Calendars!

ECW presents:

Save the Date:

Thursday, June 22 @ 5:30pm

CEC Fellowship Hall

RSVP required by June 17

Space is limited



Sip
Pray
Paint

Calling All Gardeners!



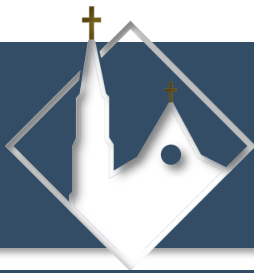
The church is looking for people who love gardening to help maintain the flowering plants and gardens on the church grounds.

It is so nice to see blooms rather than the snow!

If interested, call Erik Prink at 612-532-8225.

Thank you Peggy Danielson for all your time and talent in our gardens!
You are so appreciated!





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June 2023 Scheduled Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30pm MOPS	2	3 7 pm NA in Youth Room
4 8am Eucharist 9am CGS 10am Eucharist	5 12pm ~ Junior Guild Lunch	6	7 9:30am Eucharist 5 pm Women's AA 5:30 pm Hospitality Meeting	8	9	10 10:30 am Commu- nity Engagement Team (CET) 7 pm NA in Youth Room
11 Sunday School Picnic! 8am Eucharist 9am CGS 10am Eucharist 	12	13 5:30 pm Property Committee	14 9:30a Eucharist 5pm Women's AA	15 6:30pm MOPS	16	17 9:30 am ECW Meeting 7 pm NA in Youth Room
18 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist	19 5 pm Vestry Meeting	20	21 9:30a Eucharist 5pm Women's AA	22 Sip Paint & Pray ECW 	23	24 7 pm NA in Youth Room
25 Clergy's Discretionary Fund <u>Worship at Frontenac</u> 10 am Eucharist	26 4:30 pm Altar Guild	27	28 9:30a Eucharist 5pm Women's AA 10-3:30 Feed My Starv- ing Children	29	30	



Mark your calendar

July 9 Pastor Aaron welcome coffee hour.

July 23 Annual Jazz Service in the park.

August 20 Bishop Loya visit.



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June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Jamie Teele
- 2 Catherine Johnson
- 3 Kelsie Featherstone
- 7 Charlene Friedrich
- 9 Matt Shefveland
- 11 Madelyn Miller
- 14 Teresa Van Allen, Carol Lampman
- 15 Marilyn Potswald
- 18 Marm Nihart
- 22 Caroline Burnham



- 23 June Gustafson
- 24 Claire Hoisington
- 25 Linda McNairy
- 28 Jill Fanslow, Laura Knutson

Anniversaries

- 8 Clark & Beca Knudsen
- 9 Jeff & Annette Richter
- 30 Randy & Catherine Johnson



Altar Memorial Flowers for June

June 4

- Chapel In memory of Sam & Barbara Blue
John & Maureen Blue
- Church In memory of my parents, Ralph & Lillian Bryan & husband Robert
Marian Gustafson

June 11

- Chapel In thanksgiving for Sam & Nate
Ernie & MaryAnn Valentine
- Church **OPEN**



June 18

- Chapel **OPEN**
- Church In thanksgiving of grandchildren, Nathan, Edward, John, Thomas, Reid, Clara, Jackie, Michael & Jay
Char Friedrich

June 25

- Chapel In thanksgiving for Sonia, Dan, Charlotte & Elliot, Michael, Jackie, Caroline & Lauren
John & Mary Heckman
- Church In loving memory of Dr. George & Ibba Hawley
Jane Hawley Cooper

Please contact **Maureen Blue** to sign up for altar flowers for any time of the year.
Phone 651-385-0574 or email: maureenblue108@yahoo.com