

The Courier

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DEARBORN, MI

SUMMER 2023



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Vestry

The Vestry begins each meeting by stating the Mission, Vision, and Vision Path (goals, how we will live into our mission and vision) for Christ Church at this time:



Mission - "Christ Episcopal Church welcomes, inspires, nurtures and replenishes through worship, fellowship and education. We seek to live a Christ-like life by embracing our broader, diverse community and serving others."

Vision - Feeding people in mind, body, and Spirit

Vision path -

1. Effective building usage that expands our mission, helps us grow our intercultural community center, and provides part of our ongoing revenue stream. A primary component of building usage includes the Partnership in Faith with Mother of the Savior.
2. Assessing and evaluating effective staffing to meet our missional needs which includes sustaining the Partnership in Faith with Mother of the Savior.
3. Creating an intercultural community center with an emphasis on education including growing awareness of cultural similarities and differences including food, music, art, worship, festivals. The Partnership in Faith is a prominent component of this goal.
4. Rebuilding a vibrant music ministry that includes worship and concerts.

Staff, Vestry, and Officers of the Church



Rev. Terri Pilarski
Rector



Rev. Halim Shukair
Assistant Priest



Erin Biggs
Office Manager



Tess Dowgiallo
Children in Worship



John Jones
Sexton



Kevin Green
Treasurer



Matt Sallman
Clerk



Dale Taylor
Sr. Warden



Jill Poske
Jr. Warden



Chris Burkhalter



Selia Danes



Peter Kenney



Daniel Pawa

Rector's Perspective: The Rev. Terri C. Pilarski

When I was a little girl my family and I lived on the side of the mountain, near the University, in Salt Lake City. An apricot tree grew in the backyard. I used to climb the tree and nestle into the branches with a good book. I could spend the afternoon there, reading and eating ripe apricots. From my perch in that tree I could see the entire Salt Lake City valley below. A buzzing network of people going about their daily lives.

Moving to Dearborn, one of the first things I noticed in that spring of 2011, was the stunning beauty of blooming trees. I had never seen anything like it - from dogwoods to magnolias to redbuds to weeping cherry trees and others, in an array of pink and purple and white blossoms.

There are a lot of old trees in Dearborn. Some of them, as we know, have lived their life span and have collapsed, sometimes causing damage to houses and electrical wires. Others, many others, are still doing their job to help sustain the ecosystem that creates our beautiful neighborhoods.

Forest ecologist, Susanne Simard studies trees in the ecosystem of forests, primarily in the Pacific Northwest. She comes from a family of loggers, people who cut down trees. She is working to help people understand forest ecology, how to log in sustainable ways that will enable the forests to stay healthy and prevent the damage of wildfires.

Forests are complex communities of interdependent species that share resources and rely on one another to survive, much like the example I mentioned last week of algae and fungi sharing resources and creating the organism called lichen. The network created in forests, with trees sharing carbon across the roots of trees and the roots of fungi, a system called mycelium, enables trees to help one another thrive. Old trees share knowledge of how to combat pests and disease as well as sharing nutrients. The communication happens beneath the ground in this network, but it also happens above ground when trees emit chemicals into the air that other trees and animals can relate to.

Each step in a forest has about 300 miles of mycelium. Mycelium are the roots of fungi. They form networks called mycorrhizal. These networks are symbiotic, working together to exchange sugar from one plant, the tree roots, with minerals from another, the mycelium or roots of the fungi.

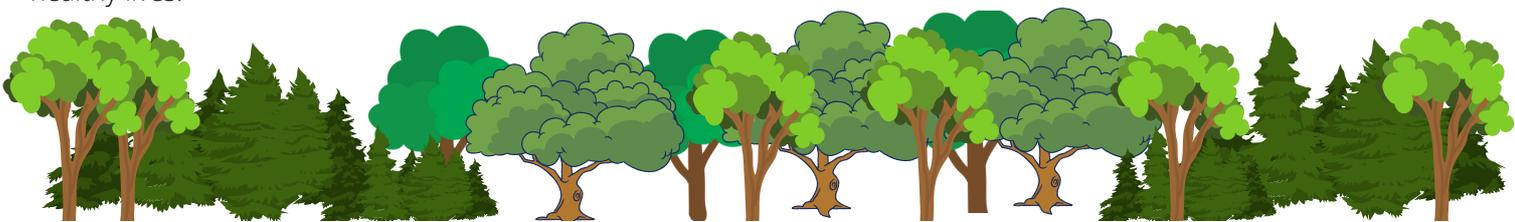


Think about how many miles of interconnected root based communication we have just in the front and side yards of our property. Think about that new tree we just planted, the one that I won in the raffle on Earth Day. Its capacity to grow and thrive is dependent on the support of all the other trees in that area, which will reach out to it help nurture it.

The systems that support trees are similar to the networks that support human life and comprise our families and our communities. ICCD, the mission of Christ Church and our Partnership in Faith with Mother of the Savior, is becoming a hub for networking among and between a variety of individuals and groups in Dearborn. The ICCD task force in an intercultural, interpersonal, intergenerational, interfaith, and inter-racial group. We use the prefix "inter" intentionally to describe the relationship between us that is forming and growing as we strive to cultivate deep, meaningful, and long lasting relationships, exchange ideas and information and learn from one another, work together in education and service initiatives for the wider community, and dismantle structures and societal systems and attitudes of racism, segregation and bigotry in Dearborn and the surrounding communities. Christ Church and Mother of the Savior, as the founding members of the ICCD are establishing an ecosystem where organizations grow healthier because they are involved and invested in one another as we work on common concerns, share resources, and build a healthier community.

Christ Church has been in Dearborn for 157 years. Our building is a place where many people and organizations have the ability to do their work in the world.

I suggest that we are bit like a mother tree- extending our resources to help others grow and thrive. The network that roots us in the community is old and strong. It is also expanding to help others thrive. We are building a mutually supportive network. In doing so we are living our faith as a people called into loving relationships. Relationships that dismantle systems of injustice, creating an environment, an ecosystem, a symbiotic network for people to live whole and healthy lives.



Curate's Perspective: The Rev. Halim Shukair

Holy God, Holy Relationship!

As we approach a new phase in our lives, a new recovery after two and half years of struggling with the pandemic, now it's time to start our journey back to normal life. It will take time to adapt to the new reality that Covid-19 created in these past two years. Now is the time to re-establish lost connections with other people in our congregation and our community.

Our lives are not meant to be lived in isolation, our lives are meant to be filled with people. People to love, people to honor, people to laugh with, cry with, and just live life with. This is the essence of our Christian faith, and it comes from our understanding of God as Trinity (We will celebrate Trinity Sunday on June 12 this year).



So many of us start our day by the sign of the cross "In the Name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Some of us use another language "Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier".

Our understanding of God as Three, a Trinity of Persons, is a reality. It is a spiritual reality that goes beyond Christianity or any religion. And it has a critical importance today. It is a deep contribution to our present time of unrest.

We need relationships. We need the renewal and restoration of our relationships and we need the birth and beginning of new relationships. And "relationship," my friends, is exactly what the Holy Trinity is about "The Holy Trinity is about Holy Relationship." Trinity Sunday is the only feast day of the Christian year that is not based upon an event, like the birth of Jesus (Christmas), the Resurrection of Christ (Easter), or the Descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). Trinity Sunday is about a belief (Doctrine), not an event.

When we say that God is Trinity, we are really saying that "God is Relationship." God, our mighty powerful God, does not exist alone. Even God exists with others. Even God, the Holy One, lives in a relationship. We might even say that God is the Essence of Relationships!

Maybe you wonder: So, what? What difference does the Trinity make? What difference does it make in how we define God? I want to say, "Yes; it does make a difference." If we believe that God actually loves people, we ourselves will love people, too. And, if we believe that God lives in a holy and healthy relationship, we ourselves will try to live in a holy and healthy relationship.

God actually exists in a loving relationship. The persons of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit respect and honor each other. They live in a relationship. If we human beings are made in the image of God, then we are made for relationships. Our life, our image, is not complete unless we are in a relationship with other persons.

Today and not any other day, we need a loving relationship, and mutually honoring and respecting relationship. Maybe we need this kind of relationship because we are living alone. Maybe we need such a relationship because our life has become full of anxiety and stress because of isolation. Living in a relationship means being able, and willing, to learn from people who are different from us.

The Holy Trinity of God does need each other. God needs the incarnation of the Son on earth. The Son needs the power of the Holy Spirit. The various people of God, of all races and nations, need one another, just as God the Father needs the Son who needs the Spirit. We are incomplete without each other, just as God is incomplete if God is not the Trinity.

Office Manager's Perspective: Erin Biggs

My girls are so excited that summer break is just a couple of weeks away. They are looking forward to being able to do more than they have the past couple of summers. Erik and I have decided this will be a summer filled with spending time with friends and family. We have missed that so much!

During Covid it has felt like we have lost touch with many of our friends and the girls really weren't able to make any new friends until this school year, and really, just this spring. It has been so strange not having play-dates with lots of kids and Carissa not being able to have friends over for slumber parties. If you had asked Melody to name her friends at the end of last summer her response would have been "Carissa and the boys" (our neighbors).

The girls have made so many new friends the past few months between both of them being in school and cheer. Thankfully many of Carissa's friends have younger siblings that are Melody's friends as well. I love watching their circle of friends grow and strengthen, and hearing the girls refer to their friends as besties and even consider a couple to be like sisters. We are getting to know these families and building strong relationships with the parents and children. Plans are being made for lots of fun, trips to the zoo, slumber parties, camp outs, cheerleading competition trips, swimming and cook outs. It seems like almost daily there is a friend calling or a neighbor knocking on the door asking the girls to play. If you were to ask Melody now to name her friends she would give you a much longer list. I am so happy that my girls are beginning to form these strong bonds with their friends. My hope is these relationships continue to grow throughout their lives and become lifelong friends. I want them all, my girls and their friends, to be able to look back at this summer and remember great memories of fun and bonding.



Sexton's Perspective: John Jones

Hello church family. I hope that love finds you well.

This month we are pondering about relationship(s) as it applies as a holy currency. And also how relationship is applied in our profession and our personal lives. Being a self-taught student of philosophy (meaning I read a lot about philosophy) and a strong belief in "Naturphilosophie", this subject speaks directly to my sense that all life is related, and part of one soul, the earth soul, my God. I have thought often about how we are all related. How we are related to other humans, animals, plants, trees, water, air, rock, sand, and even seemingly inanimate objects. Down to the individual molecules. I have even written about my personal relationship with a building; how it is a living organism with breath and a heartbeat. In fact, I believe I have learned more about human relations and purpose from a tree than anything.

A lot of my beliefs come from my mother. From a very young age I was taught that all life was created by God, that all life therefore was precious, all related, and none more or less important than the other. I remember hearing many times, "You are one of God's creations. No Less than the stars and the trees." I suppose the biggest lesson she was trying to teach was humility. It has taken me many years to understand true humility, but I am so thankful that seed was planted.

I think that the philosophy of nature has helped me tremendously to relate to other people, animals, nature, and the universe around me. When I choose to look deeper at someone, on a cellular level, there I find that connection to God and that which we are all related. This philosophy I believe is a holy currency in that we are enriched with wisdom, strength, patience, tolerance, kindness, and love. What better way to fulfill God's purpose.

So, if you ever see me sitting alone, staring intently at a rock I am holding, mind your business, I'm talking to God!

Peace, light, and love.

Becoming Involved with Intercultural Community Center

Jim Gettell

ICCD Task Force Vision Developer

Dearborn is a wonderful ethnically, religiously and economically diverse setting for intercultural community and we are encouraged when people who come to Intercultural Community Center in Dearborn with previous involvement in Dearborn say, "This is what I've been looking for!" Christ Church and Mother of the Savior continue to nurture an expanding ICCD, which gathers individuals and groups from diverse cultural backgrounds to cultivate strong relationships, share and learn from one another, and work and lead together in education and service projects for the wider community.

Since Thanksgiving, ICCD added members to its community board from more groups who desire to partner in community relationships and projects. You also are invited to participate with others from the Dearborn area in new relationships and five specific projects for reducing hunger, improving the environment, deepening intercultural relationships, or developing relationships and communications among the larger community:

The college food insecurity work-group is developing a comprehensive and sustainable response to food insecurity of students at University of Michigan Dearborn and Henry Ford College through communication and coordination of food pantries, gift cards, food preparation training, and healthy living classes (all offered by partners in ICCD). This group has recently compiled a list of specific needs for food in short supply (religious, dietary, gluten free, vegan and vegetarian items) and will help reach out to community partners to meet these needs.

The environmental contamination work-group builds awareness and advocates for mitigation of lifelong health risks such as PFAS contamination that predominates in economically and environmentally challenged Dearborn Arab American neighborhoods and other industrial contamination. This group shared presentations at Christ Church and at Dearborn schools in January and February (<https://youtu.be/ShPeukMmdl4>). This group needs more people to have greater capacity for working more broadly on environmental or climate change issues.

The high school intercultural events work-group is learning about concerns, interests and needs at Edsel Ford High School and other schools for shared intercultural events and diversity in student events and will help develop appropriate intercultural events for all students. This group is just getting started and is looking for participation from students and parents in addition to school faculty and staff.

The community engagement workgroup identifies and becomes acquainted with local experts and leaders in the Dearborn community through one-to-one meetings and small group work or conversations and will invite people together for asset-mapping listening sessions. Often interested individuals or group representatives are invited to share their concerns about community needs, or partner in ICCD task force or workgroups, and most have accepted. For this workgroup, we need more people who enjoy getting to know other community leaders in the Dearborn area and discovering ways we may work together.

The website development and communications workgroup will work on design and development of a bilingual website, videos and communications (in English and Arabic) to support community building and local projects and events. ICCD is seeking grant funding for the website designer, videographer and translator and a part-time bilingual communications coordinator to support the work of this team.

If you are interested in helping out with or supporting any of these teams and would like more information, please speak with any member of the ICCD facilitation team (appointed by Christ Church's vestry – Karen Beck, Erin Biggs, Chris Burkhalter, The Rev. Terri Pilarski, The Rev. Halim Shukair, or me, jim.gettel@gmail.com) or the ICCD community board (including Mary Jo Durivage, Kevin Green or Dale Taylor). Within nine months of being formed, ICCD is cultivating intercultural relationships and coordinating new community projects. Please join us and invite your friends!



Intercultural Community Center in Dearborn **ICCD**



The Intercultural Community Center Is a proud co-sponsor



June 17 Juneteenth Block Party: Art and Chocolate DJ music ArtSpace
13615 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI. Drop in and dance, 7:30-11 pm.

June 18 Juneteenth Mobility Stroll and Roll Commemoration Prayer
breakfast at Artspace Courtyard Patio (off Maple Rd and John Nagy Dr)
followed by the mobility stroll and roll parade with the Dr. Martin Luther
King Marching Band starting at 13615 Michigan Ave and Schaefer. 7:30am
breakfast with parade at 10am.

Dearborn Homage to Black Excellence Juneteenth Commemoration

Breakfast and Mobility, Stroll and Roll Parade

June 18th 7:30am Prayer, breakfast and dignitaries speak;
9am community exercise with parade beginning at 10am.

Dearborn ArtSpace Campus Annex 13615 Michigan
Avenue, Dearborn, MI 48126

\$30 PER PERSON: RSVP THROUGH EVENTBRITE FOR
ENTRY

click on the url below or scan
the QR code: <https://tinyurl.com/y9uzmnuc>



Music Ministry Perspective

Introducing Our Summer Musicians

Manuela Blankinship was born in Germany and came to the U.S. in the late 90s. She started playing the Baroque recorders at age 6 and the piano at age 9. Over the years, she successfully participated in youth music competitions (Jugend Musiziert) as a soloist as well as an accompanist, belonged to several music ensembles, and was offered a spot at the Musikhochschule Köln at age 13. While, at the time, she was advised against dual enrollment in high school and music college, she continued her private music lessons throughout adolescence and early adulthood.

After moving to the U.S., she continued her studies through private lessons and regularly performed at Littlefield Presbyterian Church and other venues.

Her many ties to Christ Episcopal Church originated with her son's playgroup and his attendance at Chapel Day Preschool, her membership in the community garden, performances as a soloist, and her years with Cherry Hill Consort, whose members Diana Brehob, Carolyn Blackmore, and Tess Dowgiallo are/were congregants at CEC. She enjoys playing the piano during Sunday services, memorial services, and weddings at Christ Episcopal Church.

Manuela also performed as part of the Caruela Duo with Carolyn Blackmore raising funds for CECD's Blessings in a Backpack program. She and Diana Brehob are currently building a new recorder ensemble (Littlefield Recorders) and Manuela just added the cello as her newest musical endeavor.

Manuela is looking forward to continuing her musical and spiritual journey with Christ Episcopal Church.



Alonzo Luzod (Lonnie) is a musician and actor with performance experience throughout Metro Detroit. Venues include Stagecrafters, The Ringwald, and Meadow Brook Theatre. He has also played keyboards for the international touring group Up With People.

Lonnie is a former music leader/choir director at Littlefield Presbyterian Church. He was also involved with Peace Camp, an annual summer event at Littlefield which brought together children from varied backgrounds to celebrate diversity and to hone peace-keeping techniques.

Former Music Minister at St. Conrad Catholic Church.

Other Experience:

Product Spokesman for Ford Motor Company on the US auto show circuit and a Real Estate Appraiser.





Outdoor Summer Concert Series 2022

Free ad OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday evenings 6:30-8pm

Bring a blanket, chairs, a picnic supper and enjoy!

June 30: Jeff Karoub and friends

July 14: The Mollywops - a Detroit-based band led by Malik Yakini that plays original classic funk, reggae, rock and more!

July 21: Maples Elementary Arabic Ensemble chorus and drums

COVID RECOVERY SALE

Christ Church - 120 N. Military - Dearborn

JULY 14-16, 2022

DONATE YOUR GENTLY USED FURNITURE, TOOLS, GARDEN EQUIPMENT, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
(No clothes, please)

Organizer: Selia Danes, Chair of COVID Recovery Fun and Recreation Committee

Contact church office: office@christchurchdearborn.org - 313-565-8450

for more information and to sign up to participate





**Christ
Episcopal
Church**

120 N. Military

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OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, Bishop

The Rev. Terri Pilarski, Rector

Dale Taylor, Sr. Warden

Jill Poske, Jr. Warden

Kevin Green, Treasurer

Matthew Sallman, Clerk

STAFF

Erin Biggs, Office Manager

Tess Dowgiallo, Children in Worship

John Jones, Sexton

The Rev. Halim Shukair, Assistant Priest

VESTRY

Chris Burkhalter

Selia Danes

Peter Kenney

Daniel Pawa

Jill Poske

Dale Taylor