

The Messenger

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY
OF CHRIST CHURCH,
DUANESBURG, NEW YORK



Winter/Spring 2026



Rector's 2025 Annual Report

Restoration Project

In April we signed a contract with VMJR Construction for the restoration of the church and work commenced on site in May. Little did we know how much additional rot we would find in the supporting structure. We also did not expect to find asbestos in the window putty, but we kept going. The result is a wonderful testimony not only to everyone who donated to the project, the planning by the architect, the skill of the contractor, but also to God's faithfulness to his church in providing all we needed to carry out the project. I would like to thank all the donors, the Fundraising Committee, the Restoration Building Committee, the Vestry, the architects and contractor

for all the hard work they put into making the restoration a success.

Gratitude

At Christ Church we continue to be blessed with a faithful and enthusiastic congregation who work hard, often unnoticed, to ensure God's Kingdom advances and thrives in Duanesburg. There are many people to thank for their time and service over the past year. Deacon Debbie is always first on my list for her dedicated service to us all as she lives out her calling as deacon, and I am again personally thankful for her encouragement and help over the past year.

During the restoration project we spent 32 Sundays in the Parish Hall. It was wonderful to have such a comfortable facility

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Rector's 2025 Annual Report (cont.)

so close at hand for our worship services. With all of the extra work that the move involved I say a big thank you to the Altar Guild for setting up the Eucharist each week. Thanks also to Sharon Mircle for scheduling the acolytes, readers and greeters for our Sunday Services and to Kath Ash for preparing the Weekly Bulletins. Thanks go to Steve Schrade for choosing the hymns we sing each week and to Colleen, our organist, for leading our praise and to the choir who enhanced our worship experience at our Christmas and Easter celebrations. Thank you also to the tellers, acolytes, readers and Coffee Hour providers.

Thank you to Karen Harkenrider for her card writing ministry over the past few years. Karen stepped down at the end of the year, and we are grateful to Sherry Schrade for stepping in to take over this important ministry. Finally, but not least, thanks to Amy Walsh for editing and issuing The Messenger, along with the regular contributors: John, Steve, Camille and Deacon Debbie.

Parish Life

During 2025 we celebrated three baptisms: Cody Patrick Nilsen, son of Brandon and Stacey, Jackson (Jack) Robert Metch, son of Jake and Mary Kate and Colton Jay Moller, son of Wyatt and Jodi. We also rejoiced on the baptism of Makysm James Breitenstein, son of Carl and Erica, who was baptized at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Watervilet. The Women's Bible Study Group continued to grow in strength under the guidance and leadership of Heidi and Nancy. We held Mid-week Communion Services with lunch in April, July and November, and 30 members of the parish went Caroling in December to Judson Meadows Assisted Living Community. Sadly, during the year we lost Dorothy Smith who passed away in July.

Congregational Events

Notable congregational events that happened during the year included the following:

- Epiphany Pageant (January)
- Twelfth Night Gathering (January)
- Volunteering at the Regional Food Bank (January, May & August)
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (February)
- Raising the Crosses on Good Friday (April)
- Morning of Prayer (April)
- Restoration Project starts (May)
- Parish Picnic (June)
- Floating Classroom Trip to Lake George (July)
- Ladies Luncheon at Maple on the Lake (August)
- Restoration Runners at the first Annual Carlisle Color Run (August)
- Blessings of the Animals (October)
- Holy Hike, Vroman's Nose (October)
- Operation Christmas Child (November)
- We return to Church (December)
- Food Drive to support Our Lady of Fatima Food Pantry (December)
- David, The Movie (December)
- Christmas Caroling at Judson Meadows Assisted Living Community, Glenville (December)
- Lessons and Carols (December)



Restoration Runners

Thank you to everyone who helped with the organization of our social and outreach events.

Rector's 2025 Annual Report (cont.)

Organizations

Joyful Journey (Sunday School) and the work among the young people continued during the year. As well as Bible lessons the young people and their families went on scientific boat rides, hikes and made crafts in the Parish Hall. I am thankful for the continued commitment of Heather and Nora and Deacon Debbie for their work with Joyful Journey, and to John and Sandra for their help with young people.

Due to the restoration work being carried out on the church it was not possible to hold the Ladies Auxiliary biannual Rummage Sales. We look forward to them returning in 2026. A big thank you goes to the Ladies Auxiliary who continue to sponsor Beaver Cross scholarships and give generously to the outreach of the church.

Vestry

We are blessed at Christ Church to have a committed and unified Vestry. Thank you to the members who served on the various committees, in particular the Buildings and Grounds Committee as it continued to maintain and care for the property. Over the past year I have appreciated the support and advice of both Senior and Junior Wardens, Steve Schrade and Cindy Creasy. Thanks also to Nancy Palluti, Secretary to Vestry, for faithfully taking the minutes of the monthly meetings. Finally, thank you to Greg Harkenrider for his admirable work as church treasurer over the past two years. Greg is stepping down as treasurer and will be greatly missed.

Postulants to the Sacred Orders of Deacons

During the year both John Weiler and Heidi Bonacquist were accepted as postulants to Holy Orders. They have started deacon school, and if all goes according to plan, they will be ordained in 2027. We continue to pray for God's guidance and blessing on John and Heidi as they pursue their callings.

Looking Forward

We have, with God's help, accomplished much in 2025, but we also look forward with anticipation to 2026. Bishop Jeremiah will be visiting us in March; we are holding a Celebration Weekend on May 16-17, which will include an open house on the Saturday, and a Historic Re-enactment Service on the Sunday; this year we will be hosting the Baccalaureate Service; and there is the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Three of our parishioners are will be going on Medical Mission trips in 2026, Kath Ash and Carol Gregg were in the Dominican Republic in February and April Kosier is going to Kenya later in the year.

We have much at Christ Church to be thankful for!

Blessings,



January 2026

The Poetry Corner

by Camille Crandall



Snowfall

It started with just a flurry;
The white flakes were floating around.
They appeared rather delightful
As they continued to fall to the ground.

Flurries evolved into placid snow;
White flakes stuck to the ground like paste.
How pretty the white ground cover became,
Like a blanket made of lovely white lace.

The snow falling down became heavier,
While winds joining force aimed to blow.
White lace blankets became comforters,
Gently covering the earth below.

Snow accumulations continued.
Winds blew harder and howled
Changing the storm to a blizzard
As Mother Nature hurled and growled.

After hours of white lightning turmoil,
The winds began to subside.
The snow reverted to flurries,
And the sun beamed its rays far and wide.

The snow scene remaining just glistened
And sparkled right on through the night.
Oh, my how the wonder of snowfall
Can capture a heart at such sight!

Date	Event	Time
March 29	PALM SUNDAY	10:00AM
Apr 2	MAUNDY THURSDAY	7:00PM Midday Eucharist 12:00pm
Apr 3	GOOD FRIDAY	7:00PM Raising the Crosses: TBD
Apr 5	EASTER SUNDAY	10:00AM



February, March & April Anniversaries

2/7 David & Brenda Haberland
 4/3 Alistair Morrison & Laurie
 Garramone
 Bob & Heather MacDougall
 4/5 Bart & Linda MacDougall
 4/14 Bryan & Andrea Salisbury
 4/24 Shawn & Nancy Palluti



February, March & April Birthdays

2/2 Bob Skala, Ethan MacDougall
 2/6 Jessica Lucia
 2/9 Ella Moses
 2/11 Bob MacDougall
 2/15 Lisa McHugh,
 Brenda Haberland
 2/22 Thomas Featherstonhaugh,
 Art Peters
 2/23 Kate Connor, Jayden Sayles,
 Cathy White
 2/27 Mary Kate Mitch
 3/1 Hector Elliott
 3/5 Jennifer Wolfe
 3/9 Franklyn Aurelio Acevedo
 3/10 Nancy Palluti, Shawn Palluti
 3/11 Bart MacDougall, Denny Wolfe
 3/13 Marilyn Schroeder
 3/16 Steve Ash
 3/17 Britt Elliott, Lydia Rudolphsen
 3/19 Sandra Weiler, Jacob Barker
 3/27 Joshua Langston
 3/28 Ben Lennox
 3/29 Carm Fusco
 3/31 Nolan McHugh, Sherry Schrade
 4/1 Johnny Bard
 4/3 Maggie O'Brien
 4/4 Gabriel Denny
 4/5 Clayton Iseman
 4/11 Tommy Walsh
 4/16 Morgan McKinley
 4/18 Jeremiah Lennox
 4/19 Kathleen Sweeney, Alex
 Connors, Alistair Morrison
 4/21 Alex Moses, Tonya Rudolphsen
 4/26 Dianne Acevedo, Ian
 MacDougall
 4/27 April Kosier
 4/29 Heather MacDougall



Christ Church Historic
 Service

MAY 17, 2026
 10:00AM

A Joy Filled Day

by Deacon Debbie Beach

*“Train up a child in the way they should go,
And when they are old,
they will not depart from it.”
(Proverbs 22:6 with modifications)*

The first of March was a very special and joy filled day for Christ Church! There were three members of the congregation confirmed and two received into the Episcopal Church! To top it all off, it was Bishop Jeremiah's first visit to Christ Church!

The Episcopal Church defines confirmation as when a baptized individual expresses "...a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (BCP, p. 860). Nick Legere, Alyssa Pettit and Nancy Vogel were those who made this mature, public commitment to Christ.

When baptized individuals, who have been members of another denomination, and wish to be affiliated with the Episcopal Church, they are "received". In front of a bishop, those individuals make a public affirmation of their faith and reaffirm their Baptismal Covenant. Michael and Colleen Rishel were received.

There were 54 people present at the service to support Nick, Alyssa, Nancy, Colleen and Michael in addition to those who were watching on line!

Personally, I was happily exhausted by the time I arrived home on Sunday! Even now as I write this, a week later, I continue to feel the joy of that day! And I was not the only one. This is what Bishop Jeremiah wrote:

"There is a palpable spirit of joy within the historic walls of Christ Church in Duaneburg. The love of Christ that is encountered in the space is then shared richly and generously. The congregation understands what it means to "respect the dignity of every human being."

Fr. Alistair and Deacon Debbie are wonderful clergy leaders. They are so skilled at honoring the gifts and abilities of each member. They model humility and kindness. With wisdom and love they create space for the call of Jesus to be heard.

Currently, in addition to the many inspired, busy lay ministers, they are sponsoring two postulants for the diaconate! And five others publicly re-affirmed their ministry commitment today by being Confirmed and Received.

Christ Church has an amazing history. It was founded in 1792 - just a few years after the birth of the Episcopal Church. Amazingly, their 1793 building has remained unaltered. Preaching from the elevated central pulpit and celebrating at the small, simple Holy Table was a special and unique experience.

And, having recently undertaken a significant campaign to preserve and repair the building, they are ready for the incredible present and beautiful future God has in store for them."

As we journey into the beautiful future God has in store for us may we joyfully....

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Photos from Bishop Jeremiah's Visit



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<p><i>Christ Church is a worshipping community of friends, joyfully serving, encouraging and healing others in Jesus's name.</i></p>	