

Christ Church Ballston Spa



For nearly 240 years, Christ Episcopal Church in Ballston Spa has been a faithful presence at the heart of a vibrant and historic community. Rooted in a 220-year-old village and worshiping in a church building that has stood for more than 160 years, ours is a parish grounded in tradition, strengthened by generations of faithful families, and sustained by a deep commitment to one another. We are blessed with active clergy and dedicated lay leadership, as well as broad participation in the life of both our parish and the wider Ballston Spa community. Through life's joys and trials, the people of Christ Church genuinely care for and support one another, creating a welcoming and compassionate spiritual home.

Throughout our history, we have been guided by strong and caring pastoral leadership. As we look toward the future, we seek a new rector who will help us continue to grow — in faith, in love, in knowledge, in membership, and in our service to the community around us. Building on the strong foundation of our past, we are excited to discern how God is calling Christ Church to live out and expand Christ's Kingdom in the years ahead.

Our vision for growth & leadership

Christ Church Mission: We are a loving community seeking to know Christ and make Him known.

Growth is central to our vision and identity. Because we desire to deepen our knowledge of Jesus, we are seeking a rector who will challenge and inspire us through strong, Scripture-centered teaching and powerful preaching. We look forward to welcoming a leader who can rightly share the Word of God and guide us into a deeper, everyday faith.

We also want to make Jesus known to others - and that means growing our church family AND its impact in our community. In order for our church family to grow, we especially seek to do more to engage young people and young families. In order to positively increase our impact in our community, we need to continue our current outreach programs while finding new ways to love and serve our neighbors, and to bear witness to Jesus' work in our lives and in the world. To do these, we seek a rector who is engaging, charismatic, pastoral, and innovative.

And of course we want to grow in our pursuit of being a loving community, welcoming and inclusive, where all people are embraced and supported. To do this, we seek a rector who will honor our traditions while leading us into thoughtful change, enabling us to remain accessible, relevant, faithful, and responsive to God's call.

Challenges and opportunities

As we look toward our future, we honestly recognize a couple key areas where we expect our next rector will help us turn our challenges into opportunities for renewal and growth.

First, while we are anchored by a wonderful and dedicated senior population, our challenge and greatest opportunity is to reach and engage young people and young families in the daily life of the parish. Ballston Spa has a strong school district and we have a good relationship with some of the educators. As well, we host and support a local Boy Scout troop and there are many other youth groups in our community. The parish is well poised to reach young people; we yearn for some creative support in bringing them to a greater communion with Christ and his Church.

Second, while our budget is balanced, it relies on the generosity and shared vision of our congregation. In order to remain fiscally stable, we seek a rector who can continue to inspire faithful stewardship in our congregation, manage tight resources, and help us boldly pursue our ministries to our church and our community.

Third, our members hail from both the village and many surrounding communities, some traveling 20-30 miles to attend services. These families, many multigenerational, continue to come to Christ Church Ballston Spa because of the strength of our ministry, our worship style, and our caring community. This can be a challenge as some of our members don't 'run into' others in their daily routine; some of our youth don't go to school with the rest, and in general, a longer commute may dissuade multiple trips to our church. For a new rector, this means intentionally fostering connections and creating meaningful opportunities for fellowship and community that make every gathering together count.



Worship of Christ Church

Our Liturgical Style is a welcoming blend of the Rite II service from the BCP with traditional hymns from the 1982 Hymnal, songs and hymns for worship from the Celebration hymnal, and modern

worship songs, chosen thoughtfully and carefully to reflect and support the church season and the readings for the day. We work to make sure that our mission statement is reflected throughout the service that we are a *Loving Community Seeking to Know Jesus Christ and to Make Him Known*. We use Rite I during the season of Lent.

On Sunday mornings we have 2 liturgies at 8:00am and 10:00am Both of these services use Rite II (except during the season of Lent where we switch to Rite I) and are very similar to each other in most ways except the music. Our 8:00am service has a processional and recessional hymn and all other music is generally instrumental (piano or pipe organ), spoken responses, and once a month our 8:00am volunteer choir sings (September-May). The 10:00am service has the same processional and recessional hymns and in addition, we have a multi-generational worship team that helps to lead sung responses, a mix of modern and traditional music for communion and a volunteer choir that sings once a month. The 10:00am service is also livestreamed and recorded on youtube and accessible through our church website. As an accessibility aide we have a screen for the congregants to view lyrics and responses and two screens available for those serving on the altar. We also have aides available for people who have difficulty hearing.



We have a weekly Wednesday morning (more intimate) communion service at 9:15am. This service does not have any music and has been held in both the sanctuary and the chapel through the years.

We are a church who enjoys robust fellowship with one another! Following each Sunday morning liturgy we have an inviting coffee hour provided by two hard working coffee hour teams. The coffee hour following the 8:00am service is often fruit and muffins or pastries, while the coffee hour following the 10:00am service is more like a small potluck luncheon each week. Once or twice each year we rent a pavilion at one of the local state parks and have an outdoor service followed by a cookout/picnic.

Some of the Special Services you'll encounter throughout the church year include:

- **Advent/ Christmas:**

- Our annual family Christmas Pageant (traditionally on Advent IV).
- Festival of Lessons and Carols Service - This unique service has been held annually and the music is drawn from Celtic, American, and shapenote traditions. This service has been drawing crowds for 32 years as we gather professional musicians to join musicians from our own congregation to focus on scripture and

song on a Sunday evening in early December (3 cds have been produced from these services). This service is followed by a big dessert reception. Many of our members have said that the first time they experienced Christ Church was when someone invited them to come to the Lessons and Carols service.

- Traditionally Christmas Eve services are held at 4:30pm, 8:00pm, and 11:00pm. All services are generally the same with the 4:30pm being generally attended by families with younger children.
- On Christmas Day there is usually one morning service at 9:00am.



- **Lent/Easter:**

- During Lent we host community Lenten lunches on Wednesdays at noon. Clergy from different congregations (including ours) in the community each sign up for one Wednesday to prepare a short sermon and lunch to share.
- Stations of the Cross services are held each Friday in Lent at noon in the sanctuary.
- On the Thursday of Holy Week, a Christian Seder Meal is held at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall - we share a meal and are reminded of the delivery out of Egypt. After this service we enter the sanctuary for a brief Maundy Thursday service including the stripping of the altar. After this service we transition immediately into an all-night prayer vigil where parishioners sign up for time slots to be in the sanctuary to pray.
- Good Friday services are held at noon and 6:00pm.
- Easter Vigil service is held Saturday at 8:00pm.
- Easter Sunday has two identical services at 8:00am and 10:00am. This is the one day in the year where both services have all the same music and sung responses.



- **Pentecost/Ordinary Times:**

- We often have a special service in June at the end of the Sunday School year where the kids and teachers lead the service or provide the “sermon”.
- Late summer/Early fall we rent a pavilion at a local state park and have an outdoor eucharistic service followed by a cookout/picnic. This often (but not always) coincides with the beginning of the Sunday School year.
- Blessing of the animals Service is held on a Sunday afternoon around October 4th in honor of the Feast of St. Francis.

We have a vibrant and active troupe of lay ministers, including: Acolytes, Altar Guild, a team that organizes the sanctuary flowers, Lay Readers, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, Music ministers of all ages (2 choirs, a core worship team, and a youth worship team), and a technical support team who run the screens and audio portion of the services.

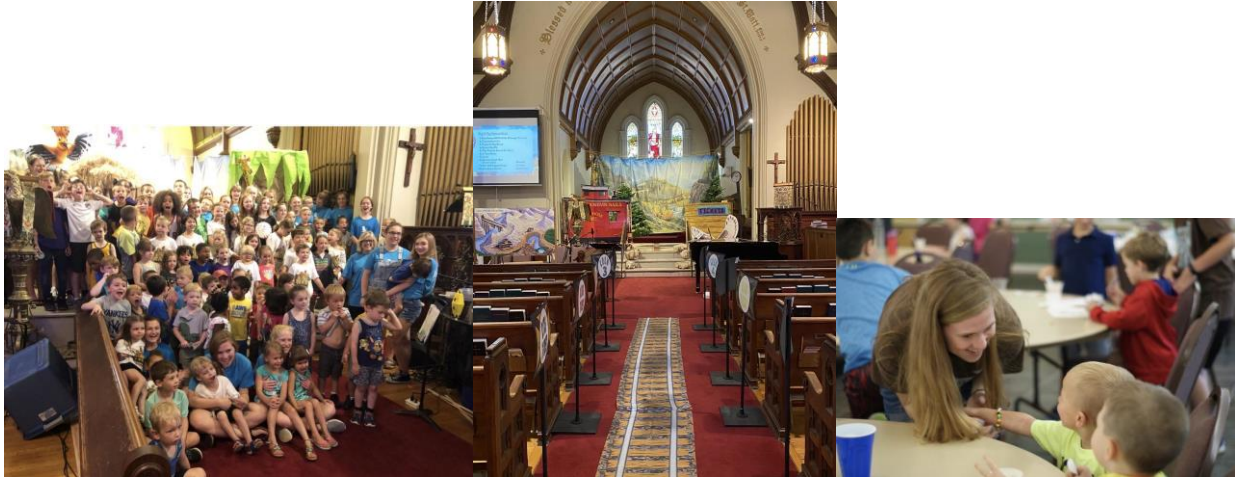
Christ Church Ministries

We have many opportunities for our members to serve each other. We have:

- Eucharistic visitors - who extend our altar rail into the homes of our homebound congregants
- A Sunshine Committee - who sends cards, treats, recognition, prayers, and messages of support to all our members
- Shepherds - who keep track of each congregation member - to pray for them, keep them informed, and act as liaison, providing connection to pastoral care
- A Tender Loving Care (TLC) ministry - who provide meals or other assistance to families experiencing grief or other crisis
- A Prayer Chain - a community of prayer warriors who offer prayers of support and encouragement to anyone in need
- A Quilting Ministry - crafting, praying over, and donating quilts for folks who are hurting, both within and beyond our congregation
- An active chapter of the Daughters of the King (Saint Agnes Order, Chapter 1116) - who are committed to daily prayer, service to the parish, and the spread of Christ's Kingdom throughout our community

As well, we have a rich Christian youth education program, including:

- Nursery - open during both the 8:00am and 10:00am services on Sundays, and evening adult education programs (e.g., Bible studies, Newcomer class, Alpha)
- Sunday school for our Pre-K to 5th grade children (Christ Kids)
- Sunday Bible Study for our Middle and High School students
- Vacation Bible School - for all kids, preschool to grade 12



And we have a variety of opportunities for adult education, led by our rector, deacons, and lay leaders, including:

- Newcomers class
- Wednesday morning Bible Study
- Wednesday evening Bible Studies (1 each, for men and women)
- *The Chosen* Study
- Alpha (annually)
- Topic specific workshops (e.g., grief, book studies) semi-annually

We are also an integral part of Ballston Spa, serving our community (and beyond) with our:

- Food Pantry - open 6 days each week; supporting approximately 150 households each month
- Thrift Shop (Noah's Attic) - open 5 days each week; accepting donations and providing clothing and household wares for little or no cost to our community members in need.
- Participation in BACA (Ballston Area Clergy Association) - sharing a checkbook to support those in crisis
- Monthly missions collections to support local organizations, disaster relief, and individual missions (as above)



Our Christ Church community

At Christ Church our staff consists of our rector, an administrative assistant, a sexton, a treasurer, our music director, and our thrift shop director. Other part-time paid positions include some of our thrift shop workers and our nursery room staff. Included in our unpaid staff are our three (3) deacons and many lay leaders who support our church.

Our Vestry consists of our rector, our administrative assistant, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, our Treasurer, clerk, and nine other Vestry members. Those positions in non-voting roles are the clerk, administrative assistant, and treasurer. Two (2) additional lay members are currently serving on our search committee. The Vestry meets monthly, at a minimum, and experiences 1 retreat each year.

Our Vestry is divided into three committees; Pastoral, Outreach, and Resource. Each of these committees includes the rector, administrative assistant, Senior Warden, Junior Warden and three (3) additional Vestry members. Our Resource committee also includes our treasurer. Vestry committees meet once monthly.

Our congregation is a vibrant and engaged community, currently comprising a strong base of families and individuals with an average Sunday attendance of 150, making it one of the largest active congregations in the diocese. We are especially encouraged by the presence of young families, with approximately 25 children in grades K–8 participating in Sunday School, alongside a small but dedicated group of middle schoolers and a few high school students. Truly spanning from infants to seniors, our church family is beautifully multigenerational, anchored by a large and active senior population that makes up the majority of the congregation. As well, our members hail from both the village of Ballston Spa and from many surrounding communities, some traveling 20-30 miles to attend. In 2025, the parish celebrated 16 baptisms, 2 confirmations, and 6 marriages, while also walking alongside 12 families in times of loss through funeral services.



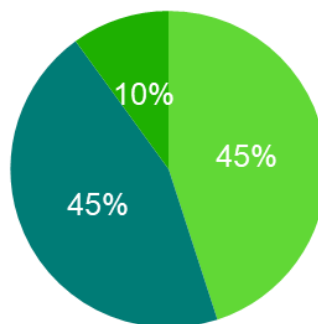
Financial summary

Finances are a necessary resource to support our mission; *A loving community seeking to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known*. These support our day-to-day operational functions, outreach ministries, various missions, pastoral needs and much more.

Our financial process includes the creation of a balanced budget each year for our Operating Expenses plus carry-over balances of restricted funds or what we think of as Reserve Accounts. These include donations set aside for specific activities and missions. The Operating Budget for 2026 is \$650,000.

Our income is from (3) main sources; Tithing, Noah's Attic (our thrift shop) and lease payments from our on-campus daycare tenant, Curious Minds.

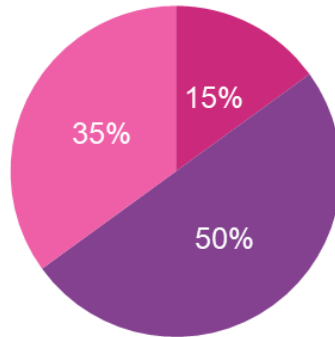
■ Tithe ■ Noah's Attic ■ Lease income



Expenses are broken down into (3) main categories, aligning to our Vestry committees:

- Outreach - supports our Community Outreach programs and Diocesan Assessment
- Pastoral - supports salaries, benefits, music, continuing education, bible studies, etc...
- Resource - supports our building and grounds and overall property investments (loans)

■ Outreach ■ Pastoral ■ Resource



Involvement in the wider church

At Christ Episcopal, we live out our faith by partnering with neighbors near and far. We believe we are stronger together, serving as a vibrant, collaborative force in the broader Body of Christ.

Our Diocese & Spiritual Growth: We are deeply committed to the Episcopal Diocese of Albany, actively engaging in adult spiritual formation offerings, Beaver Cross Summer Camp for children, and healing ministries at the Christ the King Spiritual Life Center.

Local Fellowship: Through the Ballston Area Clergy Association (BACA) we serve as a hub for ecumenical connection. As above, we host interdenominational Lenten lunches that bring together speakers and congregants from across our community. We also join forces with neighboring churches to fund and manage critical emergency aid for local individuals and families in crisis.

Investing in the Next Generation: Each summer we host Vacation Bible School. Free and open to all children in the Ballston Spa community, VBS is a joyful space where kids—whether they have a church home or are hearing the Gospel for the first time—can experience Christ’s grace. Additionally, we have dedicated an adjacent building to serve as a daycare center, providing essential early childhood care for local families. We lease this building to Curious Minds Day Care and are hoping their work will be a blessing to families and children in the Ballston Spa area.



National and Global Impact: Our heart for mission stretches from our local community to around the world, to date including mission support for: capital development projects at Choshen Farm in Zambia, sending Christmas shoe boxes to Samaritan's Purse global ministry, missionary construction projects and the delivery of bibles to Belize, Busogatrust (which provides water sanitation and hygiene to villages in Uganda), InterVarsity, natural disaster response in affected areas of the US, and, close to home, Gateway House of Peace.

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany, NY was established in 1868 and includes over 100 parishes throughout northeastern New York State. As a member of the Episcopal Church and the Worldwide Anglican Communion, we are a liturgical church with both married and unmarried men and women clergy. As well, we have an active and dedicated lay ministry across our parishes. We are one church, sending disciples to make disciples.

The Diocese has a wealth of resources, some to strengthen both our parishes (e.g., Albany Blooms, Beaver Cross Camp, The Cathedral of All Saints, multiple Benedictine prayer groups, continuing education classes, Healing Ministry, Christ the King Spiritual Life Center, and many Retreats) and our communities (e.g., Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, Domestic Violence Support, and an active Missions effort). The Bishop's commitment to support the spiritual growth of its parishes and all members is felt throughout our diocese.

History of Christ Church

Following early missionary work, our congregation gathered for worship in 1786. We documented the formation of Christ Church and were formally recognized by the Diocese of New York on June 27th, 1787. Our original church building was erected between 1787 and 1792 in Ballston Center. This building was taken down and rebuilt on Front Street in Ballston Spa. The rebuilt church was consecrated August 11, 1818.



Soon our congregation outgrew its church, so in 1835 we purchased land at the present location, at the intersection of 2 major routes (NY67 and NY50) to build a new rectory and church. After construction of the Rectory, our current, beautiful, gothic church was built, its cornerstone laid October 5, 1860 and work completed in March of 1862. We are blessed to have stained glass throughout, seating for ~250, a bell tower and a pipe organ.

Other buildings

The Armory (a New York State Armory, built in 1858, disbanded in 1870, purchased by Christ Church in 1873) is on the northwest corner of the intersection of NY Routes 67 and 50. Over the years, this building has been used for Sunday School, fellowship and coffee hour, meetings, church dinners and other gatherings, as well as the church offices. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and currently serves as Noah's attic, our outreach Thrift Store.



Field House - we purchased the home just west of the church on NY Route 67 in 1977 (it was built in the early 1800s). At first, we used it for Sunday school, our food pantry, choir rehearsals, meetings and community support groups. Today it houses the church offices and Sunday school classrooms.



Parish Hall - Constructed in 2001 and originally the home of our classrooms, the parish hall has become a well used space for coffee hour, large ecumenical gatherings, community groups, administrative meetings, nursery and intimate study groups. Our food pantry is also housed there, with its own entrance in the rear of the building.



Welcome Center and Chapel - These were constructed in 2005, along with the hallway built to connect the Sanctuary with the parish offices (in the Field House) and Parish Hall. This project completed our footprint.



12 Church Avenue - This beautiful home on Church Avenue (NY Route 50) was built in the Victorian style in the late 1830s; It was the first building on the property and served as our rectory. It was re-modeled in 2015 to house our daycare business. Today we lease the building to Curious Minds Early Learning and Daycare center, providing amazing childcare to kids 6 weeks - 5 years old in our region.



Our Village and beyond

Ballston Spa was incorporated in 1807 and became the county seat of government in 1819. Our Village got its start because of its abundance of healthy water. Ballston Spa was a center for tourism due to its reputed benefits of the mineral springs AND it had plentiful waterpower from the Kayaderosseras and Gordon Creeks. Its early days were thriving, bringing both mills and visitors to the area and a railroad to move people and products. At one time the Village housed a central market for area farmers to sell their goods; and soon it became a bedroom community of Schenectady, and specifically its new booming electricity business, General Electric. Centralized schools were built in the 1950s.

In the mid-1980s, noticing the emptying of storefronts on Milton Avenue, a number of business owners gathered to create the Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association, an organization that, to this day, collectively represents and advocates for Ballston Spa organizations and residents alike. Today Ballston Spa is home to many unique restaurants, boutiques, faith, and impact organizations, and about 5,300 residents. Services provided by the Village are within easy reach and on the bus line connecting Saratoga Springs with Schenectady and beyond. Outside space is lush and plentiful with varied parks, walks, water, and green spaces.

Ballston Spa is in Saratoga County of upstate New York. Our county is the fastest growing in Upstate NY with a low (3%) unemployment rate and strong economy driven by technology, healthcare, service, tourism, and agriculture. It is predominantly white with a growing latino population. Saratoga County is known for strong school systems and is considered one of the safest and healthiest counties in the State. We are 30 miles north of Albany, 180 miles north of NYC, 200 miles west of Boston, 150 miles south of the Canadian border, and at the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains.

References:

Are available upon request.

Compensation:

We offer a competitive compensation package for the Rector, including a commensurate salary based on experience and diocesan guidelines. Benefits include health insurance, pension contributions, and continuing education support. A housing allowance is provided at a level consistent with the fair market value of homes in Ballston Spa, ensuring appropriate housing within the community. Additionally, the parish will cover reasonable moving expenses to support the Rector's transition.

Online presence:

- Website: christepiscopalballstonspa.com
- Facebook: @cecbspa
- Instagram: @ChristChurchBSpa
- YouTube: @christepiscopalchurchballs5945

Contact information:

15 West High Street

Ballston Spa, NY 12020

*Senior Warden: Theresa Polson: theresapolson@gmail.com**

*Junior Warden: Don Rohr: rohrdf@gmail.com**

*All applications/resumes must be submitted through the Dioscean website. Please do not email to wardens.