

THE *Red* DOOR

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH • CHARLEVOIX, MICHIGAN

200 State Street • PO Box 385 • Charlevoix Michigan 49720 • 231-547-6322 • ChristEpiscopalChurch.net

Reflections from the Reverend

A pilgrimage is understood as a journey to a holy place. It is distinct from a vacation, because on pilgrimage, the goal is not seeing sights, but instead, seeing God. We go on the journey because we trust that every step we take, not just the destination, will shape us inwardly, outwardly, and most importantly that it might shape us Godwardly—that it might turn us toward God.

In December 2022, with no preparation, I started to walk a pilgrimage I never would have asked for. My sister died and I began a long, long trudge, a dragging of my feet, a dragging of my soul, through the pilgrimage of grief. I like to think of this as the shadow side of pilgrimage.

I call this a pilgrimage, because while we often imagine them as being joyous occasions—and often they are—not every pilgrimage comes to us through a reservation at a beautiful cathedral in a foreign country.

Yes, I call this a pilgrimage, because even in the moments after the phone call telling me my sister had died, I knew I was suddenly in a foreign land. I knew my life had radically changed. I knew I would be wandering—led only by the voice of God—from one destination to the next, except those destinations would be the quieter stops on life's pilgrimage, like my sister's birthday, alongside all the annual memories that we now experience without her here.

I'm not exaggerating when I say I was dragged, destination to destination, but because of God's

faithfulness, I can still call this a pilgrimage. I can still call this a pilgrimage because, in each of the dragged steps, God has given me the peace of knowing I am both always with God, and always headed toward God. I know that the destination will end up being a holy place, because wherever I go, I will see God.

I know that God offers us a grace that precedes and follows us, and I have needed God both before me and behind me. Frankly, I have needed God at every side. This pilgrimage of grief has shaped me inwardly, outwardly, and Godwardly, even with the ways I have suffered every step.

One of the brighter ways I have been changed through this pilgrimage is that I have lost so many of my pretenses. Now this is not to say I have lost them all, but something changes when the ground beneath you falls away while you are standing on it.

It isn't so much that you fall immediately, but that—if you give it time—you'll begin to notice that the ground underneath you is gone and the only power that has kept you standing on anything at all is God's love for you and God's promise to never forsake you, even on the days when you are so grief-wrought that you don't even care if you have been forsaken.

The biggest way I saw myself lose some of my pretenses happened in the first few moments after my sister died. One of the weird realities of death is that you still have to handle the logistics of your life. And

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Reflections from **THE REVEREND** **FOR AUGUST**

Continued from Page One

to be clear, I am not a clean freak, but I'm certainly a person who at least tries to really clean up before anyone comes over.

But when my sister died, everything changed. I knew I had to drive from Texas to Alabama as soon as possible. I texted my friends who had been cat sitting for me previously to ask if they could care for my cats while I went to be with my mom. Their answer was simple: We will handle this. Go be with your mom.

I did not clean my apartment. And I did not think about my dirty apartment for a second when I was with my mom in the immediacy of death, in the beginning of this pilgrimage.

Because when you are staring into the cavern of a grave, you don't worry about the baseboards. You are in a different world, you are on foreign soil, and that foreign land is the most difficult earth you have ever traveled, but it does not forsake you, because God has made it, and God is alongside you as you walk it.

Jesus did not come into the world to inspect your baseboards. God took on flesh to remind you that when you are staring into the cavern of a grave, the only thing that matters is that Jesus stares into graves and calls them empty, even when you swear they are full, and especially when you see them full of someone you love.

No, Jesus does not care about your baseboards, because Jesus is trying to save your life, the life of everyone you have ever loved, and the life of every person who bears the image of God, which is everyone you have ever met, and everyone you have never met. Jesus doesn't have time to worry about your baseboards because he is busy breathing life

into the graves that make up every single stop on your pilgrimage of grief.

I don't have to know you, personally, to know that you have grief. I don't have to know you to imagine that maybe you, too, have been dragged down a path you never wanted to walk, and I pray that in each step of grief you take, you know you have a God beside you who will never leave you or forsake you.

Because all of us will at some point in our lives know deep grief, our welfare is intertwined; we are in this together, especially as the Body of Christ. I believe the primary call of the Church right now might be to remember that our welfare is interdependent, and to let our shared pilgrimage of grief call us into a shared tenderness.

One of the most powerful sights I witnessed on pilgrimage at Canterbury were the stairs leading up to Becket's shrine. There are concave grooves in each step, so much so that you can feel the slope of each step under your feet as you walk in. These grooves have formed over the years because of all the pilgrims throughout history who have ascended those steps to that holy place on their knees.

In order to bring any balm to the immensity of the world's grief, including that which we hold so heavy in our own lives, we might need to begin by walking on our knees, in humility, in tenderness, with the awareness of how we are intertwined.

And we might remember, as we trudge up every step with our faces so close to the ground we could kiss it, that we are on our knees alongside every other soul who has been dragged through the pilgrimage of grief to try to see God.

+ Rev. Erin Jean Warde

Prayer List FOR AUGUST

Please Pray for Your Brothers and Sisters

Deb Stutzman	Toni Smith
Doris Lundteigen	Jackie Hayes
The Rev. Peggy Natermann	Charlie Valier
The Rev. Kathleen Kircher	Sue & Darrell Potter
Linda Smith	Carol Morris
Lea Peak	Ed Bahr
Adele Dilschneider	James Denison
Norean Martin	Matt Hosmer
Liane McGhee	Jan Hayes
Blake Kirinovic	Loren Muselik
Frank Rathjens	Mike Whitehead
John Whiteford	Penny Loving
Nancy Grunch	Jeri Crandell
George Perrett	Kris Jones
Cissy Walker	Terri George
	Linda & Jim Boss



Persons are removed from our Prayer List at the end of each month.

Please contact John Fiedorek at

jfiedorek@gmail.com

to add the names of friends and family to our Prayer List

*Submit an Article for the Next
Red Door!*

by 5p.m. August 20, 2026

susankflanders@gmail.com

If you see an error in this month's issue, please let us know! We will correct it or print a correction in the next issue of the Red Door.

Outdoor SERVICE

AT DEPOT BEACH

August 30, 2026

10a.m.

*Please join us at Depot Beach
for our last outdoor service for 2026*

Bring a chair if available

Episcopal Church Women **ECW**
AT CHRIST CHURCH

Chicken Salad Luncheon

*T*he Chicken Salad Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, August 8th. It is the same day as the Charlevoix Art Fair. Plans are underway for another successful event, and we need everyone to get involved. All women and men are asked to participate. There are sign up sheets in the Parish Hall for the various opportunities to be involved.

We are also looking for donations to purchase food

item and supplies. The donations may be put in the collection plate or there will be a box in the Parish Hall. If you are writing a check, please memo that it is for the Chicken Salad Luncheon.

This is a fun event where everyone is needed. Summer is a busy time for everyone, but the rewards of working together are priceless. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Porter at: 231-409-1703.

Sunday Sermons

Did you know that each Sunday the sermons at Christ Church are recorded?

To listen to the Sunday's sermon, visit the church's website at:

ChristEpiscopalChurch.net

Click on sermon and listen to the desired week

Episcopal Church Women **ECW** AT CHRIST CHURCH

Sparkle and Shine



Amy Russell, President of ECW took the lead on Sparkle & Shine 2026



Brownie Flanders and Rick Wertz served guests at Sparkle & Shine on Friday night

*T*he Episcopal Church Women had another successful event of sparkle and shine this year. Our Friday “preview night” has become very well known and anticipated by shoppers!

The doors were scheduled to open at 5:30 PM. However, people were coming in the doors before 5. Saturday was also another fun filled day of sales. In all we grossed over \$2500. A big thank you goes out to all that volunteered with hauling of tables and boxes, set up, working during the event, cleanup, and donating to the worthy cause.

On a sidenote, I donated a pair of brass candlesticks that were a wedding gift to my husband and I, 46 years ago. I was delighted to find out that Tom and Margie Kirinovic’s daughter-in-law ended up with them. So nice to know that they will be staying in the family, since Margie is my cousin.

– Sincerely, Amy Russell



Betty Stephen and Nancy Porter organized appetizers for S&S sale

Happiness is not found in things you possess, but in what you have the courage to release.

– Nathaniel Hawthorne

Episcopal Church Women **ECW** AT CHRIST CHURCH

Sparkle and Shine



Shoppers at Friday evening S&S preview sale



Margie Kirinovic, Rev. Erin Jean Warde, and Linda Wertz
shopped at the S&S sale

An Autobiography in Five Chapters

Chapter One

I walk down the street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I fall in
I am lost...I am helpless
It takes forever to find a way out.

Chapter Two

I walk down the same street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I pretend I don't see it.
I fall in again
I can't believe I am in this same place

But it isn't my fault.
It still takes a long time to get out.

Chapter Three

I walk down the same street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I see it is there
I fall in...it's a habit
...but, my eyes are open.
It is my fault.
I get out immediately.

Chapter Four

I walk down
the same street
There is a deep hole
in the sidewalk.
I walk around it.

Chapter Five

I walk down a
different street.

— Anonymous

Baptism CELEBRATION



Here is William Bowers Boadway with his parents and the Rev. Erin Jean Warde and Brownie Flanders, who served as LEM & Acolyte for William's baptism

*William
Bowers
Boadway*

July 26, 2026

*On the shore of
Lake Charlevoix*

*"I want it said of me by those
who knew me best, that I always
plucked a thistle and planted a
flower where I thought
a flower would grow."*

— Abraham Lincoln



Outdoor altar set for baptism at Depot Beach



The baptism of William Bowers Boadway took place
on the shore of Lake Charlevoix on July 26, 2026



**Betty Stephen and Charlie Valier
enjoyed the CEC picnic at Depot Beach**



**Dana Ward and Liane McGhee
had a great time at CEC's picnic**



**Margie Kirinovic, Betsy Collier, Barb Wilson, Sharon Witucki
and Kathy Boyer organized this year's outdoor picnic.
HUGE success! Thank you gals.**



**Kathy Boyer and Tom Kirinovic,
who served as chef for the picnic**

*"I believe in Christianity as I believe
that the sun has risen: not only because I see it,
but because by it I see everything else."*

— C.S. Lewis

CEC *Picnic at Depot Beach*

JULY 26, 2026



Lisa & Bill Hicklen's family all joined CEC for outdoor picnic



Here is Barbie Claggett, with her granddaughter, Molly and great granddaughter, Charlotte during the Depot Beach picnic



Phil & Judy Pratt, Wendy and George Perrett joined Mary Livingston at CEC's picnic



Talbot McCarthy, her daughter, Talbot and Dorothy Miller and her daughter, Cheryl



Liz Teasdale, Jeff Porter and Adele Dilschneider enjoy CEC's picnic together

*"Then followed that beautiful
season...Summer....*

*Filled was the air with a
dreamy and magical light;
and the landscape*

*Lay as if new created in all
the freshness of childhood."*

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



William Bowers Boadway and his grandmothers Barbie Claggett and Julie Boadway giving him snuggles

*Lord grant that I may always desire more
than I can accomplish.*

— Michelangelo



**The Taylor Series at Christ Episcopal Church, 200 State Street,
Charlevoix presents a Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church of
Grand Rapids performance group with drums and hand shakers,
and stories of their journey**

Sunday, August 23, 2026, at 4:30 pm.

This presentation is sponsored by the Taylor Series at no cost

A reception will follow the presentation

www.christepiscopalchurch.net

Ministry Schedule **AUGUST** 2026

Ministry	<i>Sunday August 2</i>	<i>Sunday August 9</i>	<i>Sunday August 16</i>	<i>Sunday August 23</i>	<i>Sunday August 30 Depot Beach</i>
Old Testament & Psalm	Sally Bales	Tricia Drenth	Bruce Livingston	Barb Wilson	Dan Sytsma-Reed
Epistle & Prayers of the People	Betty Stephen	Bob Barrett	Stephanie Peters	Mary Livingston	Tricia Drenth
Ushers	Tom & Marge Kirinovic	Don & Betsy Collier	Susan Flanders Bruce Livingston	Marsha Hall Sharon Witucki	Mark Andresky Don Collier
Indiction	John Fiedorek	Betsy Collier	John Fiedorek	Rick Wertz	John Fiedorek
LEM (Chalice)	Nancy Porter	Rick Wertz	Brownie Flanders	John Fiedorek	Nancy Porter
Acolyte	Nancy Porter	Rick Wertz	Brownie Flanders	John Fiedorek	Nancy Porter
Altar Guild	Linda Wertz Marge Kirinovic	Betsy Collier Ann Bahr	Stephanie Peters Susan Flanders	Dorothy Miller Nancy Porter	Betsy Collier Rachel Sytsma-Reed
Coffee Hour	Jeff & Nancy Porter	Amy Russell Kitty Marquardt	Susan & Brownie Flanders	Available	Available
Vestry	Marge Kirinovic	Betsy Collier	Brownie Flanders	Amy Russell	Dan Sytsma-Reed

For the Good Use of Leisure

*O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace;
and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds,
that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

– Book of Common Prayer Page 825

Ministry Schedule

SEPTEMBER

2026

Ministry	<i>Sunday September 6</i>	<i>Sunday September 13</i>	<i>Sunday September 20</i>	<i>Sunday September 27</i>
Old Testament & Psalm	Dana Ward	Chris Barrett	Mark Andresky	Mark Heydlauff
Epistle & Prayers of the People	Chris Barrett	Phil Pratt	Bob Barrett	Steve Hall
Ushers	Chris & Christine Benson	Mark Andresky John Fiedorek	Jeff & Nancy Porter	Bob & Chris Barrett
Intinction	John Fiedorek	Betsy Collier	Brownie Flanders	Rick Wertz
LEM (Chalice)	Rick Wertz	Brownie Flanders	John Fiedorek	Nancy Porter
Acolyte	Rick Wertz	Brownie Flanders	John Fiedorek	Nancy Porter
Altar Guild	Linda Wertz & Marge Kirinovic	Betsy Collier Ann Bahr	Nancy Porter Stephanie Peters	Susan Flanders Rachel Sytsma Reed
Coffee Hour	Betty Stephen Stephanie Peters	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE	Christine Benson Susan Flanders
Vestry	Bev White	Kathy Boyer	Margie Kirinovic	Brownie Flanders

For Those We Love

*Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen*

Book of Common Prayer, page 831