

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

If there was a Disney Pixar movie about the secret life of plants I would finally become a Hollywood starlet. The movie would center on a person's backyard, with a sweet family of trees, and their lifelong bond with the flowers that grow down in between the grooves of their sprawling roots. There would be neighboring succulents, living on the patio, proudly still displaying their tags that say "easy to love, hard to kill." And the house would house... me. And I would be the villain.

Bees would swarm to signal to the plant world that I, Master Garden Killer, was on the way. I would stomp out toward the back of the yard, past all the decaying plant life, with painted x's on their leaves. Flowers would try to wilt down closer to the grooves of the tree's roots to hide. The succulents would freeze in place trying to make their prickly parts more prickly. The trees would try to pretend the wind was blowing their branches in whatever direction was away from me.

Because you see, I love the natural world. But I also have a black thumb. It's as if some part of my subconscious reads the tag that says "easy to love, hard to kill" and chooses to accept the challenge.

The irony here is that the natural world is one of my favorite ways to connect to God. The beauty and grandeur I find in nature is a vision of the mighty works of God, and a revelation of how deeply God invites us to simply take in beauty. Because God doesn't

fashion us into robots; God fashions us into curious, adventuring spirits, and then offers us beauty, not because without it we will die – like water and food – but because God knows we live for more than just life itself. After all, we are told to abide in Christ, with Christ as the vine, and all those who follow Christ as the branches.

And did you know that plants communicate? That they express themselves? Research from National Geographic states that plants can talk – and some of their proclamations include: "Help!" "Land here!" "Conserve resources!" "My fruits are ready to eat!"

A study actually showed many different plant species make ultrasonic sounds to communicate stress. To react to their environment, a single plant must communicate among its roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruit. Leaves detect predators or changes in light and sound, and roots monitor conditions below ground—problems with nutrients, water, and predators could be there too.

So the Pixar world I imagine is probably closer to fact than fiction, unfortunately for me.

In Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*, she writes: "If one tree fruits, they all fruit – there are no soloists. Not one tree in a grove, but the whole grove; not one grove in the forest, but every grove; all across the county and all across the state. The trees act not

Continued on Page Two

Reflections from **THE REVEREND** **FOR SEPTEMBER**

Continued from Page One

as individuals, but somehow as a collective. Exactly how they do this, we don't yet know. But what we see is the power of unity. What happens to one happens to us all. We can starve together or feast together. All flourishing is mutual."

Our world seems to offer fresh challenges by the day. Scrolling through my newsfeed becomes a litany of stressors and prayer requests. Within these myriad pains, I see a distinct disconnection. In the midst of violence, pain, and heartache, it makes sense for us to wonder – How do we maintain hope? How do we survive this? How do we not just live for life itself, but for joy? And it would seem one balm to the heartache of our isolation and loneliness is to abide in Christ. To be with God and one another. To remember we are branches connected to Christ the vine. To not just preserve ourselves, but to signal to one another – "Help!" "Land here!" "Conserve resources!" "My fruits are ready to eat!"

When Jesus calls us to bear fruit, fruit that will last – we must remember that if one tree fruits, they all fruit – there are no soloists. We can starve together or feast together. All flourishing is mutual. This is what it

means to abide in Christ. To be branches on the vine. To not just weather the storms of pain in our lives, but to survive them together, and still catch the glimpses of joy that remind us we are more than just bodies who need food and water.

We might remember how tender sprouts need support in knowing which way is up, and how we might need support to know which way is up when our world is turned upside down. We might remember how plants signal to others their stress, and how we can also signal to others that we are stressed, that we need care. We might remember how plants signal their need for help when they are threatened, and how in the scary, threatening moments of our lives being a branch on the vine means having people in your corner, to keep you safe if you land in harm's way.

This is what it means to abide in Christ. To be loved by God. To follow the commandment of loving one another. To not be alone, but to be a branch on the vine that is Jesus Christ. To be freed from the burden of holding the weight of the world on our weary branches, because our weary branches find their rest within the communion of the true vine.

– Reverend Erin Jean Warde

The Book of Common Prayer

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by everywidening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

– page 840

Prayer List FOR SEPTEMBER

Please Pray for Your Brothers and Sisters

Deb Stutzman	Charlie Valier
Doris Lundteigen	Sue & Darrell
The Rev. Peggy Nattermann	Potter
The Rev. Kathleen Kircher	Carol Morris
Linda Smith	Ed Bahr
Lea Peak	Kathleen Benson & family
Adele Dilschneider	Betsy Puritan
Noreen Martin	Josh Levay
Liane McGhee	Darragh Daly
Blake Kirinovic	James Denison
Frank Rathjens	Matt Hosmer
John Whiteford	Kris Jones
Nancy Grunch	Terri George
George Perrett	Jan Hayes
Cissy Walker	Mike Whitehead
Jackie Hayes	Penny Loving
	Jeri Crandell



Tyanna Addison	Bob Pratt	Don Peck
Karen & John Cantine	Bruce Goldsmith	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. September 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.

Episcopal Church Women **ECW** AT CHRIST CHURCH

Chicken Salad Luncheon

*T*his year's Chicken Salad Luncheon was a great success. It was held on Saturday August 8th, the same day as the Charlevoix Waterfront Art Fair. The City of Charlevoix was bustling with shoppers and summer visitors. The weather was a delightful sunny day.

Our church was busy with men and women coming together to volunteer for the many tasks of packing takeout orders to serving in house guests. Many men helped get orders from the artists and delivering them to their booths in the City Park. Men were also valuable washing dishes, and serving drinks.

Over 190 lunches were served with takeout lunches to the merchants and artists, and guests served in the parish room. Over \$3700 was raised for ECW. All went off without a hitch, thanks to a great deal of planning and all the volunteers who helped prepare the chicken salad, the watermelon and baked cookies and muffins. It goes without saying "many hands make lite work" Thank you to everyone who participated with donations, and the men and women, who came together to make this fundraiser such a success. The unity and fellowship are what truly make this such a wonderful event to be part of.

— Nancy Porter, Chair;
2026 Chicken Salad Luncheon

"Keep looking up...
That's the secret of life

— Charlie Brown



Here is the ECW kitchen crew for the 2026 Chicken Salad luncheon. This year's event was under the leadership of Nancy Porter. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed working together.



Our ECW President, Amy Russell, sold tickets to the luncheon on August 8, 2026

Episcopal Church Women **ECW** AT CHRIST CHURCH



Guests enjoy their lunch at our outdoor cafe



The outdoor cafe was enjoyed by our dining guests



Judy Pratt and Wendy Perrett
working at the chicken salad luncheon



Julie Borus, Dennis Wolf, Mark Olson, Christine Benson and Bill
Borus all put in a busy day working at the luncheon

Country Market 2026

*T*he ECW is planning on holding this years Country Market on Saturday, October 10th in the church parish hall. This date coincides with Applefest in Charlevoix which draws many visitors to the downtown area. We are also planning on offering the chili lunch at the event again this year. The hours of the Market will be 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday and volunteers will be needed to set up, oversee the floor and help with sales. This is a fun day and we have some truly gifted parishioners who we encourage to donate their handiwork for this fund raising event. We need to fill the tables so I ask that you start thinking about how you can share your talents to make this a success. Whatever

your God given talents might be: painting, wood/glass art pieces, sewn or knit items, baked/canned goods, etc. everything will be welcomed and appreciated. There is a table set up in the church basement storage area earmarked for the Country Market; if you would like to start dropping off your items early.

Thank you and if you have any questions please give me a call or drop me an email.

– Christine Benson
(269) 568-0664
ccbenson77@gmail.com

The Way of Love

Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

TURN Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus

LEARN Reflect on Scripture each day, especially Jesus' life and teachings

PRAY Dwell intentionally with God each day

WORSHIP Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and draw near God

BLESS Share faith and unselfishly give and serve

GO Cross boundaries, listen deeply, and live like Jesus

REST Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration

Green Thumb **GARDENERS** AT CHRIST CHURCH

Accolades!

Award of Distinction *Charlevoix Area* *Garden Club* *2026*

For floral displays and plantings which
BEAUTIFY THE COMMUNITY
We commend and THANK YOU
Christ Episcopal Church

Our community marvels as they walk through our streets to view your array of gardens and planters. Charlevoix Area Garden Club thanks you for the peaceful atmosphere you have created.

– Truly, Mical Miller,
Beautification Chair

Kind words will unlock an iron door.

– Turkish Proverb



Award of Distinction

*Vulnerability sounds like truth and feels like courage,
Truth and courage aren't always comfortable,
but they're never weakness.*

– Brene' Brown



SUDANESE

Grand Rapids • Michigan

Grace Episcopal Church



Taylor Series members with Sudanese Episcopal Church members before the drummers performed on August 23, 2026



Barb Wilson and Susan Flanders visit with the women from Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, MI

Blessed are those who give without remembering and take without forgetting.

— Elizabeth Bibesco

Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church was founded on June 22, 2003 by South Sudanese immigrants, many who were among the 3,800 “Lost Boys and Girls” who fled civil war and resettled in Michigan. The inaugural Sunday service gathered just 22 members, a humble beginning that has since grown to more than 100 active participants. The congregation is comprised largely of refugees who have endured the hardship of war and displacement. Yet they remain open and welcoming to all who seek a spiritual home, regardless of background. We welcomed them to our Charlevoix community, sponsored by the Taylor Series of Christ Episcopal Church on August 23, 2026. Their mission exists as a united community of Christ, dedicated to fulfilling God’s mission in the world. They seek to glorify and worship God in the Dinka language, reflecting the diversity of their congregation. Their commitment is to develop disciples, partner with fellow Christians, and actively participate in the ongoing movement of Jesus. It was a powerful afternoon, enjoyed by all in attendance.



SUDANESE

Grand Rapids • Michigan

Grace Episcopal Church



**Rev. Erin Jean Warde with Sudanese women
from Grand Rapids, MI**



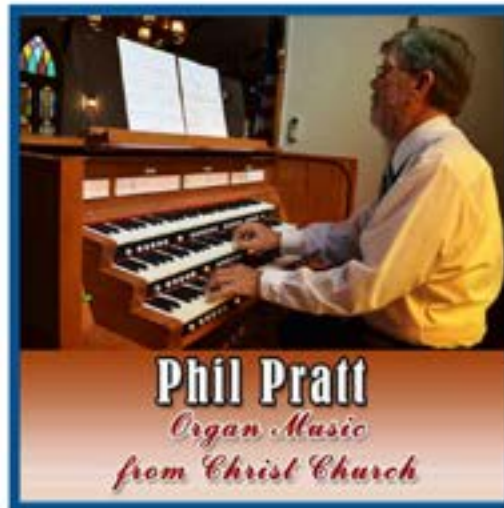
**Charlie Valier and Brownie Flanders chat with a member
of the Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church
following their performance in our sanctuary**



Sudanese drummer performing at CEC

Christ Episcopal Church invites you to join us for an

Organ Concert by Philip Pratt



Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church
200 State Street, Charlevoix, MI
(Corner of State and Clinton Streets)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC @ NO COST

Harvest Dinner following the concert in the Parish Hall.

Phil Pratt, CEC Minister of Music, will present an organ concert on Tuesday, September 22 at 5:00 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church. If you have attended any of Phil's previous concerts, you know we are in for a treat!

This event is sponsored by the Taylor Series of Christ Episcopal Church, Charlevoix.

Following the concert, you are invited to the Harvest Dinner in the Parish Hall.

If you plan to come to the Harvest Dinner, we ask you to sign up in advance. The deadline for sign up is: September 17, 2026. You can use the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall or you can call the church at 231-547-6322 or 231 675-8942 and leave the number of guests in your party.

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (George Frideric Handel)
The Moldau (Bedrich Smetana)
Tuba Tune (C. S. Lang)
Ave Maria (Johann Sebastian Bach & Charles Gounod)
Fanfare (Jacques Lemmens)
Canon in D (Johann Pachelbel arr. Paul Fey)
Prelude in Classic Style (Gordon Young)
Elegy (George Thalben-Ball)
A Mighty Fortress is Our God (Gordon Young)
Londonderry Air (Traditional Arr. J. Stuart Archer)
Toccata on "Amazing Grace" (Christopher Pardini)
The Lost Chord (Sir Arthur Sullivan arr. by Dan Miller)
Hallelujah Chorus (George Frideric Handel)

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	Tom Kirinovic	Chris Barrett	Mark Heydlauff	Mark Andresky
Epistle & Prayers of the People	John Fiedorek	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 Linda Wertz
Coffee Hour	Betty Stephen Stephanie Peters	AVAILABLE	Jeff & Nancy Porter	Christine Benson Susan Flanders
Vestry	Bev White	Marge Kirinovic	Betsy Collier	Brownie Flanders

Ordinary Life

“In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.”

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Ministry Schedule

OCTOBER

2026

Ministry	<i>Sunday October 4</i>	<i>Sunday October 11</i>	<i>Sunday October 18</i>	<i>Sunday October 25</i>
Old Testament & Psalm	John Fiedorek	Steve Hall	Chris Barrett	Tricia Drenth
Epistle & Prayers of the People	Linda Wertz	Phil Pratt	Bob Barrett	Mark Heydlauff
Ushers	Don Collier Jeff Porter	Sharon Witucki Chris Benson	Mark Andresky Susan Flanders	John Fiedorek Tom Kirinovic
Intinction	John Fiedorek	Rick Wertz	Brownie Flanders	Betsy Collier
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 Susan Flanders	Nancy Porter Linda Wertz	Susan Flanders Betsy Collier
Coffee Hour	Amy Russell Marge Kirinovic	Susan Flanders Christine Benson	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE
Vestry	Amy Russell	Brownie Flanders	Barb Wilson	Kathy Boyer

For Agriculture

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

— Book of Common Prayer page 824