



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Nov 19, 2020)

Christ Church, Warwick, New York

50 South Street, Warwick , NY 10990, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 12/15/20.

applications@christchurch.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)
170

Number of Weekend
Worship Services
3

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend
\$58000

Housing / Rectory Detail
\$27000

Utilities
\$4800

SECA reimbursement
\$6908

Compensation Available for
New Position
\$96708

Housing Available for
5

Pension Plan
**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options
Full family

Dental
Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget
No

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks
**One month, including 5
Sundays (standard)**

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks
2 (standard)

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget
\$501-\$1000/year

Sabbatical Provision
Yes

Travel/Auto Account

Other Professional Account

We are calling a Rector, compensation & benefits according to diocesan guidelines.

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Our church offers a free Saturday Pancake breakfast as part of our outreach. The breakfast is a weekly offering of food and fellowship for members of the larger Warwick community. This past spring when COVID-19 forced our volunteers to refrain from offering this popular outreach, it did not take long to find an alternate way to feed those in need and provide much needed food to a vulnerable population of the larger community. Volunteers from the breakfast began collecting non-perishable food items and delivering them to the Alamo Community Center for distribution to those in need. The food collection and distribution has continued weekly with volunteers collecting the food that Christ Church members donate and delivering them to the distribution site in our larger community. COVID-19 may have caused our weekly breakfast to cease, but it did not cease the spirit of caring for others.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

We prepare ourselves for the church of the future by welcoming growth and diversity, expanding our facilities, and embracing technology. Our Vision Statement includes the words "welcoming all" which serves us well to attract the largest pool of seekers as the US population becomes more racially and ethnically diverse. Our recent parish survey shows that 1/3 of the respondents indicated that they have been attending Christ Church for 0-5 years, confirming our "welcoming" approach is working. Our recently completed \$1M+ expansion will help us better serve the community in new and powerful ways such as the Saturday Breakfast and Vacation Bible School. Our spacious great hall, modern classrooms, and full-service kitchen facilitate more opportunity for gathering, planning, and celebrating. Fellowship is a high priority at Christ Church. Despite the global pandemic minimizing our in-person gatherings, we continue to connect via technology platforms - website, email, Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo, and Zoom. Our video ministry now offers a high-quality live video stream of our weekly Sunday service as well as holy days and other church-centric events.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

In the past, we had a varied worship style. The early service was always Rite I and the later service was primarily Rite II. Over the past 18 years the service has evolved primarily to Rite II only. Our services now include a 9AM Rite II Family Eucharist with music but no choir; Coffee Hour and Christian Education at 10 AM; and 11 AM Rite II full Eucharist with choir. There has also been an outdoor 5 PM service in the courtyard chapel held variously on Saturday or Sunday evening, at the Priest's discretion. This service includes an instrumentalist for hymn singing, a short sermon and full Eucharist to meet the needs of working people or families with children in sports programs that conflict with Sunday services. We adapt our service times and styles to meet the needs of our congregation. Besides our regular celebrations of major feast days, we also celebrate Maundy Thursday with an AGAPE Seder meal and foot washing, the Easter Vigil and a service of Lessons and Carols.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Christ Church takes an "everyone is welcome" approach to incorporating others in ministry. Recruitment includes the obvious methods - announcements at church, messages in the weekly e-blast, the coffee hour clipboard, and the Thanksgiving Supper signup poster. However, more effective are the personal invitations from the Rector, a vestry person, or a ministry chair to match parishioners with specific talents to ministries, where they will thrive and enjoy.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

The well-being of our community is of the utmost importance to us here at Christ Church. Through various activities and communication strategies, we strive to ensure that the needs of our Church family are met. Healing hands ministers are present at all services to provide prayers for healing (both physically and emotionally), with physical contact between the provider and recipient. We participate in the local Meals-on-Wheels program that services some of our own members, and we also coordinate transportation, food, and wellness checks for those in our parish that are physically limited. Several parishioners participate in a weekly prayer chain for those in our parish community who are ill or in need of prayers. Lastly, during this time of quarantine, we have started live streaming our Sunday worship service and added a virtual weeknight evening prayer. Those wishing to participate can view or join these services from the comfort and safety of their home.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Though our church is located in a community that is considered to be prosperous, there are those that have difficulty meeting their daily needs. In the past, our Rector often utilized his discretionary fund to offer financial assistance for housing, heating and food to those in need. Within our worship space we have a wagon that collects non-perishable food for the local food pantry, and outside our doors we have erected a Blessing Box, where people in need can discreetly take what they need. Our Saturday Breakfast offers a warm weekly meal to anyone who enters our doors and our Thrift Shop, which operates on donations, offers shoes and clothing at bargain pricing, and when needed, free to those in need.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

In the recent past Christ Church has collaborated with the Episcopal Diocese of Costa Rica and other Episcopal churches from around our nation, to help build a church in San Jose, Costa Rica. Our mission work began with a youth group mission trip in the summer of 2014. This group set the foundation for the new church. The following winter in 2015, a group of adults traveled to the site to continue work on this same project. Another youth mission trip traveled there again in 2016 and three more subsequent adult mission trips followed. Each group that traveled from Christ Church physically worked to help erect a house of worship for the community of San Jose. Our last mission trip concluded with the completion of La Iglesias Episcopal Ascension in February of 2019.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Seven years ago several members of our church community recognized the need to offer outreach in the form of food to community members outside of our church. The idea of holding a Saturday Breakfast was born. It started small and was held monthly for some time before growing to a bi-monthly offering. Within a few years, it became more organized, funding was secured through grants and volunteers stepped up. About five years ago this ministry became more dedicated and the breakfast grew to a weekly Saturday offering. The Saturday breakfast is offered to the community at large. It has become a welcomed gathering place for seniors on a tight budget who meet weekly with friends, Thrift Shop customers, church members and volunteers, and pretty much anyone walking by. The breakfast offers more than just a warm meal. The volunteers know the guests by name, their stories, and each week in addition to a meal, they offer them warmth and companionship. This ministry is led by Liz Houlton and includes a host of wonderful Saturday morning volunteers.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

intent of the campaign is to bring forward the personal feelings that each person holds for the Church and have them identify that their continued support will ensure that the community we have created will continue to thrive. Personal communication, such as handwritten letters from the Vestry and personal calls from the Priest, have been used to ensure parishioners feel connected to the process. There are also small activities such as engagement surveys, free answer questionnaires, and even recording of “gratitude” to help members recollect what makes them want to stay at Christ Church.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

In recent years Christ Church has become a place of welcome for LGBTQ individuals and couples. After the Church allowed for same sex couples to be married, we had two couples that were members of the church married here. The acceptance of the congregation has shown Christ's example of acceptance and love of everyone who accepts Him as their Lord and Savior. Only 8 years ago when our last search committee presented their selection of our new Priest, an openly gay man, caused a split in our Vestry over his pending approval! His love for us healed our differences and caused us to come together in our worship and fellowship

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

In 2015 our former Rector proposed a Capital Campaign to raise funds to expand our parish hall. Our Parish Hall was built in the 1960's and our community had long outgrown the space. The project was estimated to cost one million dollars and would entail the demolition and expansion of the existing Parish Hall. The project would require funds and eliminate the use of the building for a year. The Capital Campaign raised over three quarters of the money needed and the remaining funds were secured through grants and loans. In the end, the cost was 1.2 million dollars. Proudly, the only outstanding balance for the entire project is a \$144K loan from the diocese of New York. Through the process we learned that when God calls, there are no options, you must move forward and trust. Never did we imagine that our Church community could raise that amount of money, yet miracles kept unfolding. When did change not go so well? After a drop in attendance and the lack of volunteers to assist, our Vestry voted to eliminate our 7:45am Sunday service. Some of those impacted were disappointed. Unfortunately, a few parishioners left the church, having felt alienated.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Stephen C. Holton	Interim	2020-06	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
James W. Erwin	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2012-12	2019-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
J. Scott Barker	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2002-07	2011-08

Church School YES		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School 9	Number of Students for Children School 24
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School 2	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School 9	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://christchurch.org>

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

Diocesan Transition Minister

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader