

## CHRIST CHURCH DOVER Who We Are

Christ Church Dover is a vibrant, diverse, and welcoming community of believers seeking to live our baptismal covenant, to love and serve all of God's people. Everyone is welcome to explore with us what it means to be followers of Jesus. Through worship, study, and fellowship, we strive to understand God's call as we care for one another and the broader community. We have a deep desire for spiritual growth and a strong appreciation of the Sacraments.

We welcome all as children of God. We want to become the "beloved community". Our ministries and the development of personal relationships draw many into our church family who desire to follow Christ. We partner with other churches in the area to reach out to the marginalized, as well as to all people in the community. Examples are our long-standing practice of supporting affordable housing and feeding the hungry. We provide meeting space for 12-Step groups and for HUB302, a non-profit providing spectrum-friendly and inclusive support for individuals and their families. Members of the LGBTQ+ community feel secure and at home here.

Our members have come from many places geographically, including many Caribbean nations, and others have worshipped here all their lives. Many of us came from different faith traditions. We focus on building spiritual relationships within the church and in surrounding neighborhoods. We offer the sacraments weekly to those living in senior residences.

We have an intergenerational congregation, embodying diverse attitudes. This has led us to embrace various styles of music and worship. Sunday services include Rite 1 (8 AM) and Rite 2 (10 AM). Most services occur in the church, but we have been known to worship on our front lawn, especially when celebrating St. Francis (pets welcome). Additionally, we hold a Wednesday noon healing service. At the 10 AM service, the choir may lead music from the *1982 Hymnal*, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, and/or *Wonder, Love and Praise*; and a group of our musicians and singers called "Glorify" often leads contemporary hymns.

Christ Church has provided a safe space for uncomfortable conversations. We know being Christian does not always mean agreeing on the issues of the world, but many are willing to speak their truths, to tell their stories, and to listen to one another. Book studies, Sunday morning faith exploration (9 AM), and seasonal studies provide an opportunity to seriously engage and discuss what it means to follow Christ. One example of a deeply moving study was the national church's Sacred Ground series, which the church participated in following the death of George Floyd. We participate in the Diocesan activities supporting racial healing and social justice.

We are a busy church, with events happening almost daily. Ministries such as Bible Study, book study, Christian Formation and Daughters of the King, along with Altar Guild, Ushers, and the Blessing Box Committee, meet in person and on Zoom calls. The Parish Life

Committee plans social gatherings, including movie nights and special events. Outreach and communications are central to the soul of this church.

We love our church and endeavor to be fiscally and environmentally responsible, acknowledging our priorities to love God and one another. Christ Church Dover understands the challenges of financial responsibility and meeting the needs of a vibrant and growing congregation. Our Finance Committee and Treasurer work closely with the Vestry and church leadership to ensure that the financial commitments of the church are managed responsibly, while supporting and encouraging growth opportunities of the various ministries. Beyond our financial blessings, we also appreciate the environmental stewardship required to minimize our carbon footprint. We have partnered with Delaware Interfaith Power & Light and the non-profit Energize Delaware, to conduct an energy audit. This not only helped us understand our current energy usage and costs, but also how we might reduce our impact on the environment in the future. The audit revealed simple steps, such as LED light replacement, and long-term needs, such as gas stove replacement and HVAC upgrades. Additionally, we consulted with Energize Delaware about solar roof options on the Parish House, as the existing roof is nearing the end of its serviceable life.

The history of Christ Church predates the American Revolution. With gratitude we volunteer physically and fiscally to care for its buildings and grounds, while supporting the work of the church. Property maintenance is a holy effort in appreciation for a place to gather God's people, and in recognition that the public considers this site to be of historic and cultural significance.

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Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ Church Dover, as you are, to receive the blessings of God so freely given, of new and unending life in Christ.