



COMMUNITY FIELD GUIDE FALL 2025

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE
LIFE OF CHRIST CHURCH

Dear Church,

Scottish theologian John Swinton writes about belonging. To be included, you need to show up — but to belong, “you need to be missed.” True belonging means you are noticed in your presence, and missed in your absence. That definition has stuck with me. Community. Being known. Spiritual friendships. These are vulnerable and risky ideas, but they are also core to what it means to be a church, a community of people who belong to one another. It’s why we continue to hold the ideal of belonging, that “No One Stands Alone.”

Forging this kind of belonging community requires time and commitment, both elements of sacrifice. We show up for one another, often when we’re tired. We evaluate our calendar and remove even good commitments to prioritize life together. We risk sharing vulnerably our struggles and failures, so that we can be known more deeply and experience the mercy of God through the love of forgiveness.

This Community Life Field Guide offers guidance for moving more deeply into belonging to Christ Church this fall. I hope you take a risk in this season at Christ Church and experience the salvation Jesus describes, no longer as servants, but as a company of friends. (John 15:15).

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt", with a small cross or plus sign at the end.

ESSENTIAL EVENTS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: VISION NIGHT & BACKYARD PARTY SEPTEMBER 14 | 5PM-6PM

Whether you’re new to Christ Church or have been coming here for years, you’re invited to the Annual Parish Meeting! This is an important time in the life of this parish when we look back on the past year, share financial updates, and look forward to what the Lord is calling us to. It’s a time when we affirm our mission to be a community of changed lives in the heart of our city, mending our world for the praise of God’s glory, and hear about the practical ways we walk with the Spirit to fulfill that calling. After the meeting, join us for a fun time of fellowship in our backyard! Childcare up to 5th grade is available with registration.

PARISH RETREAT: JOURNEY IN / JOURNEY OUT WITH BISHOP JEFF BAILEY OCTOBER 17 & 18 (AT CHRIST CHURCH)

Mark your calendars for our annual Parish Retreat! It’s a set aside time for our whole church family to be together in unhurried time, build relationships, eat together, play together and be formed in Christian community. This year’s theme is Journey In/Journey Out — two important and interconnected aspects of a flourishing spiritual life representing the inward and outward expressions of our faith. Our new C4SO Diocesan Bishop, Jeff Bailey, will share his passion and wisdom on the theme as our retreat speaker. Saturday evening, we’ll gather for a private concert with Sandra McCracken and Jon Guerra, who are exceptionally talented singer-songwriters that rank high among staff favorites. Be on the lookout for details and registration.

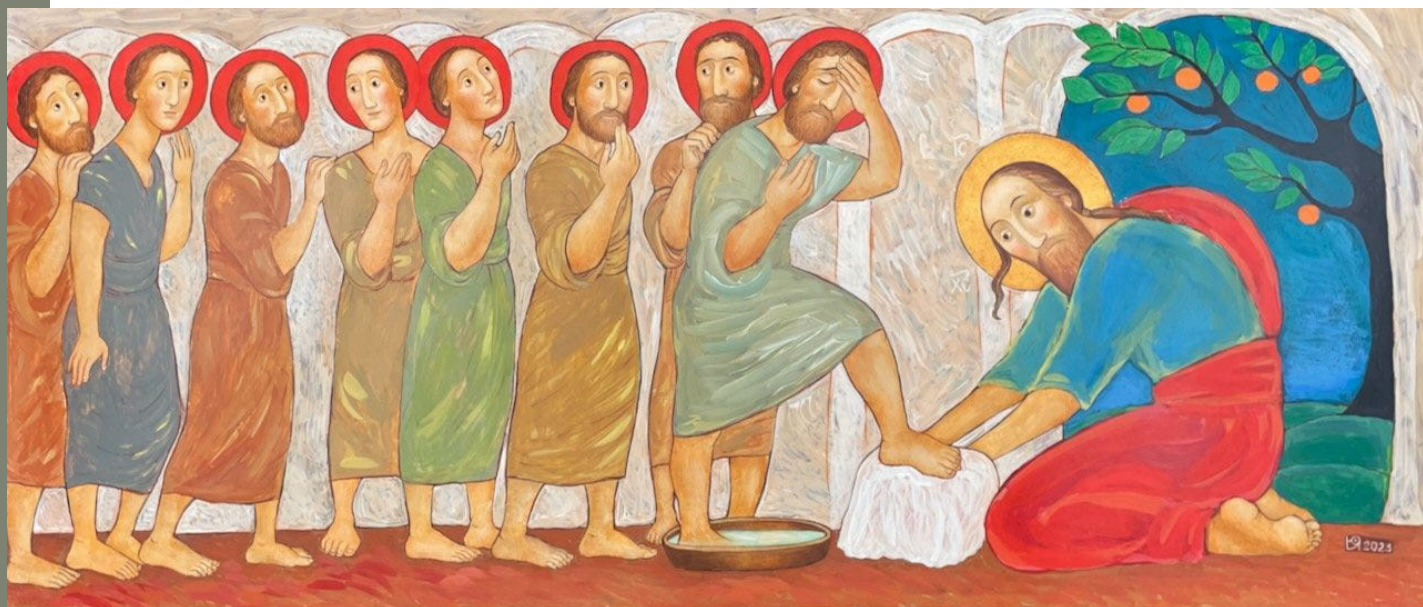
SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUPS

Spiritual Formation Groups are meeting for 10 weeks, mid-September through mid-November, to grow together in being renewed in Christ. The groups will engage with John Mark Comer's *Practicing the Way* course, which is a primer on spiritual formation. This course includes inspiring teaching on topics like apprenticeship to Jesus, healing from sin, bringing your pain to God, crafting a Rule of Life, life in community, and more. Each week's session includes questions to spur authentic group discussion and engagement with spiritual practices to help you integrate your learning into your daily life.

Groups will be meeting throughout the week in all parts of the Austin area. The groups are capped in size to allow for rich discussion.

Several groups will be meeting at Christ Church on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening with childcare provided for kids from 0 to 5th grade. For groups meeting in homes, Christ Church has established a fund to help parents pay for home childcare while parents attend a group.

Scan the QR code below to register for a group right now to make sure your preferred day and location are available. You may need to log in or create a profile if you are new to Church Center. If you have any questions please email nancy@christchurchofaustin.org.



[More Community Groups >](#)

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Get involved in community life

YOUTH

At Christ Church, we deeply value the formation of our youth.

For middle schoolers, *Ignite* meets twice a month on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:30am. High school youth, *Eikon*, meet weekly on Sunday evenings from 5-7pm.

In addition to these weekly gatherings, we offer events and gatherings to foster connection with Christ and one another. All youth events take place at The Green House (1004 E 2nd St) directly across the street from the small parking lot.

To get weekly updates and a full semester schedule, email beau@christchurchofaustin.org.



COLLEGE

College-age students meet weekly at Hill House (2104 Nueces St) on Thursdays from 4-5pm to do a deep dive Bible study on the book of Revelation. This study is open to all college-aged adults, whether or not you are actively enrolled in a college or university.

ENCORE

A Christ Church community for those 60 and up, Encore meets at least 6 times a year to share a meal and support each other as we grow in Christ. This year we will discuss *Aging Faithfully: The Holy Invitation of Growing Older*, by Alice Fryling.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Freedom Fighters is a group of men who meet weekly to honestly and openly share their struggles and find fellowship and encouragement to walk in freedom from sexual sin.

For more details, email: GreenHouseFreedomFighters@gmail.com.

Scan this QR code to visit the community groups listing on our website.



YOUNG ADULT

At Christ Church, young adults actively participate alongside disciples of all ages in small groups, service, and worship. We build community with others in this unique stage of life through things like meals after church, park hangs, and service projects.

For more information, contact michael@christchurchofaustin.org and join our group online to stay up to date on events throughout the year.

MOTHERS OF LITTLE ONES

MOLO is a gathering of moms of young children five or under. *MOLO* kicks off with an evening event on Monday, September 15 at 7pm. Beginning September 25, *MOLO* will meet every other Thursday from 9:30-11:30am in the Parish Hall. There will be some evening events throughout the fall. Childcare is available.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will be studying Galatians this fall. The group will kick off with a social gathering in the Parish Hall on August 27, 10am-12pm and meet Wednesdays through December 3. Please visit our website and register if you plan to attend. Childcare is available.

FAITH + ARTS

The Faith + Arts ministry exists to shepherd artists into maturity in their artistic vocation and as followers of Christ — to become who God created them to be. It leads the people of Christ Church into purposeful engagement with the arts, in order to deepen our experience with God, our culture and humanity, and therefore build up the body of Christ to love and serve others. This ministry contributes to the flourishing of our city and the greater culture through thoughtful artistic engagement, believing that the honest portrayal of truth and beauty is part of God's redemptive work on Earth.

If you are an artist, an art lover, or a lover of artists, we invite you to join our Faith+Arts community. For more information, and to sign up for our Faith + Arts email list, visit our website by scanning the QR code.



LOCAL ENGAGEMENT PILOT GROUPS

This fall, several new Local Engagement Pilot Groups are being launched with the hope of giving witness to the transformative power of Jesus to “mend our world.” The Scriptural call to give witness to the Kingdom is an invitation to joyful proximity for all followers of Jesus. These groups are designed to help us live into this invitation to love where we live. They will center service, community, and formation — focusing their efforts on the unhoused, the lonely, the vulnerable, and those with disabilities.

REBEKAH BAINES JOHNSON CENTER

RBJ is an independent living center for seniors located less than a mile from Christ Church. Currently, the facility has 250 apartments with 130 designated for low-income residents and people with disabilities, with an additional 250 apartments coming soon. Many of the residents feel isolated and lonely. These residents are the modern-day equivalents of the ancient category of “widow.”

BAPTIST COMMUNITY CENTER MISSION

BCCM is a community of individuals and churches who help meet the physical and spiritual needs of those living in poverty in East Cesar Chavez. This ministry provides clothing, food, and life skills education. Crucially, BCCM serves children experiencing food insecurity. Through this partnership, we can help ensure that every child in our neighborhood does not go hungry over the weekend when school meals are not available.

MORE THAN WELCOME

MTW is a Christian non-profit that supports refugees and asylum seekers in the Austin area. This ministry helps immigrants transition to life in Austin by providing transportation, ESL classes, childcare, community, and housing opportunities. Austin is home to about 12,000 refugees and asylum seekers, who are fleeing persecution, torture and death in their home countries.

If you would like more information about participating in these pilot groups, contact
Michael@christchurchofaustin.org

FALL COMMUNITY EVENTS AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER

14 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: VISION NIGHT &
BACKYARD PARTY**

OCTOBER

3-5 **SILENT RETREAT**

17-18 **PARISH RETREAT (AT CHRIST CHURCH)**

25 **NEWCOMERS' DINNER**

NOVEMBER

8 **WOMEN'S GATHERING AT THE GREEN HOUSE**

8-9 &
15-16 **EAST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR**

23 **INFANT BAPTISMS**

DECEMBER

6 **PARISH QUIET DAY**

7 **CEILI & CHILI COOK OFF**

13 **NEWCOMERS' DINNER**



COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

One of the best ways to engage in the community of Christ Church, and participate in worship, is to serve once a month as you are able. Please consider joining any of these wonderful teams:

- **Welcome Team** — provide coffee service and/or greet people (great family opportunity!)
- **Ushers** — assist with orderly Communion and offertory collection
- **Audio-Visual Team** — operate slides or live stream
- **Children/Youth Ministry** — volunteer to teach or assist with Kid's Quest or Youth
- **Altar Guild** — prepare the table and sanctuary for worship
- **Meal Team** — provide meals for parishioners experiencing hardship

Sign up or send questions via email to: info@christchurchofaustin.org.

STAY IN THE LOOP

Our weekly enews is one of the best ways to be informed and stay up to date on all the opportunities to engage at Christ Church. You will receive further details on the events highlighted in this Field Guide, and more. To sign up, use this QR code or go to our website and enter your email address.



CARE AT CHRIST CHURCH

It is no surprise that there is suffering, injustice, and a deep woundedness in humanity and the world. As Christians, we are not called to navigate these things alone. If you need focused spiritual, physical, psychological or emotional care, Christ Church has a number of different ministries that create safe spaces to seek God's healing. Some of these ministry opportunities include:

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

Spiritual directors serve as companions offering guidance, wisdom, encouragement, and prayer as you navigate your relationship with God. Contact care@christchurchofaustin.org for a list of directors.

HEALING PRAYER

The Healing Prayer Team offers confidential prayer to individuals seeking God's healing of mind, body, soul, and spirit. Prayer teams are available during Communion each Sunday in the worship service. Prayer sessions outside of worship services are available on a limited basis and scheduled by contacting care@christchurchofaustin.org.

CONFESSION

The Scriptures teach us to confess our sins, that we might be free, restored, and healed. If you would like one-on-one time to process and confess with Fr. Matt or Mtr. Nancy, email Carolyn@christchurchofaustin.org.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss your needs, we would be honored to walk alongside you. Please email care@christchurchofaustin.org.



CHRIST CHURCH