



Anita Horton | Autumn in the Hill Country III

COMMUNITY FIELD GUIDE FALL 2026

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST CHURCH



Dear Church,

One of the most pressing questions of life: how do I know God? Receive God? Continue to encounter God? Grow in God? – cannot be solved alone. We need the help of one another.

As I was transitioning from over a decade of ministry on a college campus to Anglicanism I became very aware of the gift of the church. I had spent most of my time with a narrow window of 18–22 year olds. But when I came to Christ Church, I discovered the body of Christ woven through all generations and experiences.

There are people from different backgrounds, different ages, different political ideologies. There are people who drink from the common cup and others who deftly dip the bread. There are different ethnic backgrounds and difference concerns about how the kingdom of God comes into the world. Some are white hot in their passion and devotion to God; others are in seasons of flailing belief; all are trying to follow Jesus Christ.

There are moments for each of us to go off “into the desert” and have private encounters with God. But most often, God chooses to reveal himself to each of us, not in private visions, but within the community of the church. God revealing himself to us *through one another* is a mystery as powerful as Communion. The church is the *sacramental community*, the mysterious body of people where we encounter the Living God, Holy Spirit, Lord Jesus Christ.

Your invitation with the field guide is to take a step deeper into *sacramental community*. Because it is there you will find the answer to knowing God, loving God, and growing in God.

Peace,
Matt+

ESSENTIAL EVENTS:

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & BACKYARD PARTY SEPTEMBER 13 | 5PM

Please join us for this important time in the life of our church when we look back on the past year, share financial updates, and look forward to what the Lord is calling us to. After the meeting, join us for a fun time of fellowship in our backyard. Childcare up to 5th grade will be available.

PARISH RETREAT: THE FEAST THAT FORMS US OCTOBER 2–3

Registration is now open for the annual Christ Church Parish Retreat. Held in-town, we will welcome Hannah Miller King, Anglican priest and author of *Feasting on Hope: How God Sets a Table in the Wilderness*. We will also enjoy unique breakout sessions, time spent in play and learning as a church community, as well as a very special concert by Jon Guerra on Saturday night. You won't want to miss this one!

COMMUNITY LIFE GROUPS

Christ Church offers three types of groups to meet the needs of people in different seasons of life and phases of spiritual growth. All groups incorporate three key elements of our life together: community, mission, and formation, but each type of group has a primary focus. Groups begin the week of September 6. Some groups provide child care and some include families. Groups meet throughout the Austin area.



NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

Neighborhood groups focus on building **community** among Christ Churchers who live in the same part of Austin. We define “neighborhood” loosely as a region of the Austin metro area. These groups meet weekly or every other week. Some groups might alternate weeks with men meeting one week and women one week.

Each group meeting spends a portion of its time in Scripture to grow in **formation**. They also will find a need in their area that they could meet through a simple project once per semester to serve in **mission** together.

Browse Neighborhood Groups



FORMATION GROUPS

Formation groups dedicate most of their gathering time to the study of a spiritual **formation** curriculum or a focused Bible study. Groups will meet weekly for 10 sessions this fall. Groups will study *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* and *Practicing the Way* this fall.

These groups build **community** through events like potlucks, sharing prayer requests, and meeting up to grow in friendship.

They are also encouraged to incorporate **mission** into their lives through serving the community in some way.

Browse Formation Groups



MISSION GROUPS

Mission Groups meet weekly and prioritize a rhythm of study and action, engaging both content for growth as a community and service opportunities in the community.

Mission Groups engage **formation** material together twice a month and serve together in **mission** twice a month. These groups will meet 12 times this fall, with a break or two for special parish-wide events and services.

Mission Groups members build **community** through gatherings, sharing prayer requests, and meeting up to grow in friendship.

Browse Mission Groups



PARISH LIFE

Get involved in our Parish

YOUTH

We deeply value the formation of our youth. Middle schoolers will gather for Ignite and high school will gather for Eikon. These gatherings are fun, meaningful, spaces to learn about Christ and get to know others. We also offer events to foster connection with Christ and one another. We are looking forward to our monthly Community Building Events throughout the fall and the Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Buckner this winter. Most youth programming takes place across the street from Christ Church at the Greenhouse (1004 E 2nd St.). To get weekly updates and a full semester schedule, email youth@christchurchofaustin.org.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This is an inter-generational group of women who meet at 10am-12pm every Wednesday. This fall we will be studying Titus. Childcare is available with registration.

ENCORE

A 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.

FATHERS OF LITTLE ONES

Fathers of Little Ones (FOLO) will meet monthly on Saturday mornings to and will serve as a safe, encouraging space for dads where they can share their parenting journeys. Each meeting includes fellowship, prayer, and an opportunity to hear from experienced dads in the parish. Childcare is provided with registration.

LIVING THE CHURCH YEAR: SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR FAMILIES

A four-week class to help parents understand the Church Year more fully. It will offer practical ideas for incorporating liturgical rhythms in the life of the family. Classes begin September 27. Child care will be available with registration.

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.

MOTHERS OF LITTLE ONES

Mothers of Little Ones (MOLO) is a gathering of moms of young children infant-prek. MOLO begins September 24th will meet every other Thursday from 9:30am-12:00pm. Childcare is available with registration. In addition, MOLO will have evening gatherings once a month just for moms (babies are always welcome).

Please visit our website for more community life information and registration.

FAITH + ARTS

If you are an artist, an art lover, or a lover of artists, we invite you to join our Faith+Arts community. We lead 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. We believe the honest portrayal of truth and beauty is part of God's redemptive work on Earth.

WRITING GROUP

Bimonthly, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month

MAKER MONDAYS

Bimonthly, 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month

SONGWRITING GROUP

Bimonthly, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

VISUAL ARTS CRITIQUE

Bimonthly, on weekends

ARTISTS MORNINGS

Monthly on Saturdays



Akiko Scott

FALL EVENTS:

BOOK LAUNCH + AUTHOR TALK WITH MATT EVANS

September 10, 7pm

AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR PREVIEW PARTY + HAPPY HOUR

November 13, 6–8pm

AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR

November 14–15, 21–22

WINTER HOUSEMOOT WEEKEND

December 11–12. A cozy creativity retreat hosted in-home in southwest Austin. We will watch and discuss teachings, share meals, and engage in creative practices together.

For all event information including dates, times, location, and to sign up for our Faith + Arts email list, visit faithandarts.org.

FALL AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER

- 2 **WEDNESDAY WALKABOUT**
- 7 **NEIGHBORHOOD, FORMATION, AND MISSION GROUPS BEGIN**
- 19 **NEWCOMERS' DINNER**
- 13 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND BACKYARD PARTY**
- 19 **KAIROS SERVE DAY**
- 20 **LUNCH & LEARN: HOW TO INTERACT WITH OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS**
- 20 **SOAKING PRAYER**

OCTOBER

- 2-3 **PARISH RETREAT: THE FEAST THAT FORMS US**
- 7 **WEDNESDAY WALKABOUT**
- 18 **SOAKING PRAYER**
- 24 **YOUNG ADULT FALL BONFIRE & COMPLINE**
- 25 **LUNCH & LEARN: REFUGEES AND GLOBAL MIGRATION**

NOVEMBER

- 1 **BAPTISMS**
- 4 **WEDNESDAY WALKABOUT**
- 8 **SOAKING PRAYER**
- 13 **AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR PREVIEW PARTY + HAPPY HOUR**
- 13-15 **SILENT RETREAT**
- 14 **NEWCOMERS' DINNER**
- 14-15 & 21-22 **AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR**

DECEMBER

- 2 **WEDNESDAY WALKABOUT**
- 6 **CEILI & CHILI COOK OFF**
- 13 **SOAKING PRAYER**
- 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
- 27 **LESSONS & CAROLS**



CARE AT CHRIST CHURCH

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.

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 a priest, email carolyn@christchurchofaustin.org.

SOAKING PRAYER

A gentle contemplative service offering participants quiet space to rest in God's presence and receive from the Holy Spirit. Prayer ministers silently pray over each person's requests and, with permission, gently lay hands on their shoulders.

HEALING PRAYER

The Healing Prayer Team offers confidential prayer for those seeking God's healing of mind, body, soul, and spirit. Prayer teams are available during Communion each Sunday or by appointment. Contact care@christchurchofaustin.org

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss your needs, we would be honored to walk alongside you.



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 active teams:

AS A PARISH

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

IN THE PARISH

BCCM — Pack or deliver meals for children experiencing food insecurity in our neighborhood

More Than Welcome — Connect relationally with refugee and asylee families from around the world living in Austin

Mission Possible — Engage with those experiencing poverty in our neighborhood

RBJ Senior Living — Connect with elderly residents in our neighborhood, providing friendship and care

Wednesday Walkabout — A monthly Walkabout in which we serve a cup of cold water in Jesus' name to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. We start at Christ Church and walk the block.

Additional service opportunities include care for trafficked women, people with disabilities, etc.

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 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.

