Here we go, again!

Uncertainty, Certainty, Uncertainty....

I am truly excited for the new school year. I really am. What I am less excited about is the uncertainty that seems ubiquitous. Will people feel safe as school begins? When will younger children be vaccinated? When will I be able to receive another dose? I wonder about all of you, how you are coping? And what will Church be like, feel like, look like this year?

Amidst all this uncertainty, which of course extends to bigger concerns about our world, there is one thing I feel is certain. We have a choice. We can choose to be faithful. Faithful to God, faithful to one another, and faithful to our truest selves.

Last Sunday I was reminded of the importance of faith when we baptized the newest member of the parish, Khloe. Khloe was conceived, born, and baptized in the midst of a global pandemic. Khloe’s parents, grandparents, godparents and the entire parish named aloud the promises contained within our baptismal covenant. (I even imagined some of you responding at home!) We admitted that we cannot do these things by ourselves. We responded, “I will, with God’s help.” What a blessing to be reminded of what we need and what we have been given: God’s help.

with God's help

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; Though its waters roar and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult. [from Psalm 46]

My friends, we can and will do hard things again this year. Whatever we must wait for (hugs and handshakes), whatever we must work for (serving God and our neighbors), and for all the courageous and difficult loving that we will do this year, we will do with God’s help.

What's next: return to worship and a backpack blessing!

We are pleased to announce that weekly indoor, in-person Sunday morning worship with organ and choir resumes on Sunday, September 12 at 10 a.m. For some of you this may feel long overdue and cause for celebration. Some of you may opt instead for the more quiet 8:00 a.m. in person worship service. Others of you may not be ready to
return indoors just yet. This is all okay. The right time to return to Church is whenever you are ready. Diocesan Covid-related safety guidelines for worship such as wearing masks for all people 3 years of age and older is required. The Staff and Lay leadership of the Church feel we can gather safely as a church in this way, at this time. If you are unable to attend in person, our main service will continue to be streamed and posted for later viewing on the Christ Church YouTube channel.

After the 10 a.m. service on 9/12, starting roughly at 11:15-11:25 everyone is invited to gather outside for a backpack and device blessing and to enjoy some light snacks.

If you are coming directly to church from home for the backpack blessing, please arrive and wait outside of Parish Hall by 11:10 a.m. We'll be there, rain or shine to pray God's blessings on the people and on the learning tools this year!

**Register for Church School and activities [here](#)**

We will again offer children's formation (i.e. Church School) this year, and Middle School and High School youth will have chances to connect and serve. I can assure you that it will be different than in the past, but we will strive to be faithful and do what we can in a school year that is still not normal. We are still seeking childcare providers to staff the nursery. Please contact Rev. Jen if you are interested or if you can suggest experienced and qualified people to join our team.

To register your child in grades PreK through Grade 6 for church school (even if your child attends only on occasion) please use this [form](#). We hope to hold church school outdoors for several Sundays this Fall on a trial basis. I hope you will join me in a spirit of willingness and experimentation as we find new ways and try new things to build community and worship together and learn while keeping our children safe. Stay tuned for news about Youth activities beginning in October.

Please be in touch with any questions or if you can offer any assistance with children and youth.

With my affection and gratitude for all of you,
Jen+

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Recent photos from the end of Summer Playground Playdate and Youth Confirmation
You have received the newsletter Family and Faith because you have a family member or relative who is College aged or younger. If you would like to unsubscribe from only this newsletter but would like to continue to receive the parish’s weekly E-Prophet, please indicate that by sending an email to Unsubscribe from Family and Faith only.