

Christ Episcopal Church Iglesia Episcopal de Cristo

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March 7, 2021

Announcement of Our New Rector

I am happy to announce, based on the recommendation of the Discernment Committee, The Bishop, Wardens, and Vestry of Christ Church have called Rev. Lisa Ann Hoffman as our new Rector. Reverend Hoffman is currently serving as the Vicar of St. Barnabas-by-the-Bay in Villas, NJ. Villas is located in Cape May County.

Rev. Hoffmann has served as Vicar of St. Barnabas for almost 10 years, and she is a lifelong resident of Freehold, NJ. She is a true “Jersey Girl”! She is married to her husband Jeff, and they have three adult children, a daughter Lindsay, and sons Josh and Jeremy.

Mother Lisa’s career path includes an assistant teacher for Special Education, an Art Teacher, a Bookkeeper & Office Assistant, Human Resources Administrator, Store Director for Circuit City, and a Parish Administrator.

Mother Lisa received her Master of Divinity Degree in 2011 from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. Since then, she has served as an Outreach Minister and Vicar.

Mother Lisa says, “her call to ordained ministry is a call to walk with others on their journey as pastor and priest, sharing with them God’s love and sacraments, and helping them to discern where God is active in their lives.”

When the pandemic hit and closed St. Barnabas, Mother Lisa learned quickly how to connect with her parish using technology. She immediately began to live stream her services, started a nightly Compline program on Facebook, and even performed, a FB Live funeral, at the request of the family, so everyone could attend.

She fully embraces technology and plans to use it going forward at Christ Church.

Mother Lisa envisions growing the church, being involved in the community and outreach programs, and immersing herself into the Hispanic community to grow and learn their culture and customs. She is “passionate about Social Justice and loves liturgy.”

Mother Lisa believes Christ Church should be “a light in the community”.

This is just a small snippet of who Mother Lisa is. As we welcome Mother Lisa and Jeff into our Christ Church family, we look forward to getting to know them, and learning who they are; just as they will learn about us and get to know who we are. Together we will all write the next chapter of Christ Episcopal Church Toms River’s story.

Rev. Hoffman's first day in the office will be Thursday, April 15th, and she will celebrate her first service on Sunday, April 18th. The first service will be a tele-service. We will begin immediately working on moving to live stream/virtual services and eventually in-person worship. It will take a little time to work out all the necessary details.

We are also going to be working on the best way for Mother Lisa to meet the parish, so please bear with us, as we work out how we will do this. I promise, everyone will have the opportunity to meet our new Rector!

I once again, I want to thank Jeff Genthe and the entire Discernment Committee for all their work, prayers, and dedication to this process. It was longer than we could have imagined, and they faced unforeseen challenges; but we never doubted God had the perfect Rector for us from the start and he would bring that person to us in **HIS** time. **HIS** time is here, and so is Reverend Lisa Ann Hoffman!

Joanne Gwin
Sr. Warden