

Christ Church, Anglican

Brownsville, Pennsylvania

A Faithful Witness, A New Season

Christ Church Brownsville is a historic Anglican parish with roots reaching back to 1759, when Anglicans first began worshiping along the banks of the Monongahela River. For over two and a half centuries, this congregation has borne witness to the Gospel through seasons of growth, hardship, cultural change, and renewal.

The present church building, consecrated in 1859 and in continuous use for more than 150 years, stands as a visible sign of that enduring presence. Generations of faithful Christians have worshiped, prayed, and served from this place, establishing a lasting Anglican witness in the Brownsville community.

Today, Christ Church stands at an important moment in its long history.

After a period marked by leadership instability, the parish has emerged unified, prayerful, and committed to a new season of faithful ministry. The congregation is small but deeply rooted, financially stable, and clear in its desire to see the Gospel proclaimed with conviction and love.

We are seeking a priest who senses a call not simply to maintain a parish, but to participate in the renewal of a historic church and its witness in this community.

The Community: Brownsville, Pennsylvania

Brownsville is one of the earliest American settlements west of the Allegheny Mountains and once served as a gateway to the expanding frontier. Situated along the Monongahela River, it played a significant role in early American industry, particularly in riverboat construction and coal production.

Like many towns in southwestern Pennsylvania, Brownsville experienced economic decline following the collapse of the steel and manufacturing industries in the late 20th century. Today, the community faces real challenges, including economic hardship and the ongoing effects of the opioid crisis.

And yet, Brownsville is not defined solely by its struggles.

There remains a deep resilience within the community, a sense that its story is not finished. The historic phrase *post tenebras lux* “after darkness, light” captures something of this hope: that even after seasons of decline, renewal is possible.

It remains a welcoming and relational community, where ministry is personal and the presence of a faithful church can have a meaningful and lasting impact.

Parish History

Christ Church Brownsville is one of the oldest Anglican congregations in the region, with a history that reaches back to 1759.

In its earliest years, Anglican worship in Brownsville was shaped by the realities of frontier life. Even in those conditions, a faithful witness was established and sustained.

The present church property was acquired in 1796, and the first church building was completed in 1823. The current stone church, consecrated in 1859, has been in continuous use for over 150 years. The churchyard surrounding the building holds the graves of many of the town's early leaders and parishioners.

Across the decades, the parish has experienced periods of instability in leadership, at times marked by inconsistency in teaching and pastoral direction. And yet, Christ Church has endured.

Through faithful lay leadership and the sustaining grace of God, the parish has continued as an Anglican presence in Brownsville when it might easily have closed its doors. There have also been seasons of faithful and steady ministry, remembered with gratitude by many in the congregation.

In 2009, Christ Church joined the majority of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh in realigning with the Anglican Church in North America, reflecting its commitment to the authority of Scripture and historic Anglican doctrine.

Today, Christ Church is marked by a unified and faithful core of believers who are committed to the Gospel and to the future of this parish. There is a growing sense that God is preparing the way for a new season of stability, growth, and fruitfulness.

A New Season of Ministry and Mission

Christ Church has entered a new season of intentional prayer and discernment as we look toward the future. We believe this is a moment not simply of transition, but of renewal.

The congregation has remained unified and increasingly clear about its identity and calling. There is a shared desire to move forward grounded in Scripture, rooted in the Anglican tradition, and attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We do not believe our calling is to preserve what remains, but to participate in what God is building next.

A Church with a Clear Calling

Christ Church understands its calling to include:

- Faithful proclamation of the Gospel in word and sacrament
- Discipleship that forms mature followers of Jesus Christ
- Pastoral care that reflects the love and truth of Christ
- Engagement with the community, particularly among families

A Foundation for Growth

While small in number, the parish is:

- Financially stable
- Unified in its desire for faithful, orthodox ministry
- Supported by committed lay leadership

The Nature of the Opportunity

This is, in many respects, a church-planting opportunity within a historic parish setting.

The priest called to this work will need vision, resilience, patience, and a willingness to invest for the long term.

Parish Life and Structure

Worship

Sunday worship is centered on the Holy Eucharist using the Texts for Common Prayer liturgy. Worship reflects the catholic, evangelical, and charismatic streams of Anglicanism.

Congregational Life

Christ Church is a relational and family-oriented parish marked by mutual care, consistent participation, and a commitment to serving the community.

Leadership

The parish is led by a four-member vestry, along with wardens, a treasurer, and a secretary. Lay leadership plays an active role in the life of the church.

Resources

The parish includes a historic church building, rectory, and additional property. It is financially supported through giving and an established endowment.

Parish Profile

- Average Sunday Attendance: 12
- Membership: 23

Rector Position Description

Overview

Christ Church Brownsville is seeking a faithful and mission-minded priest to serve as Rector and lead the parish into a new season of stability, renewal, and growth.

Responsibilities

Spiritual Leadership

- Lead a life rooted in prayer and Scripture
- Proclaim the Gospel faithfully
- Administer the sacraments

Preaching and Teaching

- Preach biblically and pastorally
- Teach Anglican theology and Scripture

Pastoral Care

- Provide consistent pastoral care
- Engage in visitation

Leadership

- Provide stable leadership
- Work with the vestry
- Equip lay leaders

Mission

- Engage the local community
- Lead outreach efforts

Anglican Identity

- Uphold Scripture and Anglican doctrine
- Lead as a complementarian parish priest

Administration

- Oversee parish operations
- Maintain communication and records

Personal Qualities

We are seeking a priest who:

- Loves Jesus Christ deeply
- Has a pastor's heart
- Is resilient and faithful
- Has a vision for ministry
- Desires to live in the community
- Works faithfully and humbly

Closing

Christ Church offers a rare opportunity to participate in the renewal of a historic Anglican parish.

We are seeking a priest who will lead with faithfulness, shepherd with care, and invest in the long-term flourishing of this congregation and its witness in Brownsville.