



The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
Fenton, Michigan

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others
September, 2017 (Our 159th Year)

This morning at Men's Breakfast one of the topics of conversation was the upcoming solar eclipse. I love to keep up with events in the cosmos so Monday's eclipse is something I approach with a sense of wonder and awe of the God of creation. When these events happen, when I gaze up at a cloudless night sky in a place with little if any light pollution, I'm taken back to my first experience sleeping under the stars at a Girl Guide (Canadian equivalent of Girl Scouts) camp in northern Ontario. I was so aware at that tender young age of the power of God who created this vast and amazing world and the stars too numerous to count.

I find right now that I need that night sky or perhaps this solar eclipse to remind myself of the power of God to not only create, but to recreate and transform the world. Over time I've found it difficult and sometimes impossible to turn on the news. The hate and violence that is a very real part of our lives today often gets to be so overwhelming that I want nothing more than to crawl into a cave and hide out in a protective bubble. So, for a time I vow to not look at any kind of negativity. Of course, that doesn't work very well – at least not for long. And, as an ordained leader in the church I'm not called to be cut off. I'm called, as are we all, to step out into the chaos of the world. To not just speak Jesus' words of love and reconciliation, but to live them and call others to do the same.

The hate and violence that has been erupting in our midst has been very hard to watch. The videos that have looped over TV screens without interruption were chaotic. The words that neo-nazis and white supremacists screamed out were so full of hate and division and everything that goes against the teachings of Jesus. That's not okay. The chaos that draped the world in darkness in Charlottesville is not new. It's been around throughout history and every time it rears its ugly head the world has been challenged to make a choice. In his video address to the church responding to the chaos and darkness in Charlottesville, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry asks us a question that is also the title of a book, "Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community"?

Jesus came that we might have life, and have it abundantly. He came and lived among us to model the path away from chaos and towards community. Throughout his ministry Jesus taught us the way of reconciliation. He showed us how light overcomes darkness and leads us out of chaos towards community. God's beloved community. In the letter to the Galatians we read that "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Today we are in a moment of crisis and of decision. One that may seem overwhelming as hate and darkness tear our communities apart. In our hearts we know that Jesus calls us out of chaos and into God's beloved community where love and reconciliation are reality. It can seem as if that dream is so very far away that we are beyond hope of achieving it. That's, I think, where it's important to see the vastness of the power of the God who creates and recreates and transforms. Romans 8:38 – 39 reminds us that nothing is beyond God's love to be a part of our realities. It's times like these that we may need reminding "that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The chaos and hate that was so evident on the streets of Charlottesville is not the final answer, just as the death of Jesus was not the final answer. God's beloved community is already at work in the world and you and I are all a part of that community. As part of that community we are called to continue the good work of Jesus in our own lives and in the world. We are called to work towards building God's beloved community as Messiah, God with us, continues to be revealed in the world. We are called to enter into conversations that work towards reconciliation so that the reality of all-are-welcome is really what is modelled in our communities.

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Min. of Music: Marlene J. Weston (810.658.2683) Dir. of Christian Formation: Kris Forsyth (810.208.0886)
Sunday Services: Holy Eucharist: 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour follows 10:30 service!

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There are a number of resources available through the Episcopal Church and others that will be helpful tools as we step into this reconciling work. If you are interested in pursuing any of these or would find them helpful as you explore "Where do we go from here," let me know and I can help connect you with resources that will be helpful. As a community of faith, let's have a conversation about how we might explore where this choice may take us next. Jesus' way of love and reconciliation and abundant life is not just a possibility that we hope and dream for when the chaos of the world doesn't block it out. It's a reality that is already present in the world and one that continues to emerge in our midst. We are people of hope when we live into that reality. We are people of hope when we actively seek to change the world to reflect the Kingdom Jesus came to reveal.

"Where do we go from here?" We pray. We stay convinced that darkness will not overwhelm and that chaos will not reign. We speak out against injustice wherever it emerges. We continue on the path that creates, models and invites God's beloved community. We strive to work towards reconciliation. We keep the faith. We faithfully walk the path. We hold onto the hope that Jesus brought. We live that hope out loud in the world.

One of my favorite pictures that showed how the church is called to respond following the events in Charlottesville, is a number of church leaders linking arms and walking, peacefully demonstrating God's beloved community. It may have been a quiet picture in the midst of the noise of that day. But it was and is powerful. For me it was like seeing all those stars in a nighttime sky. A reminder that chaos isn't the answer. A reminder that community, God's beloved community, is already a reality, and we are called to participate in that reality – in times of light and in times of darkness.

"Where do we go from here?" The world needs us to reflect and to respond. We aren't alone in our response. Jesus has already been there and will be with us every step of the way!

Tracie +

Notes from the Vestry – August 2017

*Consumers Energy- Kirsten Leach Energy Efficiency Presentation- free program House of Worship Rewards Program. She left us all the materials and answered questions regarding setting up this program a free rewards program.

*Molly Anderson will be sharing her Guatemala experience during the service (August 27).

*Fall Clean-Up Day- October 22.

*Gutters were cleaned out, successfully. Tree service has looked at several of the problem trees around the building. No plan at present. Still need some brick pointed, bell tower to be looked at, front steps, front door redone.

*125th anniversary coming up next year.

COMMUNION BREAD

In our weekly announcements, I have been advertising for those who are interested in baking bread for Communion to get in touch with me as we are setting up a Bread Baker's Guild. I will be meeting with this newly formed Guild after church on August



27 to set up a plan to move forward. If you are interested in being a part of this Guild, please join us at this initial meeting. If you are interested and not able to attend on August 27, please let me know and we can speak about how this will work.

Bread is such an integral part of what we, as Episcopalians, do in worship. Each week the bread is brought forward by the ushers and I take it. In words as ancient as our scripture stories at Jesus' Last Supper with his friends, the bread is blessed. At the end of that prayer the bread is broken and

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together we share in this feast that is a foretaste of what is to come when the Kingdom of God is fully realized on earth. This fourfold action – take, bless, break, share – forms what we call our Holy Eucharist. The symbolism of what we do as we gather around the Table is core to what we believe and it shapes who we are as people of God. We are what we eat! Or, in the words of St. Augustine, “If you want to understand the body of Christ, listen to what the apostle Paul says to the faithful: ‘You are Christ’s own body, his members’; thus, it is your own mystery which is placed on the Lord’s table. It is your own mystery that you receive. At communion, the priest says: ‘The body of Christ,’ and you reply, ‘Amen.’ When you say ‘Amen,’ you are saying yes to what you are.” We are the body of Christ, so the body of Christ lies on the Table and we, the body of Christ gather around the Table. When we say Amen as we receive the bread, the body of Christ, that is placed in our hands, we are receiving who we are! That’s why when I place the bread in your hands at Communion, I only ever say, “The body of Christ.” I want us not to ever lose sight of being the body of Christ in the world today. That connection is foundational to who we are as the people of God.

I also believe in the abundance of symbol. For us, a symbol isn’t simply an everyday item. It points to something else – it points us towards the Kingdom of God. How we use symbol as we gather in worship is key. So, when hold up a loaf of bread, I want it to connect with all of our senses. I want its aroma to remind you of freshly baked bread coming out of the oven. I want its flavor to be one that awakens your tastebuds. I want its sight to actually look like bread. I want the feel of it in your hand to be something familiar and yet profound.

So, I would like us to return to using real bread. And because of the increase in our awareness of food allergies, I want that bread to be one that won’t harm anyone with any of the most common allergens. And I want us all to share in “the One Bread.” I’m working with Marjie to come up with a flour that will bake into a flavorful loaf that we will take, bless, break, and share as we gather around our Table. I will experiment with a very simple recipe that I have used in the past and August 27 we will get to taste test! My plan is to begin using real

bread as we start all of our regular programs on Sept. 10.

If you have any questions or concerns, please connect with me and let’s talk! I can be reached by e-mail (TracieLLittle@gmail.com) or phone (810-300-9177).

Tracie +

CROP Walk Information...

The Fenton are CROP Walk has a new Facebook page! You will find all of the information you need by visiting the [Fenton Area CROP Hunger Walk](#).

A reminder: CROP Walk

Hunger and poverty are rampant in our world, and escalating in the current economic conditions. They aren’t just a problem in 3rd world countries; they are problems right here in Fenton. Something can and must be done about them! Our local CROP Hunger Walk is a great place to start. With just a few hours of effort and a few miles, you can personally make a difference. In the words of John 3:18, “... love, not in word and speech but in truth and action.”

On Sunday, October 1, 2017 we will participate in the 37th Annual Fenton/Lake Fenton/Linden/Holly CROP Walk.

BE THE CHANGE!

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Auction Update

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to make a gift basket for our upcoming

**Blessings in a Basket Auction
November 5th, 7th and 12th.**

We have reached our goal of 25 baskets.

Thank you, as well, to those who will be donating live auction items such as hand-crafted quilts and stained glass, dinner parties, and wine tastings.

There will be an organizational meeting on Wednesday, August 30th at 7:00 p.m. for those who would like to help on a sub-committee of the event; set-up, clean-up, food, accounting and distribution of items. Your assistance would be GREATLY appreciated.

Please contact co-chairs Freya Hutchinson or Denise Rayner if you have any questions.

UPCOMING EVENT

Sunday, December 3rd, 6:00 p.m.

St. Jude's Women's Advent Tea

Opening the Door of our Hearts

"Advent is a season of opening doors. It is a time to deepen and strengthen our relationship with the Holy One so that more of the divine presence within us shines through and offers a welcome to others. It is a season to open the doors of our hearts so that we can both give and receive this love. One of the ways we can do this is by seeing ourselves and others as doors through which the divine presence continually seeks an entrance." from U.S. Catholic Faith in Real Life, Joyce Rupp

Put this date on your calendar and plan on attending this peaceful, spirit filled evening of fellowship. As always, we will be in need of women who are able to host a table. Please look for more information in bulletins and the Beacon next month.

Coats for Kids

The Outreach Committee will be sponsoring a Coats for Kids campaign this October. Please bring in new or gently used coats for children of all sizes. Mittens and gloves would also be appreciated. A drop off box will be located in VandenBergh Hall. Let's make an effort to help the many families in our community who are in need as the cold weather approaches. Thank you in advance for your kindness and prayers.

Truckloads of Food Give-Away

Our Truckload Food Give-away is happening in the morning on Saturday, Sept. 16. This program allows us to give food to hundreds of families right from the fire department! We need volunteers! Please sign up on the outreach board in VandenBergh Hall to help.

We Are Family



Please Hold In Your Prayers

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop;
Todd, our Bishop; Tracie, our Priest
for the Wardens and Vestry.

For those in particular need of prayer: Craig Adams; Karen Anderson & family; Jack Bretzke; D'Jair Cominotti; Steven G.; Stan Haddock; Timothy Harman-Zerbiec; Janel Koop; Bill Lenny; Jeff Luebke; Theresa Maynard; Jordon Michael; Paul Riley; Mike Ryan; Marilyn Safa; Spencer Sands; Larry Smith; Stan Spicer; Louis Sternello; Jennifer Ubil; Sandy West; Ron Winters; Jack Ziegler & family

And those in continuing need of prayer: Herb Aldrich; John Babcock; David Barrows; Brett Beal; Margot Brummett; Rachel & Don Conway; Betsy Davies; Erica and Gail Delaney; Gail Engdahl; Bunny Gladfelter; Ralph Gladfelter; Judy Godsell; Tom Hackbardt; Brian Henderson; Ev Koller; Angela Koresh; Mary Kurtz; Don Kurtz; Sidney Nihill; Leona; Paul Otto; Richard Perkins; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Susan Taber; Jim Thompson; Sandy Train; Elijah Unkefer

Pray for Our Ministers

September 3 – Mike Wood; Fred & Lynell Wright; Craig & Gay Adams; Herb & Sharon Aldrich

September 10 – Bob & Kim Alexander; Susan & Tony Allufo; Bill, Molly & Lydia Anderson

September 17 – David & Marjie Andrejciw; Martha Applebee; Shara Bancroft; Laura & Rex Bentz

September 24 – Robert Boggs; Jack & Rita Bretzke; Kathryn & Barry Brow; LeeAnn Brummett

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 st	David James
2 nd	Sally Diehl
4 th	Bernie Mcara
5 th	Courtney Chambers
	Linda Chciuk
7 th	Dee Grossmann
9 th	Cloud James
11 th	Diane Putnam
	Dave Rayner
13 th	Nancy Jones
15 th	Marjie Andrejciw
	Tracie Little
16 th	Freya Hutchinson
	Jennifer Rosa
17 th	Dean DuPei
19 th	Marilou Ensign
	Francine Johnston
20 th	Matthew Moller
	Clara Shepherd
21 st	Joan Graham
22 nd	Jack Mills
	Marlene Weston
23 rd	Margot Brummett
	Neil Leonard
	Jackson Shepherd
25 th	Mike Kearns
26 th	Lydia Anderson
	Kayla Chambers
28 th	Liza Dolza
	Jeff Koch
	Megan Rosa
30 th	Pat Freeman

September Anniversaries

10 th	Jim & Kathy Kortge (51 years)
14 th	Carl & Connie Koch (60 years)
26 th	Steve & Laura Koch (19 years)
29 th	Scott & Sandra Smith (45 years)

If you do not see your name and have a birthday or anniversary this month, please let the office know. We would love to celebrate with you, but we need to know when your birthday/anniversary is (including the year for database purposes only)!

Thank you!

We Are Family

Coffee Hour Hosts:

Our sincere thanks to those who generously provided nourishment for the body and soul during August: Sarah and Paul Dolza, Christine and Bob Szostak, Judy and Mike Marinco, Sue Premo.

We also offer our thanks to *Crust* for their dedicated delivery of their delicious baked goods that we enjoy each Sunday.

Every day they continued to meet together...they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. Acts 2:46-47

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Notes from the Choir

It is hard to believe that September is upon us and time for our SUPER SUPPER FOR SINGERS on Thursday, September 7, at 6:00 p.m. WE NEED SINGERS!!! COME TRY US OUT!!! An overview of the season and rehearsal will follow. Regular rehearsals will resume on September 14 at 7:00 p.m. Please come if you desire to help lead worship in a very special way. We also have much fun! Questions? Talk to any choir member or Marlene Weston.

St. Jude's Ringers begin rehearsals on September 14 at 6:00 p. WE NEED NEW RINGERS and will train. Ringers are encouraged to arrive early to assist with set-up.

Marlene Weston

Office Volunteers

Thank you to all of the people who contacted the office saying that they would volunteer if Liz or Ron are unable to be in during office hours. If you are still interested in volunteering in the office, let Liz know. You would be filling in periodically by greeting people in person and on the phone and doing light office work. Thanks!

Women's Book Club and Harvey Dent

In July, we read the book entitled "Racing in the Rain," by Garth Stein. The story is told from a dog's point of view. While we were all reading the book, a story came out in the Tri-County Times about a young pup who had been tortured by his previous owner, the pup was rescued by the Genesee County Animal Control and placed in the care of Adopt-A-Pet Fenton until he was ready to find his forever home. They named him "Harvey Dent," after a character from a Batman movie who had suffered severe burns. Harvey Dent's medical bills added up to an approximate \$1800.

When we heard this, we wanted to help, so we took up a collection at July's book club meeting (and in church) to total around \$85 (so far — could be more as of this writing). If anyone would care to contribute to the fund, please see Dee Grossman. These funds will go to Adopt-A-Pet Fenton to help defray the medical bills incurred by giving this pup as close to a normal life as he can have.

Harvey Dent's story has a happy ending because he was adopted by a family in Fenton and from all accounts has settled into his new home quite nicely, enjoying the good life and receiving all the love he deserves.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this cause!



(photo from Tri-County Times)

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Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?

The following is the text from a message delivered by our Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry following the tragedy in Charlottesville.

In this moment – when the stain of bigotry has once again covered our land, and when hope, frankly, sometimes seems far away, when we must now remember new martyrs of the way of love like young Heather Heyer – it may help to remember the deep wisdom of the martyrs who have gone before. The year was 1967. It was a time not unlike this one in America. Then there were riots in our streets, poverty and unbridled racism in our midst, and a war far away tearing us apart at home. In that moment, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote a book, his last one, with a message that rings poignant today. It was titled, “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?”

One of his insights then was that a moment of crisis is always a moment of decision. It was true then and is true now. Where do we go from here? Chaos? Indifference? Avoidance? Business as usual? Or Beloved Community?

I’m a follower of Jesus of Nazareth because I believe the teachings, the Spirit, the Person, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus have shown us the way through the chaos to true community as God has intended from the beginning.

Through the way of love, he has shown us the way to be right and reconciled with the God and Creator of us all. Through his way of love, he has shown us the way to be right and reconciled with each other as children of God, and as brothers and sisters. In so doing, Jesus has shown us the way to become the Beloved Community of God. St. Paul said it this way: “In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself” and now he has entrusted us with “the message of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:19).

I know too well that talk of Beloved Community, which Jesus was describing when he spoke of the kingdom of God in our midst, can be dismissed as nice but naive, idealistic yet unrealistic. I know that.

But I also know this. The way of Beloved Community is our only hope. In this most recent unveiling of hatred, bigotry, and cruelty, as Neo-

Nazis marched and chanted, “The Jews will not replace us,” we have seen the alternative to God’s Beloved Community. And that alternative is simply unthinkable. It is nothing short of the nightmare of human self-destruction and the destruction of God’s creation. And that is unthinkable, too.

We who follow Jesus have made a choice to walk a different way: the way of disciplined, intentional, passionate, compassionate, mobilized, organized love intent on creating God’s Beloved Community on earth.

Maybe it is not an accident that the Bible readings for the Holy Eucharist this Sunday (Genesis 45:1-15; Isaiah 56:1,6-8; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; and Matthew 15:21-28) all point toward and bear a message of God’s passionate desire and dream to create the Beloved Community in the human family and all of the creation.

This Sunday and in the days and weeks to come, as we gather in community to worship God and then move about in our homes, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, social circles and more, we will be faced with a choice. I ask and invite us as congregations and individuals who are together the Episcopal Church of the Jesus Movement to intentionally, purposely, and liturgically rededicate ourselves to the way of Jesus, the work of racial reconciliation, the work of healing and dismantling everything that wounds and divides us, the work of becoming God’s Beloved Community. Resources that can assist us in doing this work are included with this message, including an adapted version of the Becoming Beloved Community vision that our church’s key leaders shared this spring. I urge you to spend time reflecting with them individually and in your churches.

Where do we go from here? Maybe the venerable slave songs from our American past can help us. In the midst of their suffering, they used to sing ...

*Walk together children
And don’t you get weary.
Cause there’s a great camp meeting
In the promised land.*

We will walk there ... together. We will make this soil on which we live more and more like God’s own Promised Land. So God love you. God bless you. And let’s all keep the faith.

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St. Jude's Episcopal Church

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