

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

AUGUST 2020... OUR 162ND YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

106 East Elizabeth St.
Fenton, MI 48430-2322
810-629-5681

E-MAIL:

stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com

WEB:

www.stjudesfenton.com

FACEBOOK:

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

The Reverend Tracie Little

810-300-9177

E-Mail: TracieLLittle@gmail.com

The Rev. Judy Marinco, Deacon

E-Mail: JAMarinco50@gmail.com

Liz Sailus,

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday & Thursday:

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday:

9:00 a.m.-noon

Minister of Music

Marlene J. Weston

810-658-2683

Director 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

RECTORS REPORT

Dear friends,

As you may be aware, the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, along with all the Michigan dioceses, have released us into Phase 2 of our re-entry process. This phase has a number of restrictions that we must follow in order to keep everyone safe and healthy. We are also not required to make the shift into Phase 2, but could simply wait to be released into Phase 3 when the restrictions are lighter.

Last week Vestry met to discuss whether or not we felt comfortable moving into this new phase and made the decision to poll the congregation, letting everyone know the restrictions we felt comfortable with as we move ahead. Last night we took a look at the results from that poll and have made the following decisions.

1. Our online 8am Morning Prayer will continue and will broadcast through Zoom and Facebook Live so that we can bring in other voices to read and perhaps offer musical meditations. If you are interested in being a Lector or offering a musical selection from your home, please let me know as I am trying to put together a rotation schedule.
2. Our daily 8am Morning Prayer will continue. Other worship leaders will be sharing in officiating either weekly or from time to time.
3. We will begin a 10:30am Eucharist outside the church building on the church property. Our first planned service was Sunday, July 26. Although both bread and wine will be consecrated, only wafers will be shared. The following restrictions will be in place.
 - You must wear a mask. Disposable masks will be available for anyone who does not bring their own.
 - You must bring your own chair and place it at least 6 feet away from anyone else so we maintain social distancing.
 - There will be a book in which you must leave your name and contact information for contact tracing should anyone test positive for Covid-19. These lists will be maintained in the church office.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the space.
 - Because singing is one of the biggest culprits for spread of this virus, there will be no singing.
 - The collection plate will be present, but will not be passed. You may leave your pledge in the collection plate and it will be deposited as normal.
 - The Peace must be touch-free.

(continued on page 2)

Rector's Report (cont'd)

(continued from page 1)

- The requirement in this phase, is for no food or drink to be present, so there will be no coffee hour. Please bring your own water so you keep hydrated in the heat.
- Because crowds increase the chance of spread of the virus, we are required not to visit with one another. There will be no receiving line before or after the service and we are not providing an opportunity to gather. As much as we would love the chance to stay and visit, the requirements are keeping the safety and health of all of us at the core of the decisions that have been made. We will continue our pattern of staying connected by phone and invite you to do the same.
- Enclosed spaces are a greater risk for spreading the virus and because of this, our building will remain locked during the service. Restrooms will not be available so please take that into account as you plan your day. There are a number of restrictions for building use, and we have not prepared the building to receive us safely.
- There will be a protocol for receiving the Eucharist (again, wafers only) which will be explained during the service.
- As you know, at risk individuals are encouraged to shelter-in-place as much as possible and the Diocese is encouraging those who are vulnerable not attend in-person services.

Please know that I continue to daily monitor the numbers of cases in Genesee, Oakland and Livingston counties through an online map. The data is two days old but is easy to track. The diocese recommends that if our county turns orange or red, we reconsider in-person worship. With the data being two days old, if our numbers are approaching orange, I may make the decision to stop in-person worship. Should cancelling become necessary, word will go out through Facebook and through an e-mail blast. If you receive our weekly e-mails, you should receive this. Please check your inbox or our Facebook page before heading to the church just in case there's been a change.

In our discussions, we continue to be very sensitive to those who are missing the ability to gather in person. We are also very aware that we are largely a vulnerable population. We believe that the safest way to offer an ability to gather, is to do so outside while following the restrictions given to us through the Pastoral Directive and the phased re-entry process. If you are uncomfortable gathering in person for any reason, please understand that you will not be judged by anyone for not being present. Each of us needs to make decisions based on our own comfort level.

If you would like a personal visit from me, please let me know by calling me at 810-300-9177 to arrange a visit. This phase makes it possible for me to visit with you outside and with each of us masked. Or, if you cannot be masked, you could sit inside your home at an open window and I will remain outside. I can also bring Eucharist to your home using this same pattern for visitation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail.

Love and Blessings,

Tracie+

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Knitting continues with several prayer shawls completed while we have been in quarantine. *Oh! The prayers that have gone into them!*

If anyone is interested in taking part in the next phone a friend prayer shawl meeting (where one member calls another and they share time together, knitting as able), let us know!

**Contact Deb James
at 810-210-6305 for info.**

Promise for Home Challenge

Please consider making a donation for preventing families from losing their homes. Family Promise continues to seek donations to fund a grant from HUMI for \$20,000 of matching funds to be used for preventing children and their families from becoming homeless. Any money donated is matched instantly! 10\$=20\$, 100\$=200\$. Just click the link on the campaign page <https://bit.ly/promise4home> to learn more.



Connect to Virtual
Office Hours via Zoom

Tracie's Zoom Office Hours

If you'd like to visit Tracie in her home office, please join her on Zoom. You will need a computer or a smart phone with video and audio capability. Just click on the link below. You may need to enter the meeting number and/or the password in order to enter. You will be placed in a waiting room and Tracie will admit you one at a time.

Office hours will be held on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to noon, and Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

***Join Zoom Office Hours Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. until noon**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81594717198?pwd=NVVLMERCOWpIZWI4NmJSaHE1dJZdz09>

Meeting ID: 6822515024
Password: St. Jude's

***Join Zoom Office Hours Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85744824268?pwd=MjUvQWlYRU0xNzIzY1hmaURdUllZz09>

Meeting ID: 6822515024
Password: St. Jude's

I look forward to welcoming you to my home office virtually!

Blessings,
Tracie+

**Active links are found on St. Jude's website... 'click and go' from there.*

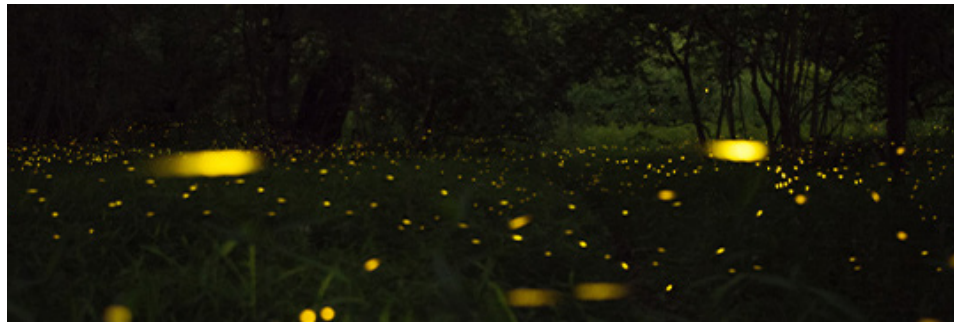
REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Maringo from "Our Daily Bread," July 17th edition

Light in the Dark

You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.

Psalm 18:28



A severe thunderstorm passed through our new town, leaving high humidity and dark skies in its wake. I took our dog, Callie, for an evening stroll. The mounting challenges of my family's cross-country move grew heavier on my mind. Frustrated by the countless ways things had strayed so far from our high hopes and expectations, I slowed to let Callie sniff the grass. I listened to the creek that runs beside our house. Tiny lights flashed on and off while hovering over the patches of wildflowers climbing up the creek's bank. Fireflies.

The Lord wrapped me in peace as I watched the blinking lights cutting through the darkness. I thought of the psalmist David singing, "You, Lord, keep my lamp burning" (Psalm 18:28). Proclaiming that God

turns his darkness into light, David demonstrated confident faith in the Lord's provision and protection (vv. 29-30). With God's strength, he could handle anything that came his way (vv. 32-35). Trusting the living Lord to be with him through all circumstances, David promised to praise Him among the nations and sing the praises of His name (vv. 36-49).

Whether we're enduring the unpredictable storms in life or enjoying the stillness after the rains have passed, the peace of God's constant presence lights our way through the darkness. Our living God will always be our strength, our refuge, our sustainer, and our deliverer.

By Xochitl Dixon

Reflect and Pray

Father, please help me trust Your goodness and love even when I sometimes can't see You in the dark circumstances in life.

What verses help you trust God's constant presence? How can relying on God's sovereign goodness help you walk through storms with confident faith?

OUTREACH

Food Giveaways Update

Every weekend we write a status on the Food Giveaways that is published in "This week at St. Jude's." However, we know that not everyone has online access, so we wanted to share an update here in the Beacon. Sorry that some of this information may be redundant for many of you.

We have been doing food giveaways since the first week that schools were shut down in Michigan (March 16th). Our first giveaway was Thursday of that week (3/19) to Dauner Haus and our first giveaway to students that Saturday (3/21). As this article is being written we are beginning our 20th week. We have provided groceries for Dauner Haus 10 times, Millpond Manor 6 times and students and their families 21 times. In addition, we have provided food to Family Promise and several other individuals that contacted us directly for assistance. Since the quarantine began, we have now provided 2,930 "bags" of groceries to the community (most times a "bag" is actually several bags). Sometimes it is 2 days' worth of food for a student and sometimes it is a week's worth of food for a family. We were recently asked by Feeding America to estimate what this might mean in terms of "meals provided." While we do not keep track at this level, we did some averaging and estimate that **we have provided the equivalent of 15,300 meals.**

Something that has been added since our last Beacon article is the addition of "Free Stuff for Kids," a program initiated by David Eshelman and his Granddaughters from First Presbyterian. They set up a canopy on the lawn next to the food giveaway that is chock full of books, puzzles, games and a wide variety of creative things for kids that have been quarantined way too long. It is so popular that nearly every single family that comes for food heads for the Free Stuff table. It is AWESOME.

Each day of distribution requires 4 to 6 volunteers. We have had 63 people volunteer for a total of more than 1,100 hours to help our community outreach. While most of these volunteer hours initially came from St. Jude's parishioners, over the past two months First Presbyterian volunteers have been showing up very regularly, to the point that we would now have a hard time doing it without them (especially for the heavy lifting). We have also had two other volunteers that just walked by, saw what we were doing and jumped in to help. In addition to volunteer hours, there are countless members of both churches that continue to donate food to supplement what we can purchase from the Food Bank. While we don't track exact numbers, we know that you have all donated at least 1,300 loaves of bread, 1,300 boxes of cereal, 450 packages of hot dog buns, and who knows how many boxes of Mac N' Cheese, bags of chips, pancake syrup, laundry detergent, baby wipes... and S'mores!

We continue to be blessed with adequate finances to support our program. To date we have spent just over \$14,000. With the grant we received from the Diocese, the available Outreach funds from CROP and fundraisers, and individual donations we still have \$9,500 to work with.

(continued on page 5)

Needed for Sundays

**8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Worship Services**

We are looking for people to serve as Lectors for the online 8am service. You will need to have a camera and be able to Zoom.



Tracie is happy to help you learn how to use this platform.

We are looking for people to serve as Lectors for the in-person 10:30am service. We are also looking for people to serve as Intercessors during the in-person 10:30am service.

Readings and prayers will be provided during the week so you have a chance to read them through.

Please let Tracie know if you are interested so she can get a rotation going. You may call or text her at 810-300-9177. If you text, please be sure to include your name. You may also e-mail her at TracieLLittle@gmail.com.



We are looking at expanding our musical offerings during our 8am online Morning Prayer services on Sundays. Do you sing? Play an instrument? Do you have a device with a camera that can Zoom into our service? Tracie would love to hear from you as we add voices and gifts to our weekly online services!

Please let Tracie know if you are interested so she can get a rotation going. You may call or text her at 810-300-9177. If you text, please be sure to include your name. You may also e-mail her at TracieLLittle@gmail.com.

Thank you
Thank you Thank you

To our St. Jude's Family,

What a pleasant surprise "drive by" you gave me for my 90th birthday!

All of the smiling faces, Happy Birthday wishes, balloons, birthday signs and cards will be forever remembered! I am very humbled by all of this and the many, many special birthday cards.

**God's love to each of you,
Jerry Graham**

(continued from page 4)

Future plans remain unclear due to the fluctuating Covid numbers and ever-changing plans for students going back to school. At this point the number of residents at Dauner Haus and Millpond Manor that need food has decreased from a high of 130 down to 48 (that number has now remained steady for the past 4 weeks). Students and families however remain steady with about 70 students and 25 families each Saturday. Current plans are to continue all three giveaways as long as there is a need. We do expect the numbers of students and families to diminish or go away when school starts, but if they don't, we will evaluate where we are financially and determine how we go forward.

We cannot begin to thank you for your support with these programs. Who would have ever guessed that our little church could be making such a big difference in the community? Whether it is packing bags, carrying boxes, storing cold food in your freezers, donating food, donating money, offering prayers or breaking down boxes, every person has helped in so many ways. **Thanks Be to God!**

St. Jude's Outreach Committee

Make Every Moment Matter

Everyone was put on this earth for a reason. **What's yours?**

Find your purpose and pursue your passion with gusto.

Believe in the impossible because everything seems impossible until you prove that it can be done.

Reach for the stars and be proud of your achievements, but also take pride in the way that you achieve them.

Make good choices because your life will grow to be the sum of those decisions.

Do what's right, not out of fear of getting caught, but because integrity matters. You have to live with yourself for the rest of your life.

Make a difference in people's lives, not because you expect something in return, but because witnessing their happiness is, by itself, a worthy reward.

Find your happiness, not by means of seeking more, but by appreciating what you already have.

Collect memories because things may offer a moment's pleasure, but you'll cherish your memories forever and ever.

Make every moment matter.

~Frank Sonnenberg
an award-winning author. He has written
seven books and over 300 articles.

August Birthdays

- 1st – Bill Freeman
- 5th – Dave Little
- 15th – Connie Koch
- 16th – Matt Freeman
- Jill Perry
- 20th – Gabrielle White
- 24th – Tom Gernack
- 25th – Marilyn Safa
- 29th – Dee Dickens

August Anniversaries

- 6th – Harry & Linda Chciuk
(49 years)
- 11th – Shane & Heather Chambers
(9 years)
- 15th – Mike Green & Mark Hamel
(11 years)
- Mike & Judy Marincio
(50 years)
- 18th – Craig & Gay Adams
(47 years)
- Lynn & Kathy Hopper
(42 years)
- 21st – Michael & Sue Reilly
(44 years)
- 22nd – Ronald & Jennifer Chambers
(22 years)
- Jerry & Francine Rucker
(56 years)
- 23rd – Tom & Shirley Gernack
(40 years)
- 25th – Dale & Debra Sands
(47 years)
- 27th – Dan & Beth Harvey
(10 years)



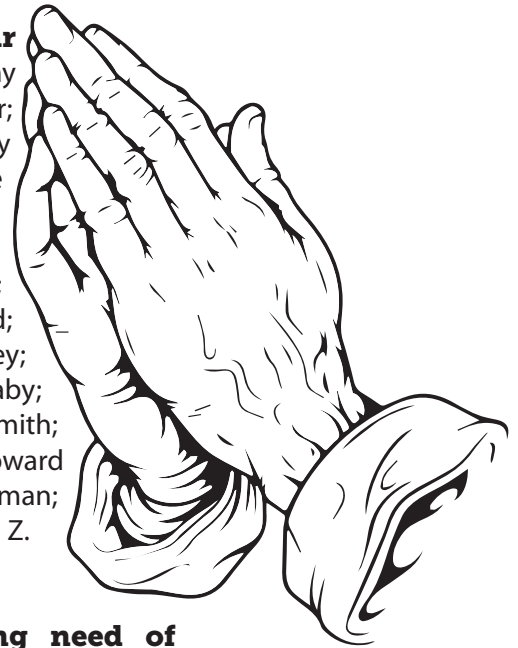
Beacon Deadlines

Submissions for The Beacon are due by the **22nd of each month**. Please submit them to Debbie Fry at debbiemcwilliams00@gmail.com.

PRAYER LIST

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan; Tracie, our Priest; for the Wardens and Vestry.

For those in particular need of prayer: Jeff F.; Jeremy Alber; Shanin Beall; Judy Bronner; Steven G.; Harold Gray; Bunny Gladfelter; Sarah Heikkila; Jaqueline Hoskins; Carl Koch; Michael Krauthofer; Lisa Langly; Leon Layman; Bill Lenny; Jeff Luebke; Carol MacDougall; Theresa Maynard; Jack & Beverly Mills; Noel; Paul Riley; Mike Rose; Leeanne Sanders and baby; James Simpson; Larry Smith; Sarah Smith; Stan Spicer; Mary Louise Susalla; Howard Thorpe; Jennifer Ubil; Brad Wiechelman; Lori Wilson; Marsha Wittig; Maureen Z.



And those in continuing need of prayer: David Barrows; Brett Beall; Butch & Julie Beuchel; Jack & Rita Bretzke; Margot Brummett; Dave Carr; Karen Cleaver; Cathy Conn; Alex Creamean; Betsy Davies; Melissa Draper; Gail Engdahl; John England; Mary Franklin; Ralph Gladfelter; Lisa & Barb Gladstone; Joan Graham; Brian Henderson; Clint Johnson; Kellie Johnson; Mindy Kania; Ev Koller; Janel Koop; Paul Koop; Angela Koresh; Leona; Cathy Niemet; Richard Otto; Brian Paisley; Jay Rizzo; Arin Shinabarger; Nanae & Fukuko Shiraishi; Brian Smith; Sandy Train; Ellen Tripp.

If you have updates or changes to the prayer list, please let Liz in the church office know. Thank you!

Pray for our St. Jude's Family:

- August 2 – Keith & Lorie Krebs; Jacob Kusluski; Neil Leonard
- August 9 – Dave, Tracie & Mike Little; Mike & Judy Marincio; Nancy Mason
- August 16 – Teresa Maynard; Pedro Melchor; Scott & Sharon Michael
- August 23 – Jack & Bev Mills; Ann Minock; Lorraine Moller
- August 30 – Jill Perry; Vic & Michele Peters; John & Carol Pettipher

1



St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. Elizabeth St.

Fenton, MI 48430-2322

Church Office: 810-629-5681

www.stjudesfenton.com

St. Jude's Episcopal Church



VESTRY

Charlie Johnston, Senior Warden

Lynne Ronthi, Junior Warden

Debbie James, Clerk

Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer

2021

Josephine Feijoo

Lynne Ronthi

Jerry Rucker

Mike Wells

2022

Deb James

Charlie Johnston

Jack Mills

Diane Putnam

2023

Nancy Day

Paul Dolza

Rex Harris

Christine Szostak

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Jack & Beverly Mills

John & Carol Pettipher

Alternate:

Dave & Denise Rayner

Charlie & Francine Johnston