

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

OCTOBER 2020... OUR 162ND YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

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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

I love this time of year. There's just something really special about fall. The colours are magnificent. The evenings are cool and inviting. The days are warm. The sky is an incredible shade of blue. It's just a beautiful season. Around now I like to take stock of my thankfulness. What and whom am I thankful for? With all of the losses we've all experienced over these past seven months, being thankful might seem like too far a stretch. It's then, when thankfulness seems to be elusive, that I find I need even more to take some serious reflecting time.

I have a journal book on my book shelf. I've had it for, oh, around 10 years perhaps. I had intended to begin recording my daily reflections with the intention of, perhaps, publishing them. So far, I've written a sum total of zero. I've made the decision to pull that journal out, and every single day

to record at least one story. Something that has raised my awareness of my blessings. Something for which I'm thankful. I'm beginning today.

May I challenge you? Are you willing to join me in this journey and keep a thankful journal? Maybe start with once a week. Then try twice a week. Build up gradually until you write something for which you are thankful each and every day.

In the past when I've committed to this kind of discipline, I've found that something within me changes. Rather than focusing on all I've lost or grumbling about everything that bugs me, my go-to place is one of thankfulness. For the tiniest little of gestures. The short conversation I have with a complete



(continued on page 2)

Rector's Report (cont'd)

(continued from page 1)

stranger in the midst of a grocery store aisle as we marvel together at how life has changed. The bird that stops by to visit and sings to me, brightening my day. The chance to do something small for a neighbor. The smell of the banana bread baking in the oven as our overripe bananas are repurposed. The simple act of cleaning out a section of the storage room, organizing it so things can be more easily found. Taking even a half an hour to colour one of the images in my colouring books. The ability to gather together for daily prayer online and join with others who are committing to this discipline. Technology that allows me to visit with my entire family, all in Canada, to see them at least over the computer when I can't cross the border to see them in person. The need to wrestle with challenging bits of scripture.

As you will discover, the list of things to be thankful for is virtually endless. As you engage in this discipline of living a thankful life, pay attention to your emotions and your spirit. How is it changing? What are you more aware of? There's a wonderful song that has been playing on my radio lately. I love this song and I choose to stay in the car to listen to the end every time it comes on. The song is called Underdog by Alicia Keys. She details conversations that we sometimes never take the time to have with people that we normally wouldn't spend time with. Conversations that we have when we take the time to look up sometimes.

What will you notice when you look up? Where will your thankfulness take you?

Love and Blessings,

Tracie+

MUSIC NOTES

October is a month of transition from the foliage and warmth of early autumn to the colors and barrenness of late fall. There is also a shift in the liturgical calendar from the well loved stories we have heard through the summer to teachings of healing, humility and faith as we prepare for Advent.

One of the recommended hymns is a setting of Psalm 90, "O God, our help in ages past." Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, showed an early talent for writing poetic verse. Frustrated by the ponderous singing of the psalms at that time, his father challenged him to write something better to sing. Of the 600 texts he penned, this is considered one of the finest in the English language. "Joy to the world (Psalm 98) and "Jesus shall reign (Psalm 72) are other examples of his ability to paraphrase the psalms. These verses were paired with their tunes later.

Have a blessed October.

Marlene Weston

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer shawl meetings have started up again – they are virtual, phone meeting with one member of the prayer shawl group calling another. Please let Deb James (810-210-6305) or Judy Maringo (586-770-7736) know if you are interested in being a part of this group, by call or text — we would love to have you join us!

You will be notified prior to the meeting who will be in contact with you. Tracie does continue to bless our shawls before they are given to the recipients. If you have anyone in need of a shawl, you can call the above numbers, or notify Tracie.



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=MjUvQWlYRU0xNzIzb1hmaURdUllZz09>

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 Marincio from "Our Daily Bread," June 17th edition

Making His Music

"We all . . . are being transformed into his image."

2 Corinthians 3:18



Choir director Arianne Abela spent her childhood sitting on her hands—to hide them. Born with fingers missing or fused together on both hands, she also had no left leg and was missing toes on her right foot. A music lover and lyric soprano, she'd planned to major in government at Smith College. But one day her choir teacher asked her to conduct the choir, which made her hands quite visible. From that moment, she found her career, going on to conduct church choirs and serving now as director of choirs at another university. "My teachers saw something in me," Abela explains.

Her inspiring story invites believers to ask, What does God, our holy Teacher, see in us, regardless of our "limits"? More than anything, He

sees Himself. "So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27 nlt).

As His glorious "image bearers," when others see us, we should reflect Him. For Abela, that means Jesus, not her hands—or her lack of fingers—matters most. The same is true for all believers. "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image," says 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Similar to Abela, we can conduct our lives by Christ's transforming power (v. 18), offering a life song that rings out to the honor of God.

By Patricia Raybon

Reflect and Pray

Thank You, God, for making me in Your image. Help me to apply this fact to all of my life.

How does knowing you are God's "image-bearer" help you to see yourself differently? How does it help you in your interactions with others?

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT 2020

Can I be honest? When the pandemic hit and our buildings were closed, I became very worried. How would the finances of the church be affected? Would people keep their pledges up without weekly, in-person worship? Would they be able to financially continue to support the church, especially if their own incomes were adversely affected by all that was taking place? What would happen if finances significantly dropped?

Can I be honest? I was surprised. I shouldn't have been, but I was. Pledges were not only keeping up. They were above budget for most of these past seven months. Loaves and fishes. We have so much to be thankful for! Something to celebrate!

And we were doing so much more in the area of outreach. That, too, was an area that continues to surprise me and wakes me up to the very real presence of God in the midst of everything we are going through together, not just as a congregation, but as a community. We've spent WAY more than we had for outreach activities. And we're still going strong. Loaves and fishes. This is something to celebrate!

If you remember, the Vestry approved a deficit budget of just shy of \$13,000 for this year. Logic would say that at this point we should be at least half way there. In other words, we should be in the red. We're not. Our year-to-date budget is in the black. So far.

However, August was the first month when our budgeted pledges didn't come in. We were short, which left us in a deficit position for that month. Not enough to cause us to slip into the red. But enough to worry us. Deficit budgets have been referred to as "good faith budgets." What that means, is that we're going to budget a deficit, and we hope to not have to finish off the year in the red. And we're going to actively work to ensure we don't. That's the good faith piece.

Can you help us out? Are you up to date on your pledge? If not, are you able to catch up? Can you help us finish the year in the black?

It's been clear that God is up to a lot at St. Jude's! Our budget helps us to achieve all that God is doing. Our budget is all about God's mission at and through St. Jude's.

Can I be honest? The logical side of my brain continues to be surprised at what's going on here. The spiritual side is not. God's mission always comes to fruition. God's blessings and God's mercy is always present. Even in the midst of adversity and challenge. Praise be to God!

Blessings,

Tracie+

Fall Clean up for the grounds of St. Jude's

It is hard to believe that we are now in October. The summer has passed and we thank all the volunteers who continue to keep the grounds of our parish looking great. ***So, a big thank you goes out to all.***

The grounds committee is looking at 2 possible dates for the fall clean up. The work day will be held after a Sunday Morning worship, either Oct. 25 or Nov. 1. We will notify you in our weekly updates of the actual dates. We are looking for folks to rake, clean eave troughs, trim bushes etc. If you are willing to help, that would be great.

Due to the restrictions we will all have to be masked, work six feet apart, etc. The normal protocol as if we were at a service.

RESTROOM UPDATE

When we began our in-person worship, we had not done what needed to be done to ensure our building complied with the new requirements. For this reason, the Vestry made the correct decision to keep the building closed while we were worshipping outside.

We were asked to reconsider this in light of restroom availability. At our last Vestry meeting, we agreed to make some changes and open the building for restroom use.

1. A lock has been placed on the woman's restroom on the main level. This is now a one-person restroom. We simply cannot socially distance in this small a space.
2. The men's room on the main level will continue to be a one-person restroom. Please ensure you lock the door when you are using the facility.
3. When you are waiting to use the restroom, we ask that you not congregate in the hallway. Please maintain social distancing, ensuring that you are at least 6 feet from others.
4. Disinfecting wipes are provided in each of the restrooms. Please use them to wipe down all surfaces you have touched before leaving the restroom.
5. Restrooms will be scrubbed before and after each worship service.

Thank you for helping us to ensure the health and safety of all who attend in-person worship services.

October Birthdays

- 2nd – Lisa Cronk
- Jerry Rucker
- 5th – Kim Alexander
- 9th – Kris Forsyth
- 10th – Nancy Day
- 15th – Michele Peters
- 16th – Terri Hutchins
- 17th – Evan Koch
- 18th – Sue Reilly
- 22nd – Beth Harvey
- Ron Chambers
- 26th – Dot Dowlan
- Mark Jagos

October Anniversaries

- 5th – David & Tracie Little
(7 years)
- 17th – Bill & Marcia Freeman
(68 years)
- 20th – Mark & Pat Freeman
(40 years)
- Jeff & Jennifer Koch
(17 years)



Beacon Deadlines

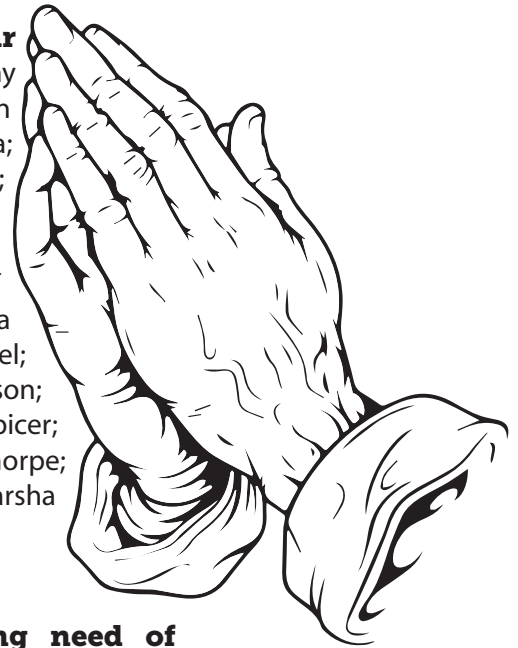
Submissions for The Beacon are due by the **22nd of each month**. Please submit them to Debbie Fry at debbiemcwilliams00@gmail.com.

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; Cindy; Steven G.; Bunny Gladfelter; Sarah Heikkila; Jaqueline Hoskins; Sharon James; Carl Koch; Connie Koch; Michael Krauthofer; Lisa Langly; Leon Layman; Bill Lenny; Laura; Liz; Jeff Luebke; Carol MacDougall; Theresa Maynard; Jack & Beverly Mills; Noel; Paul Riley; Mike Rose; James Simpson; Larry Smith; Sarah Smith; Stan Spicer; Mary Louise Susalla; Howard Thorpe; Jennifer Ubil; Brad Wiechelman; Marsha Wittig; Maureen Z.



And those in continuing need of prayer:

Bill; David Barrows; Brett Beall; Butch & Julie; Rita Bretzke; Margot Brummett; Dave; Karen Cleaver; Cathy Conn; Alex Creamean; Betsy Davies; Melissa Draper; Gail Engdahl; John England; Mary Franklin; Gabe; Ralph Gladfelter; Joan Graham; Brian Henderson; Clint; Kelli; Sydne Kalet; Mindy Kania; Ev Koller; Janel Koop; Paul Koop; Angela Koresh; Leona; Cathy Niemet; Richard; Brian Paisley; Jay Rizzo; Arin Shinabarger; Fukuko Shiraishi; Brian Smith; Sandy Train; Leonard Traskos; 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:

- October 4 – Marilyn Safa; Sean & Liz Sailus; Dale & Debra Sands
- October 11 – Bob & Dianne Simpson; Scott & Sandra Smith; Ron Spaulding
- October 18 – Crista Spencer, Kail & Kayelynn; Richard Stratton
- October 25 – Chet & Mary Louise Susalla; Bob & Christine Szostak; Ron & Catherine Trimmer



St. Jude's Episcopal Church

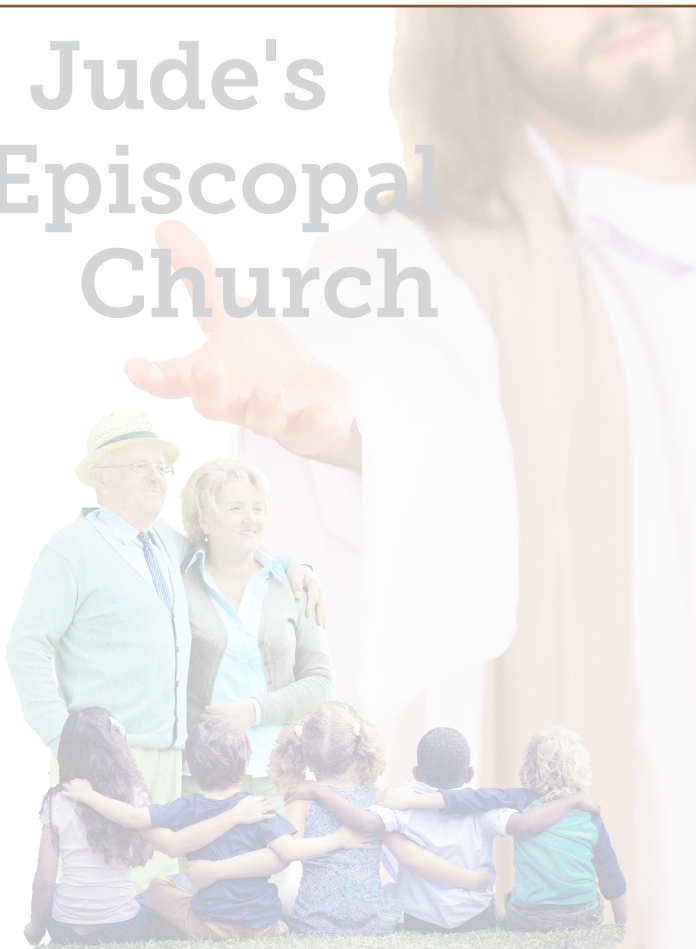
106 E. Elizabeth St.

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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