

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

NOVEMBER 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

Last week, the news contained lists of some of the places where Michigan has seen outbreaks of Covid-19. Sadly, church services were among that group. It's understandable. All of us are yearning to be able to gather together for worship. Face-to-face and in the sanctuary. We want to feel "normal" again. And yet... lately, as we are all aware, the Covid cases in Michigan and across the mid-west, have soared. Genesee, Livingston, and Oakland Counties mirror that general increase.

When the four Michigan Episcopal dioceses released us into Phase 2 of our re-entry process, they also recommended that we use a map that color-codes the data regarding cases by county. If you'd like to keep track of that map, you can access it at: <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/>. The data is a couple of days old, and it is the best tool that we have in order to be safe.

As we were released into Phase 2, St. Jude's Vestry, with my wholehearted support, made the decision, based on the recommendations issued by the Diocese, to pull back from in-person worship when any of our three counties were orange or red. We want to gather in person. AND, we want to do so safely, aiming to eliminate the risk of our worship becoming a place of outbreak. We are conscious of how vulnerable our population is. I am conscious of my own vulnerability as the medication I take for my MS, reduces my immune system.

We have also been warned by all the experts, that inside activities are much more risky than outside activities. Our church building is old. And, its age means that our ventilation system isn't the best. That also increases risk for the airborne particles which carry the Covid-19 virus to remain longer.

Of course, we are all hoping for something to change so we can return more quickly to in-person worship in the building. However, we are also trying to be as realistic as possible and are making plans for creative Advent and Christmas celebrations.

These are challenging times! And we are people of faith! We KNOW that God is walking with us through these dark times. We KNOW that God brings good out of bad. Continue to hold all that we are experiencing in prayer. Remember to connect with those who may be feeling particularly disconnected, isolated, and afraid. As the Presiding Bishop said at yesterday's Convention, "If you're high-tech, Zoom. If you're low-tech, text. If your no-tech, call." Stay connected. Stay grounded in faith and rooted in God. Recognize and be thankful for all those places where you experience God's presence. We are people of The Way, Followers of Jesus. We embody the love of God!

Love and Blessings,

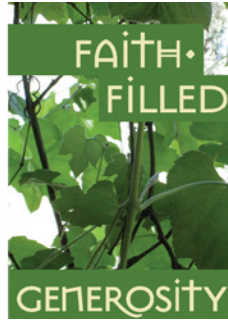
Tracie+

2021 PLEDGE DRIVE

You should have received a 2021 Pledge Packet in the mail a couple of weeks ago. The Finance Ministry Team is beginning to put together the budget for next year, and in order to complete that process, we need to receive your pledge.

If you have already returned your 2021 Pledge Card to the church office, Thank You!

If you need to complete and return your form still, please do so as soon as possible so the Finance Ministry Team has the most up to date information to do their work as we consider St. Jude's Mission and Ministry for the coming year.



CAN YOU HELP?

One of the ways that St. Jude's counts on in our budget, is the yearly Silent Auction. This year, of course, things need to happen differently.

If we move forward with this year's auction, we will need a co-ordinator.

We will also need someone who would look after the technical aspects of putting the auction items online and collecting bids.

Once we have volunteers for each of the above opportunities, we will be inviting you to contribute auction items.

Stay tuned for the invitation to participate!



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.

Happy
Knitting!



MUSIC NOTES

November is an exciting month liturgically and musically. The month begins with the Feast of All Saints on November 1. This Sunday features some of the most thrilling music in the entire Christian year. We will enjoy one of the greatest hymns in the English language, For all the saints, and experience the child-like faith of I sing a song of the saints of God.

The readings for the other Sundays of November allude to the second coming of Christ in glory as we approach Advent. The final Sunday of the liturgical year, November 22, is designated as Christ the King Sunday. These days will feature music appropriate to the lessons.

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be a virtual one. Special music will be provided by musicians from various churches. More information will be announced later. Stay tuned!

Marlene Weston

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=NVVLMERCOWplZWl4NmJSaHE1dJZdz09>

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

What's Wrong with the World?

*"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—
of whom I am the worst."*

1 Timothy 1:15



There is an oft-heard story that The London Times posed a question to readers at the turn of the twentieth century. What's wrong with the world?

That's quite the question, isn't it? Someone might quickly respond, "Well, how much time do you have for me to tell you?" And that would be fair, as there seems to be so much that's wrong with our world. As the story goes, The Times received a number of responses, but one in particular has endured in its brief brilliance. The English writer, poet, and philosopher G. K. Chesterton penned this four-word response, a refreshing surprise to the usual passing-of-the-buck: "Dear Sirs, I am."

Whether the story is factual or not is up for debate. But that

response? It's nothing but true. Long before Chesterton came along, there was an apostle named Paul. Far from a lifelong model citizen, Paul confessed his past shortcomings: "I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man" (v. 13). After naming who Jesus came to save ("sinners"), he goes on to make a very Chesterton-like qualification: "of whom I am the worst" (v. 15). Paul knew exactly what was and is wrong with the world. And he further knew the only hope of making things right—"the grace of our Lord" (v. 14). What an amazing reality! This enduring truth lifts our eyes to the light of Christ's saving love.

By John Blase

Reflect and Pray

God, thank You for Your immense patience with me, a sinner. To You be honor and glory forever and ever. Learn about answering questions related to the Christian faith.

What is wrong with the world? Can you own the answer Paul and Chesterton gave? What is one way you can accept that without sliding into self-hatred?

AN INVITATION



We are planning on putting together Advent Bags for porch drops! They will be filled with all kinds of goodies and we are looking for some help.

1. Can you help pack bags? We will be putting the bags together on Saturday, November 21 at 1pm and need four volunteers. You will need to wear your mask and each of the packing tables

is placed in a different corner of Vandenburg Hall so we are all socially distant.

2. Can you help deliver the bags via "porch drop"? You will receive the correct number of bags and a list of names and addresses to deliver. Bags will be available for pickup on Saturday, November 21 from 2pm to 3pm only. Wearing a mask, you will take the bag and place it either between the doors or near the front door. You may ring the bell and step back to visit or you can simply leave the bag there. All of the bags will need to be delivered by Saturday, November 28 so people have everything before Advent begins. The number of deliveries will depend on the number of volunteers.

If you can help us stay connected with our members via these Advent Bag Porch Drops, please let Tracie know as soon as possible. You can call or text her at 810-300-9177. If you text, please be sure to include your name so she knows who to expect. You can also e-mail her at TracieLLittle@gmail.com.

Thank you for all you do to stay connected with one another!

THANKS FOR
THE MEMORIES.
OUR CHURCH
FAMILY IS GREATLY
APPRECIATED, THANK
YOU FOR EVERYTHING,
MOST ESPECIALLY
YOUR LOVE.

Thank
You!

PEACE AND LOVE,
FROM RITA AND JACK BRETZKE'S FAMILY

AN INVITATION



Yesterday, October 31, the first joint Convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan met online. This event was "first" in many ways. Last year, both Dioceses, in their separate Conventions, made the decision to share the resources of Bishop and to intentionally engage in conversations as we deepen our relationship. This was our first joint Convention following those decisions. It's also the first time that we met electronically, livestreaming on Facebook, instead of in person. We also welcomed The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Bishop Curry preached during our opening Morning Prayer worship and he offered a keynote address during our morning session.

The entirety of the Convention can be viewed on the Diocesan Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/DioEastMich>

In addition to that, the two times that Bishop Curry spoke, will be available as stand-alone pieces sometime in early November. Once those are up, I will send out a link to St. Jude's email list and put that information up on Facebook. I encourage you to listen to Bishop Curry's sermon and to his keynote address. Both are wonderful!

Christmas Families Giving Opportunities For You in 2020

Our great St. Jude's caring and sharing family – coordinated through your Outreach Committee – is reaching out again this Christmas to provide gifts for families in our community including our Holly Group Home to help them celebrate their Christmas.

Things change every year, and boy have there been changes in 2020! With your help and support, we can still reach out to those in need. We will be helping 5 families--2 families from Family Promise, plus the residents of the Holly Group Home or approximately 30 people. Our hope is to also provide \$100 per family from the Saturday Food Distribution program. Additionally, we would like to provide 10-15 \$25 gas cards to the staff at the Holly Group Home, and to each family. It sounds like a tall order, but with the help of God we can do this!

This year, to respect the dignity of every human being, we will again be asking for gift cards allowing each family the opportunity to purchase and wrap gifts for their own family. Last year we learned that Visa cards charge a fee, so this year we are asking for donations of gift cards from Walmart, Meijer's and Target. We are hoping to provide \$100 in gift cards for each family member.

Below, the Outreach Committee has provided a list of ideas/suggestions for the Holly Group Home residents, and the Family Numbers to use when donating gift cards. This list will be posted in the Weekly and Monthly Beacons. It would be great if you could review the list, and then call Mike and Judy Maringo (810/629-8074) to sign up for the gift(s) you would like to purchase.

Please wrap the Holly Group Home gift(s), and on the outside of your gift securely place a tag with the resident's name. Bring your donations to the church any Saturday from 10-12 by our deadline of Sunday, December 12th. If you need to make special arrangements to drop off your donation, please call Mike or Judy Maringo (810/629-8074) or Carol or John Pettipher (248/255-2260).

Please submit your gas and/or gift cards in a sealed envelope showing the Family Number (#), cash value, and your name.

As an alternative to purchasing a gift(s) or gift cards, you may prefer to donate money to help our Christmas Families. If so, please write a check to St. Jude's, and note on the check memo line: "Christmas Families." Your check can be mailed to the church office. Donations could also be made on-line; be sure to select Fund: "Christmas Families" when donating online.

Thank you for your generosity in this always-present need to help others in our community!

Gift Ideas for Group Home Residents

James (62 years old): Sweatshirt (L), Music CD's, Movies, cologne

Willie (92 years old): Long sleeve shirt - no buttons (M), harmonica, cars (like matchbook size), cologne

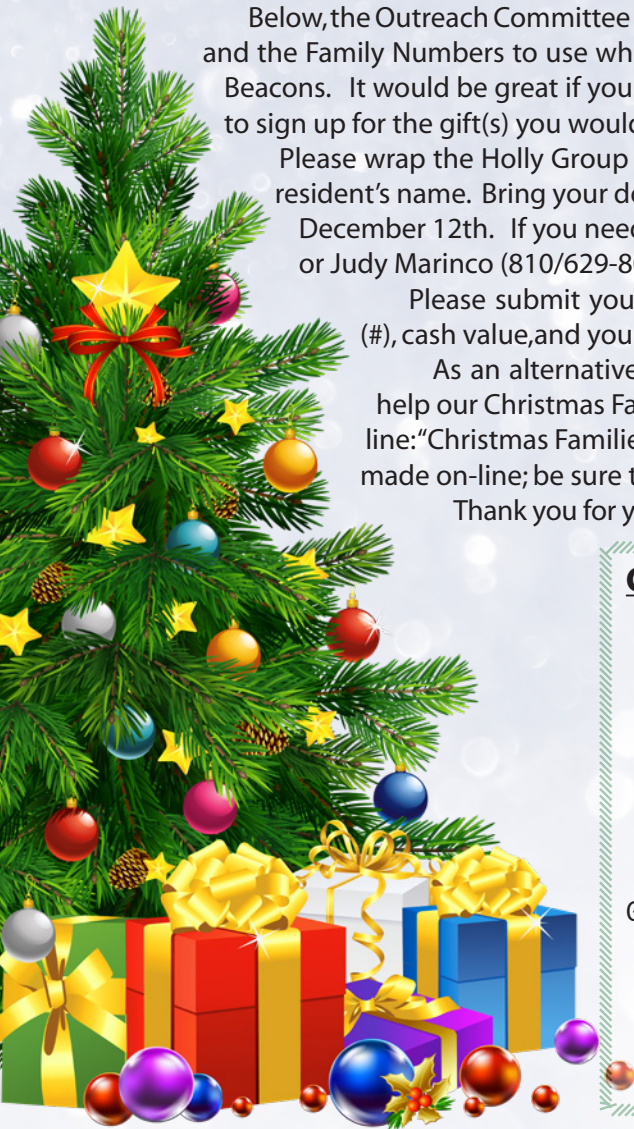
Roger (68 years old): Long sleeve shirt with snaps (XL), hand sanitizer that smells good (Bath&Body Works), cologne

Todd (51 years old): P.J. Bottoms (L), Baseball Hat, cologne

Usni (65 years old): Handkerchiefs, short sleeve t-shirts with beer logo (XL), markers and coloring books, cologne

George (53 years old): Slippers (boys 3 or 4), shirt in bright colors (S), animals or animated figurines that make noise, gadget that projects lights on the ceiling (not one that flashes), cologne

Please contact Mike or Judy Maringo if you select a person or gift to buy so they can manage the list.



Advent Tea

Sunday, December 6th at 6 p.m

Many of you have attended the Advent Tea in years past. This year, you may be wondering just what will happen to that beloved tradition of our meeting together to prepare for the coming of the Christ child.



Well, the good news is that we do have a plan... a virtual Advent Tea, complete with a program which you will receive in later November with more complete instructions.

There will be a number of different ways to participate.

1. For those who have no interest or ability to be technologically available, you can receive your Advent Tea packet and read the materials provided alone or with a friend within your "bubble."

2. For those who have limited technology available to them (i.e., being able to connect to YouTube or Facebook) you can receive the packet and watch the program on YouTube alone or with a friend in your "bubble." OR "phone a friend" to share the program together.

3. For those who have the interest and ability to use the zoom program, you will have the opportunity to "meet" with a group of eight and share an evening together via zoom.

To assist in helping to make this happen, especially the zoom meetings, it is important that you contact us if you have the ability to zoom so we can get you assigned to a "table" of women. We would need you to do this ASAP.

As we were planning this evening, we realized that it will be messy and less than perfect... but hopefully it will allow us some measure of comfort in what promises to be the most complicated Christmas season we have ever experienced.

Looking forward to a great event,
Deb James 810-210-6305 / jamesfam3@charter.net
Denise Rayner 248-459-1976 / dlrayer2748@comcast.net

November Birthdays

- 2nd – Madison Freeman
- 4th – Dianne Simpson
- 6th – Jodie Hunt
– Dustin Rayner
- 10th – Jennifer Freeman
– Lauren Gangwer
- 11th – Greg Forsyth
– Sharon Gay
– Raquel Gazzi
– Jennifer Koch
– Arthur Pennington
- 12th – Harry Chciuk
- 16th – Harrie Hunt
- 18th – Ann Minock
- 19th – Mary Ellen Hazell
- 20th – Barb Goss
- 21st – Jon Burroughs
- 22nd – Ellen Tripp
- 23rd – Sarah Dolza
- 24th – Jake Kuslusi
- 25th – Michael Wolos
- 26th – Krystn Freeman
- 27th – Sarah Bancroft
- 28th – Angela White

November Anniversaries

- 6th – Bob & Christine Szostak
(27 years)
- 8th – Bob & Mary Warren
(62 years)
- 9th – Clay & Diane Putnam
(41 years)
- 11th – Debbie & Ty Fry
(7 years)
- 14th – Jerry & Joan Graham
(67 years)
– Chet & Mary Louise Susalla
(39 years)

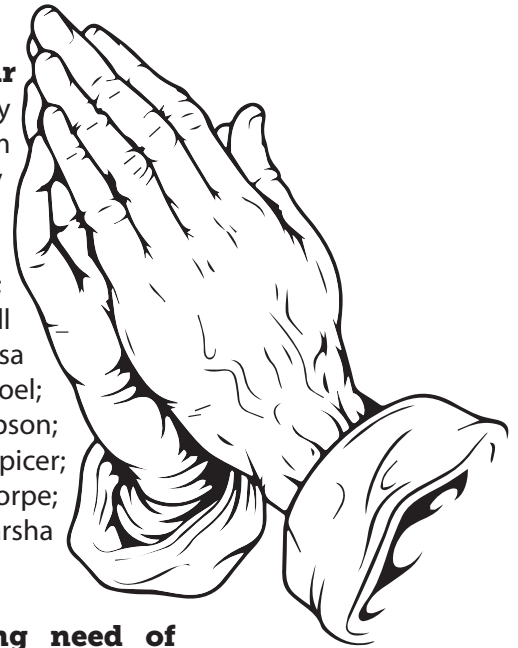


PRAYER LIST

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; Kathy & Tom Brighton; 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; 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; Todd Brighton; Diane Brighton-Weinman; 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; Angela Koresh; Leona; Sherry More; Cathy Niemet; Richard; Brian Paisley; Jay Rizzo; Carol MacDougall; Linda Schupbach; Arin Shinabarger; Brian Smith; Sandy Train; Leonard Traskos; Ellen Tripp; Patti Vasquez

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:

- November 1 – Ellen Tripp; John Vitovsky; Paul & Gwyn Wagschal
- November 8 – Bob & Mary Warren; Mike Wells; Marlene & Ed Weston
- November 15 – Bill & Bea White; Dan, Angela, Laurel & Gabby White
- November 22 – Mike Wood; Fred & Lynell Wright; Katie Young
- November 29 – David & Francine Zick; Craig & Gay Adams; Sharon Aldrich



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