

# THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

DECEMBER 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

**Administrative Assistant**

Liz Sailus

**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

We are now in the 9th month of experiencing the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and shifting gears. In some ways, these past months have flown by. And in some ways, it seems like forever ago that we met for worship in our building. In those early days, I found the learning curve was steeper than I thought I could grow through. Now setting up a Zoom meeting and streaming into Facebook Live seems like old hat. We're even beginning to experiment with new ways of expanding participation in our online worship.

It's been a long 9 months, and it seems we aren't quite finished with this new and not ideal way of gathering. We can, however, see some light at the end of this tunnel as at least two vaccines are showing great promise. In the meantime, we must continue in this posture. The four Episcopal Dioceses in Michigan have now walked us back to a newly created phase of re-entry called 1-1/2. In this phase, we cannot meet for in-person worship. However, we can record the service in the church building. For a number of reasons, I made the decision to continue welcoming you into our home and recording the worship from home.

If you are like me, your emotions have been riding a roller coaster throughout these many months. I've discovered that the importance of tending to all of my health is critical right now. I need the daily discipline of prayer, Bible reading, and reflecting. I need to carve out times during the day to do something that feeds my soul. I need to ensure that I get outside from time to time and walk. It's in those times that I'm not attentive to self-care that things don't go so well. I encourage you as the weather continues to deepen into late fall and then into winter, that you spend some time thinking about those activities that bring you life and finding safe ways to accomplish them. And remember, this isn't going to last forever. One day we'll get on top of this virus and things will begin to return to normal.

I'm convinced that we, as church, have learned a lot during this pandemic. As we begin to move back into a more normal posture, I will be working with leadership on reflecting on what has gone well during this time and what we'd like to carry forward. Where is God in the midst of all that we have been doing and how is God calling us to serve as we move forward. I will be inviting lots of input from everyone, so stay tuned for ways to communicate your thoughts.

As we move into holiday times and reimagine what our gatherings need to look like in order to keep all of our families healthy, may you find life-giving ways to safely stay connected with family and friends. I look forward to dreaming forward with all of you as we continue to move through this experience.

***Love and Blessings,***

***Tracie+***

# ANNUAL MEETING



**January 24, 2021  
at 10:30 am**

On Zoom –  
the link to the meeting will  
be posted closer to the date  
of the meeting.

# 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.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE of Lessons and Carols

**Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2020 at 9:00 p.m.**

The service bulletin was included in your Advent Bag and will be available for downloading. We look forward to celebrating this Holy Night of readings and carols! The service will be available on Facebook Live or through Zoom. You can join us through Zoom at:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6822515024>  
Meeting ID: 682 251 5024



## MUSIC NOTES

December is a month of anticipation in the church calendar. Each week we will light the advent wreath to the ancient chant, O come, o come, Emmanuel. The music of advent explores the themes of John the Baptist (Comfort, comfort ye my people), prophecy (Signs of ending all around us), the angel's announcement to Mary (The angel Gabriel from heaven came), and our longing for the coming Messiah (Come, thou long expected Jesus).

The Christmas Eve service will include carols and hymns. I will be leading the singing on Zoom from my home piano, as is now customary. Welcome to my home and I am pleased to share one of my passions, the quilts I have made through the years. Have a blessed and safe month.

*Marlene Weston*

# Happy Knitting!



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.*

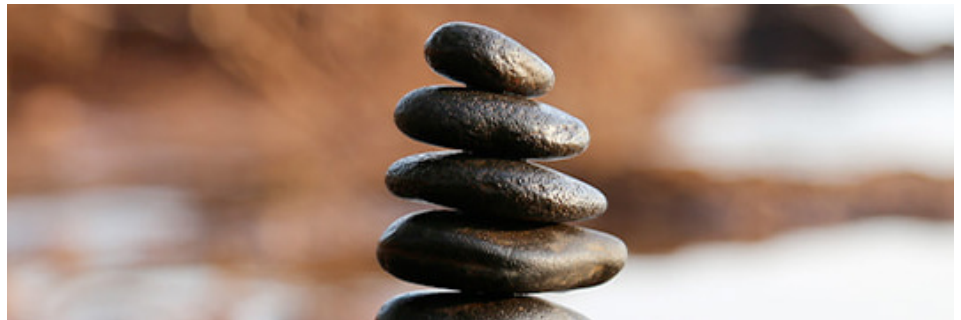
# REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Maringo from "Our Daily Bread," November 21st edition

## Instruments of Peace

*"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."*

James 3:18



When World War I erupted in 1914, British statesman Sir Edward Grey declared, "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime." Grey was right. When the "war to end all wars" finally ended, some 20 million had been killed (10 million of them civilians) and another 21 million injured.

While not on the same scale or magnitude, devastation can also occur in our personal lives. Our home, workplace, church, or neighborhood can also be shrouded by the dark specter of conflict. This is one of the reasons God calls us to be difference-makers in the world. But to do so we must rely on His wisdom. The apostle James wrote, "The wisdom that comes

from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness" (James 3:17-18).

The role of peacemaker is significant because of its harvest. The word righteousness means "right standing" or "right relationship." Peacemakers can help restore relationships. No wonder Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). His children, relying on His wisdom, become instruments of His peace where it's needed most.

*By Bill Crowder*

*Reflect and Pray*

**Father, Your light penetrates the deepest darkness and Your peace calms the most troubled heart. Help me know Your wisdom and peace and carry it to others in their struggles as well. Listen to Discover the Word, "Why Can't We All Just Get Along?"**

In what personal conflicts do you need the light of God's wisdom? How can His peace enable you to be a peacemaker when people around you choose to fight?



# 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.

At a later time, the Outreach Committee will provide 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. **(So far, gifts have been purchased for Willie and for Todd.)** 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 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 indicate "Christmas Families" on your donation.

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.**





# DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

**December 24, 2020 at 9:00 p.m.**

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service  
via Facebook Live & Zoom

**December 25, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.**

Christmas Day Service via Facebook Live & Zoom



## CARD MINISTRY THANK YOU

Lynne Ronthi has been keeping up with cards to celebrate and keep in touch with people throughout this pandemic. A special thank you to Gay Adams who sends her stamps, etc to keep up her work. Thank you, also, to those who drop of or send cards for Lynne to use.

If you or someone in your household didn't receive a card this year and would like one, please let Liz (stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com) know to make sure your information is up-to-date!

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Ty & Debbie Fry! Debbie has been keeping up our website (stjudesfenton.com) and has been doing our monthly Beacon newsletters for a couple of years now. Next month, you may see some changes in the newsletter and website as she steps away from that role. Thank you for all that you both have done for St. Jude's!

*Liz Sailus*  
*Administrative Assistant*



Please join me in extending a heart-felt, love-filled thank you to Ty and Debbie Fry for all of their work and ministry in maintaining our website, in producing our monthly Beacon's, and in putting together our Annual Meeting booklets! It is with a heavy heart that I share that they will be leaving these ministries and stepping back from St. Jude's at the end of December.

Ty and Debbie, it has been such a joy to get to know you and to serve God with you at St. Jude's! I have loved to see your creativity at work and we have all benefitted from your gifts.

As you move forward, we wish you all the best blessings. We love you!

At this point Liz will be taking on all of these duties. Please send her your Beacon articles and your Annual Meeting reports beginning in December.

***Love and Blessings,***

***Tracie+***

# 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.

**The Advent Tea will be held Sunday, December 6 at 6 pm.**

There will be a number of different ways to participate.

For those who have no interest or ability to be technologically available, you should have received your Advent Tea packet and read the materials provided alone or with a friend within your "bubble" in the Advent bag from St. Jude's.

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.

**The service video is now available on YouTube and you can view it by typing this link in your web browser: <https://youtu.be/8bXFvboUsFg>**

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. You should receive 2 Zoom invites - one for the "watch party" and another from your table hostess for the table gathering following it.

***Looking forward to a great event,***

Deb James 810-210-6305 / jamesfam3@charter.net

Denise Rayner 248-459-1976 / dlrayer2748@comcast.net





## December Birthdays

- 1st – John Pettipher
- 4th – Hayden Chambers  
– Mark Freeman
- 7th – Gabrielle Freeman  
– Josephine Feijoo
- 8th – Beth Jagos  
– Bob Szostak
- 15th – Kelly Cronk
- 16th – Rylan Jones
- 27th – Rita Bretzke
- 30th – Nicole Jagos

## December Anniversaries

- 1st – David & Lynn Freeman  
(24 years)
- 3rd – Doug & Michelle Gangwer ( 20 years)
- 6th – Ron & Cathy Trimmer  
(52 years)  
– Mark & Beth Jagos  
(22 years)
- 19th – Paul & Sarah Dolza  
(38 years)  
– Kris & Greg Forsyth  
(33 years)
- 22nd – Vic & Michelle Peters  
(42 years)
- 28th – Scott & Sharon Michael  
(18 years)
- 30th – Dave & Debbie James  
(43 years)

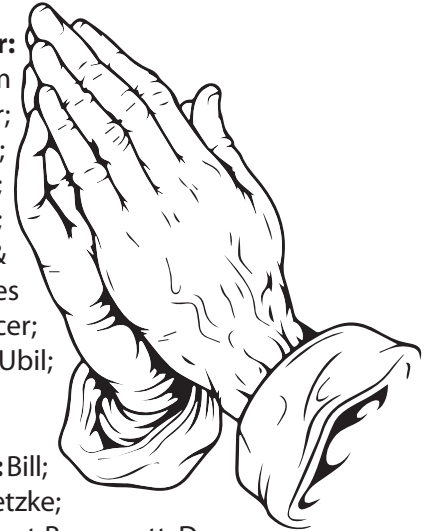


# PRAYER LIST

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 Wiechelmann; 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; Betsy Davies; Melissa Draper; John England; Mary Franklin; Gabe; Ralph Gladfelter; Joan Graham; Brian Henderson; Clint; Kelli; Sydne Kalet; Ev Koller; Angela Koresh; Leona; Sherry More; Cathy Niemet; Richard; 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:

- December 6 – Bob & Kim Alexander; Bill, Molly & Lydia Anderson; Martha Applebee
- December 13 – Sarah Bancroft; Rita Bretzke; Kathryn & Barry Brow; LeAnn Brummett
- December 20 – Margot Brummett; Jon & Rosiland Burroughs; David & Carol Chambers
- December 27 – Ronald, Jennifer, Conner & Sophia Chambers; Shane, Heather & Hayden Chambers

# PRAYER LIST THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have been keeping up with our prayer lists and praying for those on it. Though we do not release details of why people are on the list to protect peoples' privacy, I have seen many answers to prayer as people update me during this pandemic. Your prayers are making a difference! Thank you!

*Liz Sailus*

*Administrative Assistant*



## St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. Elizabeth St.

Fenton, MI 48430-2322

Church Office: 810-629-5681

[www.stjudesfenton.com](http://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