

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

FEBRUARY 2021... OUR 163RD 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: TracieLittle@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

It was almost a year ago. Things have been like this so long, it's almost hard to remember what it was like to begin Lent in the church last year. And yet we did. We were together for the first few weeks of Lent. And then everything changed. The Episcopal Dioceses in the State of Michigan were some of the first to respond to the reality of the pandemic by issuing a pastoral directive. Instantly, it seemed, the church needed to reconfigure everything. Right in the middle of Lent and with Holy Week just a breath away.

Today, once again, Lent is right around the corner. February 17 will mark the very first day of Lent – Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday will happen differently, as you might have imagined. This year we've had time to plan and lots of experience being together very differently.

Early in February, you will receive a letter from me along with a print-out of the liturgy and a small bag of ashes. The service will be live on Zoom and Facebook at noon and will be available following that for anyone who wishes to pray along with others virtually. All of the instructions will be available in the letter you will receive and will be given during the service. If you are unable to join us virtually, there will be instructions for you to pray the Ash Wednesday

liturgy in your own homes.

Lent is one of my favorite times of year. It's a time that I can purposefully take a step back and do some extra reflecting on my life and on my faith. This year will be no different. We are preparing Lent-To-Go bags that will be full of lots of ways and suggestions for you to keep a Holy Lent. All of the resources won't be for everyone. However, it is our hope that you will find something that connects with you and your life of faith. If you haven't ordered yours yet, there's still time. Be sure to contact Tracie as soon as possible. The bags will be delivered the week of February 8 so you will have them in time for Shrove Tuesday on February 16.

Along with my personal reflections during Lent this year, I want to spend some time reflecting on the pandemic and all that I've experienced, all that I've grieved, all that I've learned – both in my personal life and in our life together at St. Jude's. As much as I want this time to be over, I also realize that if I don't take this time to reflect deeply on this past year, I will have lost an incredible opportunity for growth. As challenging as this year has been, it's also, I believe, chalk full of possibility. I'm looking forward to seeing where my reflections take me!

Will you join me in keeping a Holy Lent? Will you take time for

(continued on page 2)

Rector's Report (cont'd)

(continued from page 1)

reflection and prayer? I wonder.....
where will your reflections take your
faith?

*Love and Blessings,
Tracie+*



February 17
at Noon

February 17, 2021
at Noon

The live service will be held on
Zoom and Facebook Live at noon.
It will remain available on the St.
Jude's Facebook page.

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

The bulletin along with a small
Ziplock bag of ashes will be mailed
to each household at the beginning
of February. If you cannot join us
through Zoom or Facebook, you can
read the service in your home using
the bulletin. All instructions will be
included.

PAY IT FORWARD

Many of you who attended this year's virtual annual meeting or read the annual report became aware of the deficit budget we will have this year. (-\$26,657) It is not uncommon to have a deficit budget, but the circumstances of the last year and the one that lies ahead of us are uncommon. Besides not being able to have indoor worship, we have been unable to sustain our annual fundraisers or collect any donations for the use of our building by outside groups.

Wouldn't it be awesome if we could find an "almost painless" way to improve the deficit? I thought you would never ask.

We could pay forward a small portion of the unexpected rewards we get to reduce St. Jude's deficit. Sometimes we receive rewards ourselves for having a Costco or Sam's Club membership, or points earned on a credit card. Many of us have or will receive stimulus checks that we were not expecting. Maybe it was a good year for the stock market, or you got more back than you expected on your tax return.

As members of St. Jude's, we are the caretakers of God's family. That family includes us, our memories of those who have gone before us, as well as those we have not yet met. We have survived a pandemic with God's love, hope, and generosity. Let us do the same for each other. When the doors of our church finally open, we want them to remain open for many years to come. Paying a little forward now, if you are able, will help St. Jude's be the hands and feet of God for generations.

Thank you for your consideration,
Denise Rayner

You can make your donation in the manner you are most comfortable, check or online. Please make a note that it is a "pay it forward" offering.



Have you ever wanted to learn about saints you may never have heard of?
Do you like to have fun as you learn?
Then Lent Madness may be for you!

**Log on to their website at
www.lentmadness.org
and sign up to get started.**

Each day you will receive an email inviting you to choose between two saints. Gradually the Saintry bracket will dwindle until the one winner will don the Golden Halo!

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=NVVLMERCOWpIZWI4NmJSaHE1djJzd09>

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=MjUvQWlYRU0xNzIzb1hmaURrdUllZz09>

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.*

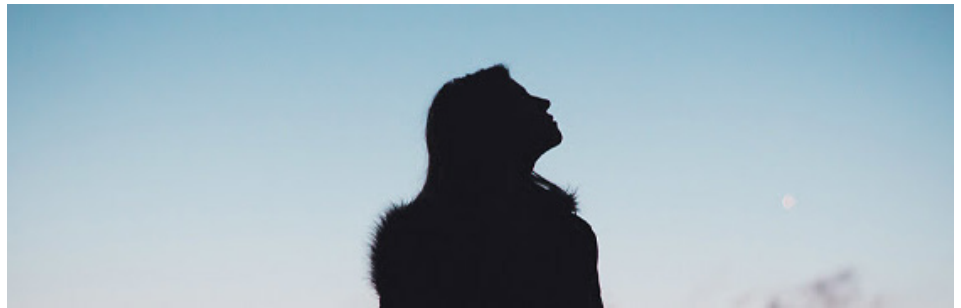
REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", January 11th edition

Lift Up Your Eyes

"My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Psalm 121:2



The clouds hung low, blocking the horizon and limiting visibility to only a few hundred yards. The minutes dragged on. The effect on my mood was noticeable. But then, as afternoon approached, the clouds began to break, and I saw it: beautiful Pikes Peak, the most recognizable landmark of my city, flanked on each side by the mountain range. A smile broke over my face. I considered that even our physical perspective—our literal line of sight—can affect our spiritual vision. And I was reminded of the psalmist singing, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains" (Psalm 121:1). Sometimes we simply need to lift our eyes a bit higher!

The psalmist pondered where his help came from, maybe because the hilltops around Israel were dotted

with altars to pagan gods and often contained robbers. Or it could have been because the psalmist looked up beyond the hills to Mount Zion where the temple stood and remembered that the Maker of heaven and earth was his covenant God (v. 2). Either way, to worship we must look up. We have to lift our eyes higher than our circumstances, higher than our troubles and trials, higher than the empty promises of the false gods of our day. Then we can see the Creator and Redeemer, the One who calls us by name. He's the One who will "watch over your coming and going" today and forevermore (v. 8).

By Glenn Pakiam

Reflect and Pray

Dear Father, thank You that You're the Creator and Keeper—the One who made the heavens and the earth and watches over me. Help me to lift my eyes higher to see You and to put my trust in You.

How can you "look up" today—beyond your circumstances—to see God? What would it look like to call upon Him for the help you really need?

MUSIC NOTES

While February is a short month on the secular calendar, it is a rich one on the liturgical calendar. The first two Sundays conclude the Epiphany season. The lessons continue the themes of service and healing while the musical selections reflect these topics. On February 14, the final Sunday of the Epiphany season, we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord as well as enjoy the last alleluias until Easter. The music is appropriately joyous.

February 21, the first Sunday of Lent, brings us the account of our Lord's baptism and temptation during the forty days in the wilderness. "The glory of these forty days" recalls this theme. On February 28, we are admonished to take up our cross and follow Him.

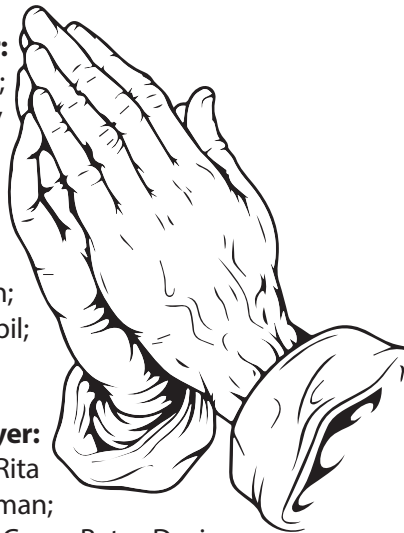
Marlene Weston

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:

Martha; 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; Jack & Beverly Mills; Noel; Paul Riley; Mike Rose; James Simpson; Larry Smith; Sarah Smith; Mary Louise Susalla; 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; 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; Richard; Jay Rizzo; 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!

February Birthdays

- 1st – Julie DuPei
- 2nd – Chet Susalla
- 4th – Marcia Freeman
– Judi Harris
- 6th – Madeleine Koch
- 13th – Bob Hutchins
– Austin Moller
– Leah Moller
– William Moller
- 18th – Lorraine Moller
- 20th – Dan White
- 24th – David Freeman
- 25th – Martha Applebee
- 27th – Lester Jones
- 29th – Jennifer Chambers

February Anniversaries

- 2nd – Jon & Rosiland Burroughs
(7 years)
- 14th – Dustin & Meghan Rayner
(3 years)
- 19th – Jack & Beverly Mills
(54 years)

Pray for our St. Jude's Family:

February 7 - Greg, Kris & Leigha Forsyth, Amy Freeman, Bill & Marcia Freeman

February 14 - David, Lynn, Gabrielle & Erica Freeman, Mark & Pat Freeman

February 21 - Matt & Linda Freeman, Michael Wolos, Doug & Michelle Gangwer

February 28 - Sharon Gay, Raquel Gazzi, Gabriella & Arthur Pennington, Tom & Shirley Gernack



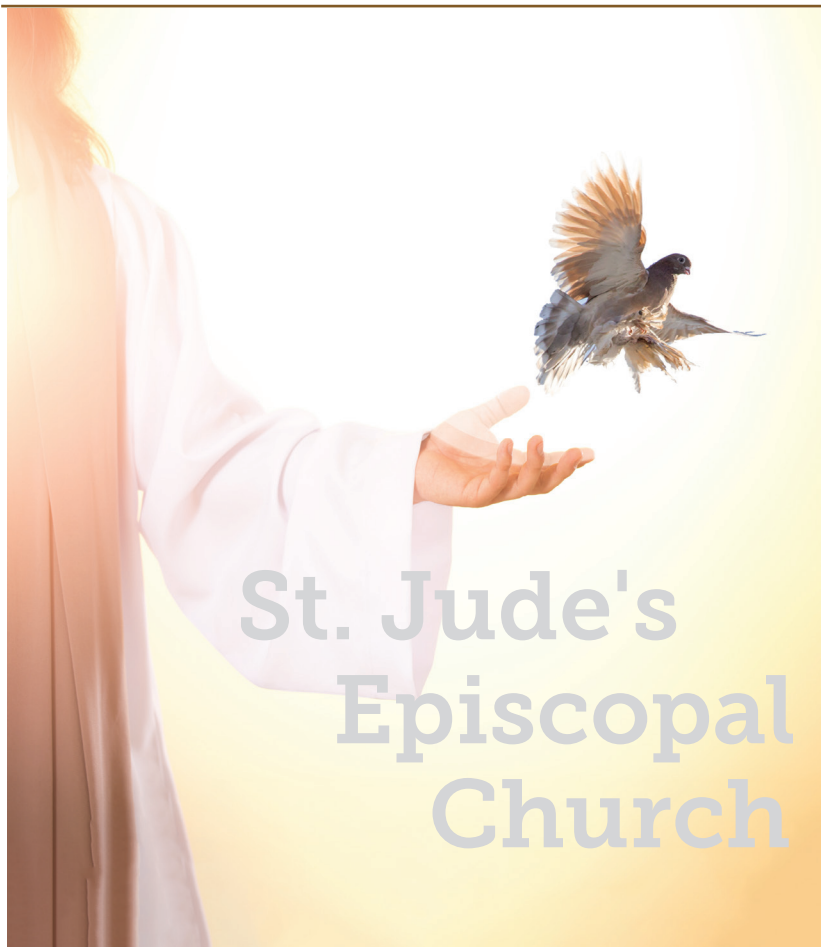
St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. Elizabeth St.

Fenton, MI 48430-2322

Church Office: 810-629-5681

www.stjudesfenton.com



VESTRY

Charlie Johnston, Senior Warden
Ron Trimmer, Junior Warden
Debbie James, Clerk
Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer

2022

Deb James
Charlie Johnston
Jack Mills
Diane Putnam

2023

Nancy Day
Paul Dolza
Rex Harris
Mike Wells

2024

Ron Trimmer