

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

APRIL 2021... OUR 163RD YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

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810-629-5681

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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:

Daily Morning Prayer Services

via Facebook Live

8:00 a. m.

No In-Person Worship at Present

RECTORS REPORT

As we approach Holy Week this year, I've been thinking a lot about last year's Holy Week. We had such a short time to dream of a new way of celebrating in the midst of a pandemic lock-down. We did our best and we celebrated well, I felt. We were encouraged to be creative and to send pictures of what we'd made. We were community apart. It was certainly different. It was painful. And it was a powerful testimony to caring for one another.

We've come so far since then. We've learned so much. Now we can invite participation from others in a way that allows us all to see one another. We've learned to build community through phone calls and porch drops. We've Zoomed gatherings for fellowship and gatherings for formation. We still care deeply enough for one another that even as we've yearned to be together, we've stayed apart honoring social distancing even when we have been able to be together as well as when we've needed to physically be apart.

And we've grieved. Oh, how we've grieved. We've missed being together, really together. We've missed hugging our family and friends. We've had to adapt in how we say goodbye to loved ones who have left us. It's been hard. Really

hard.

Although we're still in that place of needing to care for one another in the midst of what appears to be yet another surge in Michigan, this one fueled by variants, we really are in a different place. We've learned so much about technology that our Holy Week this year can be different. Music will be a part of how we celebrate. Sometimes live. Sometimes recorded and including our beloved choir with organ accompaniment. Videos displaying your photos of service and photos of your crosses will be shared during our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Creative ways to engage with "footwashing" and the veneration of the cross. It will be different. And it will be a powerful reminder of how we continue to need to love one another from afar for just a little while longer while more vaccines get into more arms.

There is light over on the horizon and it is becoming more clear and bright. On Easter Sunday we will taste Eucharist as we share in a drive-through Eucharist. On May 2 we will once again gather together, albeit in the parking lot. As more and more people become fully vaccinated and the virus finally begins to lessen its grip on us, we anticipate being

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Rector's Report (cont'd)

(continued from page 1)

together in the building once again in what will become our new hybrid worship experience – online and in-person at the same time! We'll experiment with how we include those who are worshipping from afar in meaningful ways that allow them to feel connected to us and us to feel connected to them as we build new community.

It's another learning curve. And, what I've learned over this past year, is that learning curves may seem steep. However, when we collaborate, when we trust in God and follow God's mission for us, incredible things can happen. All of a sudden, that learning curve doesn't seem so steep and at the end of the day, we learn something about ourselves and something about God.

Today, as we prepare to walk those final steps to Jerusalem and the cross with Jesus, we know that beyond the cross lies an empty tomb and new life, resurrection life. Our worship will be different again this year but the story has not changed. Perhaps we'll be able to see our story a little bit differently as we celebrate in new ways again this year. Perhaps we'll taste resurrection just a little bit more powerfully because of all that we have experienced.

May the balance of your Lenten journey be holy as together we make our way to the cross and to the empty tomb!

*Love and Blessings,
Tracie+*

MUSIC NOTES

April is a liturgically rich month. "Alleluias" and the most joyous music of the year are on Easter, April 4. It would hardly seem like Easter without Jesus Christ is risen today which will be led by our virtual choir with organ.

April 11 brings us the story of Thomas wanting proof of Christ's resurrection. I want to walk as a child of the light speaks of our faith.

For April 18, Jesus appears to the disciples and opens their minds to the scriptures. The reflection is the song Redeemed: "Redeemed how I love to proclaim it/redeemed by the blood of the Lamb."

April 25 brings us the beloved Shepherd Psalm 23 with its many beautiful musical settings. Have a blessed April.

Marlene Weston

PAY IT FORWARD

Our 2021 budget has a large, unsustainable deficit. As a result, the people of St. Jude's have been issued a challenge: If you are able to give even a little above and beyond your pledge, please consider giving that money toward reducing our deficit this year.

You can make your donation in the manner you are most comfortable, check or online.

If you give by check, please put "deficit reduction" or "pay it forward" in the memo line. If you give online, please select the "Custodial - Deficit Reduction" fund from the drop down menu.

Thank you!

Donations Received for Deficit Reduction:

Deficit presented in 2021 budget: \$26,657

Donated in March 2021: \$400

Total Received so far in 2021: \$1,022.00

A Look Ahead...

Lent 5 – March 21, 2021

Hello friends!

This morning Vestry met in order to discuss how we want to move forward with in-person worship. Beginning Sunday, May 2 we will resume "Parking Lot Church" at 10:30 each Sunday morning. Vestry has asked that, when I send out the link for the bulletins each Sunday morning, I also include the colors on the Covid-risk map for each of our three counties. You may remember last fall when we were meeting for church in the parking lot, we had made the decision to pull back from in-person worship whenever any of the counties were either orange or red. Conscious of how many people will be fully vaccinated (2 weeks after their second vaccination of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine; 2 weeks after their one Johnson and Johnson vaccination), we have decided to let you know the current colors and invite you to decide whether or not you feel comfortable worshipping in person.

For Parking Lot Church you will be required to bring your own chair, be masked for the entire time you are there and households will need to sit 6 feet apart which continue to be our Diocesan requirements.

To the right, you will find our Holy Week schedule. As you will see, most of our worship will be online. In addition to our 8am online services and our 8pm Saturday night Easter Vigil, we will have two Easter Sunday services. We will continue with our 8am Morning Prayer through Zoom and Facebook Live. In addition, we

will stream our Eucharist service from the church sanctuary at 10:30am. This service will be streamed through Zoom to Facebook Live and will include a drive-through Eucharist. At the time of distribution, you will be invited to drive to the church parking lot to receive Communion. I will stay in the parking lot until noon to ensure that everyone who wishes to receive Communion has a chance to get to the church to receive. In addition, for those who do not wish to receive, a special prayer will be offered before the distribution, inviting you to a time of reflection. After a short time, the concluding prayer and blessing will be offered before the live-stream is ended.

We look forward to walking the final steps to Jerusalem with all of you and celebrating Jesus's resurrection this Easter! I pray that the remainder of your Lenten journey is holy!

*Love and Blessings,
Thacie+*



March 28 - Palm Sunday

Facebook Live Morning Prayer at 8am

March 29 - Monday in Holy Week

Facebook Live Taize at 8am

March 30 - Tuesday in Holy Week

Facebook Live Morning Prayer at 8am

March 31 - Wednesday in Holy Week

Facebook Live Morning Prayer at 8am

April 1 - Maundy Thursday

Facebook Live Morning Prayer at 8am

April 2 - Good Friday

Facebook Live Morning Prayer at 8am

Community Service at noon on Facebook Live and in-person at the Community Life Center

April 3 - Holy Saturday

Facebook Live Morning Prayer at 8am

Facebook Live Easter Vigil at 8pm

April 4 - Easter Sunday

Facebook Live Morning Prayer at 8am

Facebook Live Drive-Through Eucharist at 10:30am

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=NVVLMERCOWpIZWI4NmJSaHE1djJzdz09>

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 Maringo from "Our Daily Bread", January 22nd edition

Running to Tell

"So the women...ran to tell his disciples."

Matthew 28:8



The modern-day marathon is based on the story of a Greek messenger, Pheidippides. According to legend, in 490 BC he ran approximately twenty-five miles (forty kilometers) from Marathon to Athens to announce the Greeks' victory against their formidable foe, the invading Persians. Today, people run marathons for the personal satisfaction of an athletic achievement, but Pheidippides had a greater purpose behind his effort: each of his steps was run for the sheer joy of delivering good news to his kinsmen!

Some five hundred years later, two women also ran to deliver good news—the most pivotal news in all of history. When Mary and Mary

Magdalene arrived at the tomb where Jesus had been placed after His crucifixion, they found it empty. An angel told them that Jesus had "risen from the dead" and to "go quickly and tell his disciples" (Matthew 28:7). The women, "afraid yet filled with joy," ran to tell the disciples what they'd discovered (v. 8).

May we have the same joyful exuberance at the resurrection of Jesus, and may it invigorate us to share the good news with others. We may not even need to "run" farther than next door to find someone who needs to know about our Savior. He won the battle against death so we might live victoriously with Him forever!

By Kirsten Holmberg

Reflect and Pray

God, I rejoice because of Your victory over death. Thank You for allowing me the privilege of sharing this good news with those You've put in my life. Learn more about the resurrection of Jesus.

Who shared the good news of Christ's resurrection with you? How will you share it with others today?

New Equipment

As the Vestry looks towards to the time that we will be returning to the church building, we are also looking forward to continuing our online presence. In order to live-stream from the church, purchased some new equipment.

We have submitted a grant to the Diocese to cover the cost of most of that equipment, and asked for donations for the remaining \$199 we had to spend to purchase a wireless audio transmitter which allows us to connect the video sound directly to our current sound system, improving the quality of our recordings. We quickly received money for this plus some. Thank you!

Currently, those who are live-streaming our services will have to bring in a personal laptop to do so. If we can raise enough, it is our hope we can purchase a church laptop to live-stream services. If you would like to donate toward this goal, please note on your check that it is for live-streaming laptop.

Thank you for helping us to continue reaching out further and connecting with people near and far!

PRAYER LIST

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Skip, Assisting Bishop to the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan; the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan; Tracie, our Priest; for the Wardens and Vestry.

For those in particular need of prayer: Martha; Jeff F.; Jeremy Alber; Sheila Baker; Shanin Beall; Kathy & Tom Brighton; Cindy; Joe Capadagli; 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!

April Birthdays

- 1st – Erica Freeman
- 2nd – Jacob Freeman
- 4th – Laura Koch
- 8th – Shane Chambers
- 9th – Mark Hamel
- 10th – Aiden Green
- 14th – Meghan Rayner
- 15th – Michelle Gangwer
- 20th – Scott Smith
- 24th – Lynn Freeman
- 26th – Gay Adams

April Anniversaries

- 5th – Fred & Lynell Wright (46 years)
- 14th – David & Carol Chambers (48 years)
- 16th – Bob & Dianne Simpson (44 years)



Pray for our St. Jude's Family:

April 4 - Mark, Beth & Nicole Jagos, Dave & Debbie James

April 11 - Charlie & Francine Johnston, Lester & Nancy Jones

April 18 - Carl & Connie Koch, Doug Koch

April 25 - Jeff, Jennifer & Madeline Koch, Steve, Laura, Evan & Ella Koch



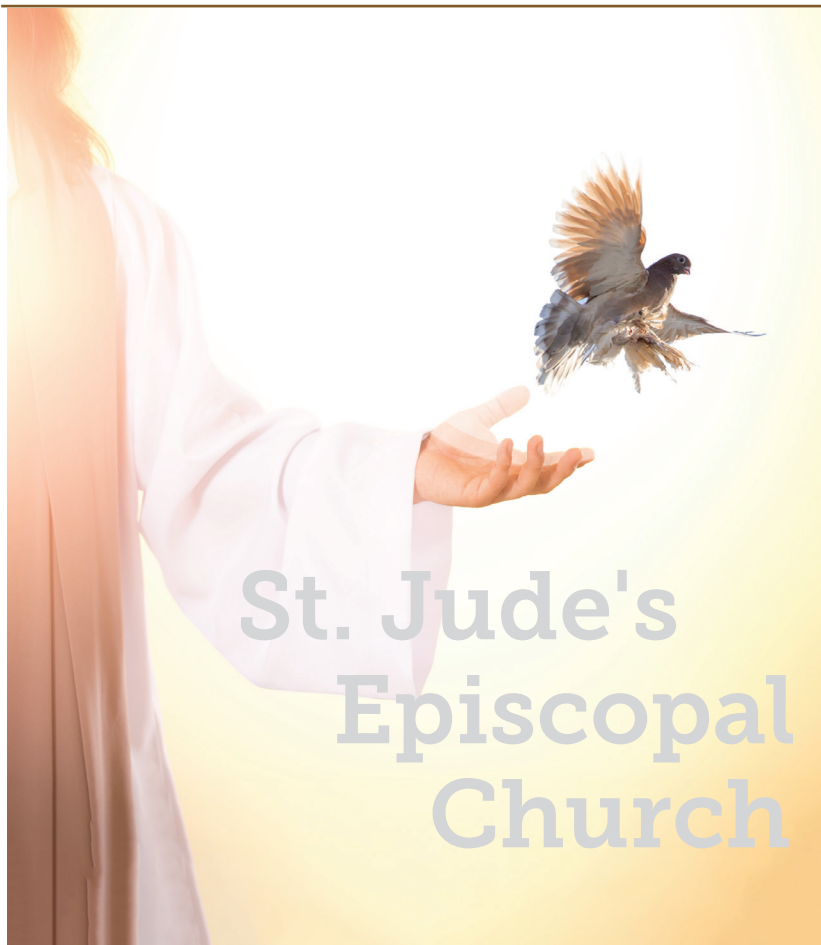
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Church Office: 810-629-5681

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

Dee Grossmann

Lynn Hopper

Ron Trimmer