

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

JULY 2021... OUR 163RD YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

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Fenton, MI 48430-2322
810-629-5681

E-MAIL:

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www.stjudesfenton.com

FACEBOOK:

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

The Reverend Tracie Little

810-300-9177

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The Rev. Judy Marinco, Deacon

E-Mail: JAMarinco50@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Liz Sailus

Office Hours:

Monday & Thursday:

9:00 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.

Sunday In-Person Communion

10:30 a.m.

RECTORS REPORT

As I write this note, I am right smack dab in the middle of my third residency for my D.Min. in Preaching program. Today, four days of the first class have now been completed! And I am incredibly, deeply, and humbly thankful for this opportunity! Sitting in a classroom with 20 colleagues from across the globe is an incredible blessing. Deepening and developing my preaching skills is a gift. Listening to an ecumenical group of preacher share the Word of God is nourishing. What a blessing!

I continue to be deeply thankful for all of the folks at St. Jude's, for all of you, who are making this time away possible! For those who are taking on officiating at Morning Prayer, for Mike and Judy Marinco for stepping in to Preside and preach on Sundays, for Liz who is taking on extra responsibilities so I can go to school and learn and grow – thank you doesn't seem like words enough to express my deep gratitude.

I knew going in that this year's class material was going to be challenging and to some extent tiring. The subject areas are heavy and the danger when confronting this kind of material is to begin to feel overwhelmed. In this first week of class I can tell you that my fears were unfounded! This class

that I have landed in the midst of is an incredible display of God's graciousness and love. We have created a safe space to have difficult and challenging conversations. We have learned from one another and through honest and open sharing have experienced the world from a different perspective. Although we have only been together for three weeks a year and this is only the third time that we have learned together, it's almost as if we've been together forever. We trust each other that deeply with ourselves.

One of the strongest gifts I think this D.Min. program has to offer, is its ecumenical nature. Each of us experiencing scripture and preaching from a different perspective. These weeks of learning together remind me of the gift of the diversity of God's Kingdom and God's creation.

I'm looking forward to two more weeks of intensive learning and then will return energized and ready to hit the ground running! Once again, please know I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to learn and grow and I look forward to sharing my learning with you in the sermons we will share together!

Love and Blessings,

Tracie

Phase 3 Re-opening

Third Sunday after Pentecost - June 13, 2021

Hello dear friends!

These past 16 months have been long and we have all been grieving and praying for the day when we could return to worship inside the sanctuary. That day is almost here! The Diocesan team responsible for determining the steps of our re-entry, has released us into Phase 3 of our plan **beginning July 1**.

If you would like to read the specifics about each phase of re-entry, you can find the document at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1X4P2OHjQX2fDT4FrEuMGdrCmztmuZbCichTqcnI5lrk/edit#>

There are no social distancing requirements in this phase so all of the pews will stand ready to welcome you! Regular cleaning will still, of course, take place, however, in this phase we are not required to clean everything before and after every service.

Services:

Our 8am service will continue to be a service of Morning Prayer offered only online.

Our 10:30 am service will be a Eucharistic celebration. We will return to using our home-baked bread, however, wine will not be distributed at this time. You will continue to sign in so that we have contact tracing information should we need to contact you. The Peace and the Offertory will continue to be touch-free.

Mask protocol: Masks are encouraged inside the building but they are not required. If you are unvaccinated or if you are working with a vulnerable population (our youngest children who are not eligible to receive vaccinations and the immunocompromised), we are strongly encouraging you to wear a mask for your own protection. Masks will be worn as Communion is distributed.

Coffee Hour: Coffee hours will take place, however, buffet presentations are not allowed in this phase. Hosts will need to serve both beverages and food to eliminate common contacts.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me! I look forward to worshipping with you as we safely re-enter the building!

Blessings,
Tracie+

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 June 2021 : \$20

Total Received through June in 2021: \$1,931.00

Prayer Shawl Ministry

It's been a long time coming! The prayer shawl ministry has been making shawls as individuals, and Tracie has blessed and given out a number of them during the pandemic. As St. Jude is opening up on July 4th for in-church worship, we feel that the prayer shawl ministry may also meet in person.

Our first meeting will take place on **Monday, July 12th at 1 p.m. at Debbie James home.**

We are planning on taking care for the meeting with participants bringing their own beverages. There will be a simple snack that will be served by your hostess. If you are vaccinated, there is no need to wear a mask. If you are not vaccinated, live or work with those who are unvaccinated or vulnerable, it is suggested that a mask be worn. Weather permitting, the plan is to enjoy an afternoon of knitting outdoors.

Please give Deb James a call if you would like to attend. Ph: 810-210-6305



REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", June 6th edition

Our True Selves

We know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him.

1 John 3:2



Inside my parents' old photo album is a picture of a young boy. He has a round face, freckles, and straight, light-blond hair. He loves cartoons, hates avocados, and owns just one record, by Abba. Also inside that album are pictures of a teenager. His face is long, not round; his hair is wavy, not straight. He has no freckles, likes avocados, watches movies rather than cartoons, and would never admit to owning an Abba record! The boy and the teenager are little alike. According to science they have different skin, teeth, blood, and bones. And yet they are both me. This paradox has baffled philosophers. Since we change throughout our lives, who is the real us?

From the moment God began knitting us together in the womb (Psalm 139:13-14), we've been growing into our unique design. While we can't yet imagine what we'll finally become, we know that if we're children of God we'll ultimately be like Jesus (1 John 3:2)—our body with His nature, our personality but His character, all our gifts glistening, all our sins gone.

Until the day Jesus returns, we're being drawn toward this future self. By His work, step by step, we can reflect His image ever more clearly (2 Corinthians 3:18). We aren't yet who we're meant to be, but as we become like Him, we become our true selves.

By Sheridan Voysey

The Scriptures provide the answer.

Reflect and Pray

When songs and films encourage us to find our "true selves," what do you think they miss? In what area can you step toward Christlikeness today?

Jesus, make me more like You today and every day.

Moving Forward from our Bishop's Suspension

Dear Friends in Christ,

We write today with news about our life together at the conclusion of the suspension of our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr.

After a series of lengthy, honest, and occasionally painful conversations, the Standing Committees, Diocesan Councils, and Bishop Hougland have reached a separation agreement that will result in his resignation as Bishop Diocesan of Western Michigan and as Bishop Provisional of Eastern Michigan, effective July 1, 2021.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr.

Bishop Diocesan, Western Michigan

Bishop Provisional, Eastern Michigan

The Joint Standing Committees of Eastern & Western Michigan

People of Eastern & Western Michigan,

Over the last several months, the bishop and leadership of the two dioceses have undergone a period of mutual discernment that has led us to this current moment.

The Joint Standing Committees began early this Spring in preliminary conversations with Bishop Hougland about how we would undertake this discernment. Lay and clergy leaders met in Affinity Groups for pastoral processing of the last year. We received hundreds of submissions to a written survey from our laity and clergy, articulating reflections about our life together as dioceses and in relation to the episcopacy. And recently, a series of conversations were held in which our clergy community met with Wayne, hearing what he has done

and experienced over the last year and sharing with him what they had done and experienced over the last year. These conversations were difficult, honest, and holy.

After every step, we would sit back, review the gathered feedback, and determine together whether we would continue on in conversation. Though we had anticipated another series of conversations and surveys as part of our continued discernment, it was clear, based on the responses we had already received from you, and out of concern for the emotional toll on our dioceses, that this process had come to a conclusion. This does not mean that we don't love and care for one another -- simply that we know and understand that our continued mission and ministry, including our growing relationship between our two dioceses, would be impeded by reinstatement to office.

(continued on page 5)

A Pastoral Word from the Presiding Bishop

My Sisters, Brothers, Siblings,

The Episcopal Church proclaims that "[b]y virtue of Baptism, all members of the Church . . . shall . . . seek to resolve conflicts by promoting healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life and reconciliation." The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland Jr., along with the people and leadership of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan and the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, have spent the last year working both individually and corporately toward this high calling. While I have held out hope that this difficult and holy work would result in Bishop Hougland's return to service with your two dioceses, mutual discernment has revealed a need to end your relationship as bishop and dioceses. I affirm both the integrity of your discernment and your decision growing out of it.

As we turn toward the future, I offer my blessing upon your two great dioceses as you continue your commitment to creatively explore collaborative ministries across diocesan lines. This bold experiment in mission is surely born of the Spirit and offers a hope-filled model for the rest of the church. Keep up the good work; continue striving toward healing and reconciliation; hold one another in prayer. And remember that God is with you always.

Keep the faith,

*The Most Rev. Michael
Bruce Curry*

Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

Moving Forward (cont'd)

(continued from page 4)

Over the next few years, in a process facilitated by the Building Bridges Steering Committee, we will continue our intentional exploration of relationship between our two dioceses. The Standing Committees deeply value the relationship we have with one another, both in navigating the difficulties of the last year and in the continuing and developing mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church in Eastern and Western Michigan. This desire was broadly embraced, as evidenced in survey responses and our conversations with the clergy. The appointed Steering Committee has already been hard at work, beginning to invite others to help facilitate research, internal and external conversations, asset mapping, and more. This burgeoning relationship has been a deep source of joy and hope for us all.

The Standing Committees are in conversation with our Assisting Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Skip Adams, to extend his time with our dioceses over the next several months. We are also in conversation with the Presiding Bishop's Office and our consultant, Dr. Melissa Perrin, about how we might attend to the pastoral

needs of our community in the aftermath of this suspension and pending separation -- more on this to come.

Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches." Our dioceses are not central administrative offices in Saginaw and Wyoming, but a network of churches and organizations and ministries and individuals from coast to coast, working together for the Kingdom of God. This has been a difficult and painful year. The news about our bishop may feel welcome to some and disappointing to others, with a bit of every other feeling in-between. The severing of a relationship with a pastor is not one that happens lightly or without deep and prolonged prayer and discernment.

If you'd like to send a note to Wayne or Dana, please forward it to the Western Michigan Diocesan Office, 5347 Clyde Park Ave SW, Wyoming, MI 49509. By sending it within a sealed envelope, you ensure that your message will not be mistakenly read by others. You may also send greetings by email, by forwarding your message to vambrose@edwm.org, understanding that its contents will not be totally private as it gets forwarded to its intended recipient.

Finally, we invite you to pray for our dioceses, for one another, and for Wayne and Dana Hougland. The following collects are offered for your personal intercessions and as part of corporate worship, during the Prayers of the People.

A Prayer for Parting

Gracious and loving God, destination of all our journeys; be with Wayne, Dana, and our two dioceses as we move from what was to what shall be. Help us reflect on the joys, memories, and hardships of our time together without clinging to the past, but in preparation for continued ministry in your Name. Assist us in gratitude and forgiveness, for you bless and forgive, and to you we give praise, holy and undivided Trinity, our One God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer for the Dioceses

Blessed God, who makes all things new: Grant that our two dioceses, as communities of Word and Sacrament, may be leaven for the world's bread, and wine of delight for hearts in need; a gathering strong for service and glad in praise; and a people listening and responding to your presence in our midst; through Jesus our redeemer and steadfast companion. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

The Standing Committee of Eastern Michigan

Janet Huff Worvie,
President

St. John's, Otter Lake

The Rev. Brian Chace,
Vice Pres.

Ret., West Branch

Gary Grinn

St. Paul's, Gladwin

Barb Illka, Secretary

St. John's, Saginaw

The Rev. Deacon Anna Leigh Kubbe

Holy Family, Blue Water

The Rev. Nancy Mayhew

St. Alban's, Bay City

The Standing Committee of Western Michigan

The Rev. Dr. Randall R. Warren, Pr.

St. Luke's, Kalamazoo

Martha Bartlett,
Secretary

St. James, Pentwater

The Rev. Jodi Baron

St. Philip's, Beulah & Holy Trinity, Manistee

David Croal

St. Mark's, Coldwater

Anne Davidson

St. Mark's, Coldwater

The Rev. BJ Heyboer,
Vice Pres.

St. Mark's, Newaygo

The Rev. Diane Pike

Southwest MI Episcopal Covenant

Carole Redwine

St. Philip's, Grand Rapids

Sunday Sign-Ups

Beginning Sunday, July 4, we are returning to services inside the church building and a little closer to our "normal" way of worship.

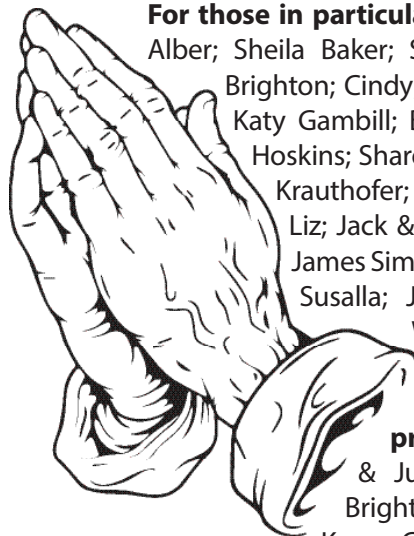
We will again have altar flowers every Sunday morning. If you wish to sign up to provide a donation for our weekly altar flowers, there is a sign up on the bulletin board in Vandenberg Hall (suggested donation is \$24).

We also have a posted sign up for coffee hour hosts. We can again have food as well as beverages during coffee hour following the 10:30 am service, however, food must be served by the host/hostess. There cannot be a common buffet-style distribution.

Please take a look at the bulletin in Vandenberg Hall to sign up and for more opportunities to be involved as we move toward a new normal together.

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; Judy, our Deacon; for the Wardens and Vestry.



For those in particular need of prayer: Martha; Jeff F.; Jeremy Alber; Sheila Baker; Shanin Beall; Laura Bentz; Kathy & Tom Brighton; Cindy; Joe Capadagli; Danielle Dixon; Steven G.; Katy Gambill; 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!

July Birthdays

- 5th – Bob Warren
- 7th – Laurel White
- 10th – Mike Little
- 13th – Jerry Graham
- 14th – Liz Sailus
- 18th – Ron Trimmer
- 20th – James Simpson
- 21st – Kathy Kortge
- Austin Rayner
- 25th – Shirley Gernack
- 26th – Connie Fry
- 28th – Bill McDonald
- 30th – Kathy Hopper

July Anniversaries

- 1st – Charles & Francine Johnston (43 years)
- 7th – Leester & Nancy Jones (48 years)
- 12th – Dave & Denise Rayner (47 years)
- 29th – Scott & Sandra Smith (49 years)



Pray for our St. Jude's Family:

July 4 - Bob & Dianne Simpson; Scott & Sandra Smith; Ron Spaulding

July 11 - Chet & Mary Louise Susalla; Bob, Christine & Connor Szostak

July 18 - Ron & Catherine Trimmer; Ellen Tripp; John Vitovksy

July 25 - Paul & Gwyn Wagschal; Bob & Marry Warren; Tony Warren



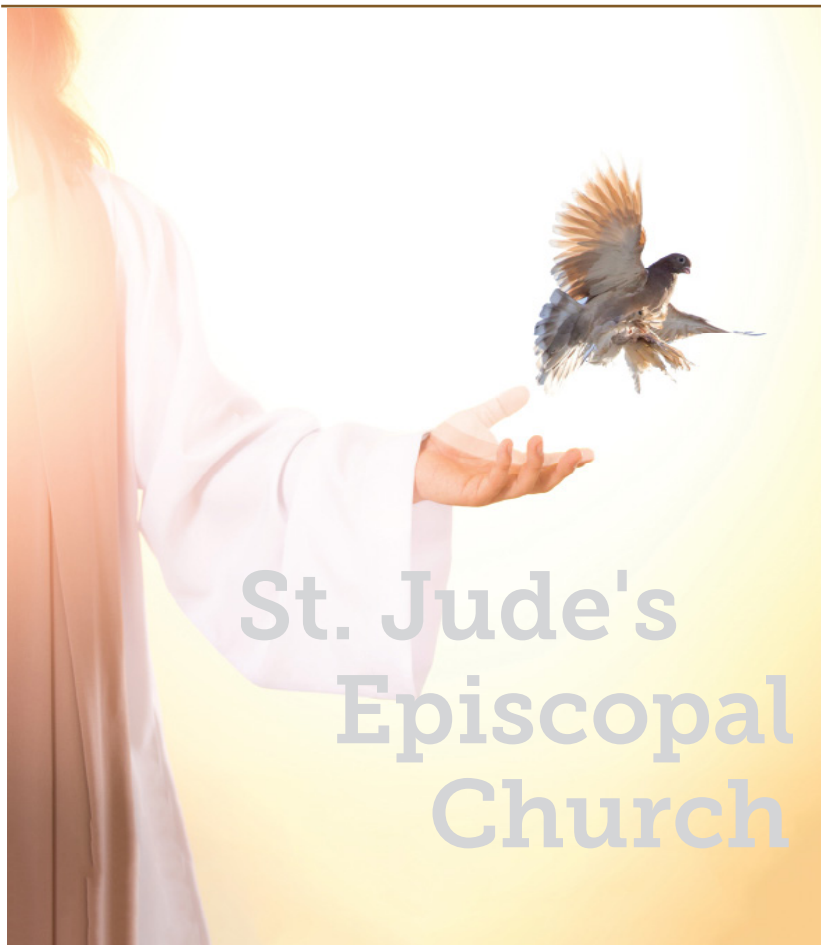
St. Jude's Episcopal Church

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

Dee Grossmann
Lynn Hopper
Ron Trimmer