

# THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

AUGUST 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

**Temporary Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday:

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:**

Sunday & Wednesday

Morning Prayer Services

via Facebook Live

8:00 a. m.

Sunday In-Person Communion

10:30 a.m.

## RECTORS REPORT



This year the strangest thing happened. This is a picture of one of my orchid plants. Normally, when it is going to flower, it sends a shoot way up. This time, unbeknownst to me, the shoot got caught up in the roots of the plant. All of a sudden one day I noticed a bud. And then a second one. Trapped in the roots, the plant was so determined to flower, it did what it was made to do. Two flowers, wrapped in the roots, brought beautiful color to the wood chips that the plant is rooted in.

Sometimes in our lives, it can feel locked down, just like these flower shoots. Covid restrictions might have felt like that. Even in our lives of faith, we can feel restricted. Challenged to flower in ways that

feel overwhelming.

Now, with the church opening up, it might feel as if everything is "back to normal" as we return to more familiar patterns. Like this flower, we may feel like finally we can be who we are meant to be, sharing the beauty of God grace. And yet, we've changed. We are not the same people we were a year and a half ago. We've all been through an experience that forced us to experience lots of different kinds of losses. We've had to adapt over and over and over again to an ever changing reality. Beyond our own personal realities, our reality as a community of faith isn't the same. There are many of us who will not be gathering with us and we haven't had the chance to say goodbye in ways that we would have without Covid. As individuals, we've changed. As a community of faith, we've changed.

It's important for us not to rush past this moment, but to sit here for a while. Recognize and honor our own grief. Recognize and honor our own fear perhaps. Recognize and honor how we've experienced God in the midst of these past many, many months. Recognize and honor how we as individuals and how we as a community of faith have changed.

# Worship Services

When the pandemic forced us all into our homes except for essential travel, St. Jude's responded by offering daily Morning Prayer. That pattern helped all of us rest into regular worship and to stay connected. As our Covid numbers have declined, as our vaccinations increased, and as the church began opening back up, we've been tracking the numbers of those faithfully participating in our Morning Prayer services. We are so thankful for each one of you and for our ability to provide this service. We met yesterday and made probably one of the most difficult decisions we've had to make. In looking deeper at the number of views Facebook was recording, we discovered that most of those views were lasting 15 seconds or less. We decided that we would continue to offer our 8am Morning Prayer twice a week - once on Wednesday and once on Sunday. We will be evaluating once again at the beginning of October.

Vestry also took a look at the posts where we streamed our 10:30 Sunday Eucharist service. We've struggled with sound since beginning this streaming and those struggles are evident in our views. We will no longer be streaming this service. However, for those who wish to attend a Sunday service, we will be continuing our 8am Morning Prayer.

We are so thankful that we have been able to provide a service that helped many of us get into a daily pattern of prayer, scripture and reflecting! I am incredibly thankful for all those who gave their time and their gifts to allow for daily worship online! You will still see us as we will be rotating Wednesday by Wednesday and you will still enjoy a variety of different services. To help ensure that those who wish to connect with daily Morning Prayers on those days that we are not broadcasting, we will post several options for you on our Facebook page.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Tracie by email at [TracieLittle@gmail.com](mailto:TracieLittle@gmail.com) or on her cell at 810-300-9177.

**Blessings,**  
*Tracie+*

## Rector's Report (cont'd)

(continued from page 1)

And then, then to look forward to who God is calling us to be now, in this new season. To this end, we are currently planning a service that will be designed specifically to allow to rest in this moment. To grieve. To lament. To dream. My plan is to hold this service in the fall, once everyone's summer plans give way to a more regular and present pattern, likely in mid to late September.

What I noticed all through the pandemic, one of the greatest gifts we could ever have hoped for, was the many, many, many ways that, even in the midst of great challenge, St. Jude's and its members bloomed and the beauty of God's grace showered our community through our work and service.

I wonder.....what are you grieving.....how did you experience God's grace.....how is God calling you to bloom now?

**Love and 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 July 2021 :** \$300

**Total Received through July in 2021:** \$2,231.00

## Liz's Time Away

Our administrative assistant, Liz, is going to be working from home beginning Monday, August 9th in preparation for baby's arrival. When baby is born, she will be going on maternity leave for 2 months with the aim of returning to work sometime near the end of October/beginning of November.

The office is going to be staffed by volunteers during this time. Temporary office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 am - Noon.

Thank you to the following people who are taking on various tasks while Liz is away:

Nancy Day  
Rex Harris  
Lynn Hopper  
Kathy Kortge  
Tracie Little  
Judy Marinco  
Clay & Diane Putnam  
Lois Putnam  
Dave Rayner  
Lynne Ronthi  
Ron Trimmer

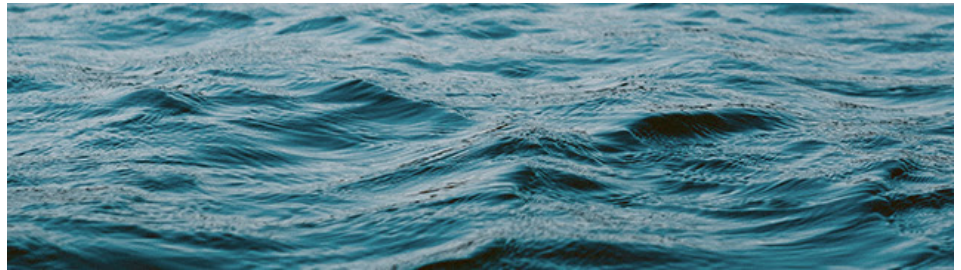


# REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", June 12th edition

## Our True Selves

*I have summoned you by name; you are mine.*  
Isaiah 41:1



After breaking with our longtime church, my husband and I reunited with the fellowship after three long years. But how would people treat us? Would they welcome us back? Love us? Forgive us for leaving? We got our answer on a sunny Sunday morning. As we walked through the big church doors, we kept hearing our names. "Pat! Dan! It's so great to see you!" As children's author Kate DiCamillo wrote in one of her popular books, "Reader, nothing is sweeter in this sad world than the sound of someone you love calling your name."

The same assurance was true for the people of Israel. We had chosen a different church for a time, but they had turned their backs on God. Yet He welcomed them back. He sent the

prophet Isaiah to assure them, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

In this world—where we can feel unseen, unappreciated, and even unknown—be assured that God knows each of us by name. "You are precious and honored in my sight," He promises (v. 4). "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you" (v. 2). This promise isn't just for Israel. Jesus ransomed His life for us. He knows our names. Why? In love, we are His.

*By Patricia Raybon*

*Reflect and Pray*

Why does God welcome His people back to Him? How has He shown that He knows you by name?

**Jesus, when I stray from Your arms and Your fellowship, summon me home by name. I'm so grateful to be Yours.**



# Reflections on COVID

This has been a long year and a half. That's not news to anyone! We've all had to adapt to changes that seem to have come at us at warp speed. That pattern still continues with this new Delta variant threatening all of the gains we've experienced over this past while.

The reality of this new variant and all of the news around who is hospitalized – the unvaccinated and those who are immunocompromised – prompted me to dig a little deeper. As you all know, I have Multiple Sclerosis. A part of my treatment is to take a daily immunosuppressant drug. Ever since I received my Covid vaccinations, I really wasn't sure what they meant for me. Because of that, many of my behaviors have not changed. I'm masked when in stores. I don't do much of anything outside of what I absolutely need to do. Recently, as the church opened up for indoor worship, I did feel comfortable enough to not wear my mask when at the front.

However, with the rise of the Delta variant, I decided I needed to know what my antibody situation was. So, I called my doctor and asked for a blood test. The next day I had my results. I have no antibodies to Covid-19. That's what I was afraid of. The vaccines had no effect on my system. That means that the MS drug I take is doing its thing. However, it leaves me completely vulnerable to a brand new disease.

My emotions have bounced around a lot since finding out. I've kept myself safe so far by being masked and washing my hands often. I know I can continue that pattern. And, at times, I find myself angry that we haven't, as a society, managed to do what we've needed

to do to knock this virus down and now it's circulated long enough that the variants have become more and more menacing.

I've also decided that I need to minimize my risk of contracting Covid, especially now that fully vaccinated people can transmit this devastating variant. I will be masked inside all of the time and may even move to double-masking again. I will maintain safe distances between myself and others. At worship, I will not stand in a reception line. Instead, I encourage you to reach out to me by email (TracieLittle@gmail.com), phone or text (810-300-9177). I can make an appointment to visit you either on Zoom, on the phone or on your porch. Because my office is small, I prefer not to meet you at the church office. I can, however, make an appointment to visit with you outside in our Memorial Garden.

These are hard decisions and I pray that I am making the right ones. It has been a challenge to pastor in the midst of a pandemic and now, as things change once again, it feels a little overwhelming. However, I rest secure in the knowledge that God is faithful. God is walking with us as we move through these unprecedented times. God wants to hear our laments as we cry out "How long, O Lord, how long?" God is comforting us in our fears and in our sorrows. God is celebrating with us in those small and large moments of victory!

Continue to know God's presence in your midst. Continue to know God's blessings which rest on you and fill you to overflowing. Continue to share those blessings with the world.

**Blessings,**  
*Tracie*



## Family Promise Give Me Shelter 5K August 14, 2021

We are so excited to be hosting our race in person once again at Jack Abernathy Park in Davison. A crowd favorite - our 5k runs through the beautiful park and adjoining neighborhood. Onsite daycare in the playscape during the event. For more information or to register visit: <https://familypromiseofgc.org/givemesherter5k/>.

## Family Promise Golf FORE Families

**September 10, 2021**

*Atlas Valley Golf Club  
8313 Perry Rd., Grand Blanc, MI*

Back by popular demand and at the newly revamped Atlas Valley Golf Club! The entire facility and course underwent a dramatic revitalization in 2020 and are receiving rave reviews. It is a perfect backdrop to play golf and help local families experiencing a housing crisis. For more information or to register, visit: <http://bit.ly/fpgcgolf>

# Building & Grounds Updates

To begin with yah! St. Jude's is open and we are now able to use our building again for services and other events.

Over the past year and longer we have used our building and grounds and our homes in such different ways. Our Outreach program expanded and was able to use both the lower level and Vandenberg hall to accommodate the needs of many in the community. Morning prayer expanded to everyday within the homes of our parishioners. We utilized our parking lot for services including funerals and interments within the Memorial Garden.

With that said, a big thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who have handled projects and upkeep of the grounds even though we have mostly been virtual.

This past year we have dealt with many building issues and repairs:

1. The Flat Roof replacement

2. The water damage to both the kitchen and nursery and some carpet cleaning, ceiling tile replacements, and stove cleaning. Thank you Tracie Little, Kelly Cronk, Greg Forsyth, Dave Little and others for helping get our building back in order.

3. New leaf guard eve troughs were added along the flat roof and church as well as west side of Vandenberg hall to both deflect the water off the hall from going on to the flat roof. Thank you to an anonymous donor!

4. The decision was made to remove the old spruce tree located at

the main entrance of the church and it is scheduled for after August 15, 2021 to meet the concerns of possible birds nesting.

5. The properties committee has been communicating though out the last year and an half and recently has been dealing with the issues related to the Air Conditioning system that handles the sanctuary. A recommendation was submitted to the vestry at the July meeting and a direction has been given by the Vestry on how to proceed. Thank you to Kathy Kortge, Mike Wells, Kelly Cronk and to Clay Putnam, who all assisted me with their time, talents and thoughts and efforts. So much appreciated.

6. St. Jude's has just successfully completed the Fenton Fire Marshal inspection and has been working on handling the various issues that were raised for correction. Again a thanks goes out to Dave and Denise Rayner, Kathy Kortge, Greg Forsyth and Liz Salius for their assistance in making the necessary corrections.

7. We now have an individual that will assist in repairing the steps at the front entrance to the church.

8. Kelly Cronk is repairing and replacing the wood trim on the east side of the parking lot that has rotted.

We also would like to recognize Sarah Dolza and her team of volunteers that continue to maintain and keep the memorial garden such an inviting space!

Looking ahead to 2022 the vestry has given support to proceed with

doing:

- Rummage sale which parishioners will be able to donate items for the fund raiser. Dates to be determine. If someone would love to help and maybe chair such an event please let us know.

- Our Second Annual Craft Show will be the 2nd weekend in November 2022. Lynn Hopper and Ron Trimmer will co-chair the event. If any one knows of a crafter that may be interested please have them get in touch with us and we will get them the appropriate information.

**Ron Trimmer**

*Building Committee Chair*

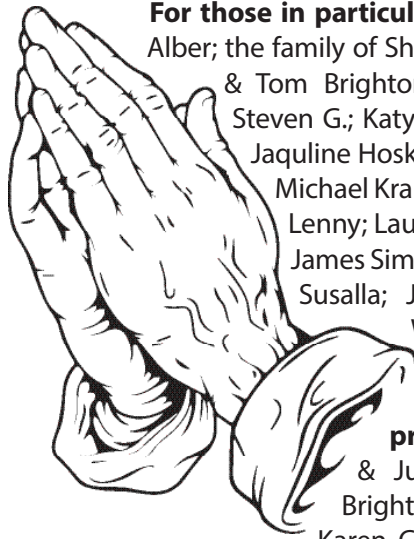
## Holiday Bazaar & Craft Show 2022

**November 11 - 13, 2022**

We are looking ahead to resume our Craft Show in 2022 to raise funds for our elevator project! The bazaar will take place the weekend of November 12 & 13. We need crafters! If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Ron Trimmer (810-923-3493) or Lynn Hopper (810-845-0645). More information to come!

# 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; the family of 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; June; Lisa Langly; Leon Layman; Bill Lenny; Laura; Liz; Jack & Beverly Mills; Noel; Paul Riley; 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; Vic Peters; Richard; 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:

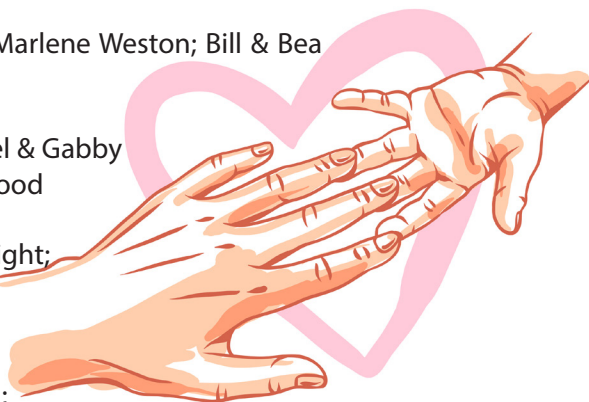
**August 1** - Mike Wells; Ed & Marlene Weston; Bill & Bea White

**August 8** - Dan, Angela, Laurel & Gabby White; Michael Wolos; Mike Wood

**August 15** - Fred & Lynell Wright; Katie Young; David Zick; Craig & Gay Adams

**August 22** - Sharon Aldrich; Bob & Kim Alexander; Bill, Molly & Lydia Anderson

**August 29** - Martha Applebee; Rita Bretzke; Kathryn & Barry Brow



## August Birthdays

- 1st – Bill Freeman
- 5th – Dave Little
- 15th – Connie Koch
- 16th – Matt Freeman
- Jill Perry
- 20th – Gabrielle White
- 24th – Tom Gernack
- 25th – Marilyn Safa
- 29th – Dee Dickens

## August Anniversaries

- 6th – Harry & Linda Chciuk (50 years)
- 11th – Shane & Heather Chambers (10 years)
- 15th – Mike Green & Mark Hamel (12 years)
- Mike & Judy Marinco (51 years)
- 18th – Craig & Gay Adams (48 years)
- Lynn & Kathy Hopper (43 years)
- 21st – Michael & Sue Reilly (45 years)
- 22nd – Ronald & Jennifer Chambers (23 years)
- Jerry & Francine Rucker (57 years)
- 23rd – Tom & Shirley Gernack (41 years)
- 25th – Dale & Debra Sands (48 years)
- 27th – Dan & Beth Harvey





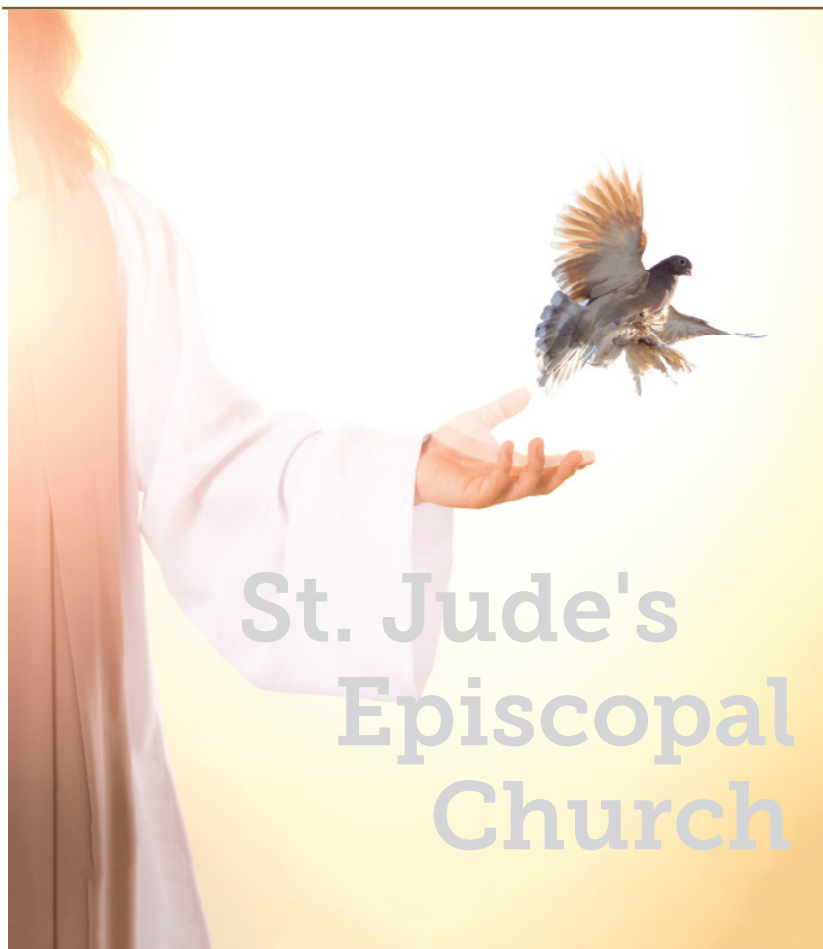
## **St. Jude's Episcopal Church**

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Fenton, MI 48430-2322

Church Office: 810-629-5681

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