

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

SEPTEMBER 2021... OUR 163RD YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

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Fenton, MI 48430-2322
810-629-5681

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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.

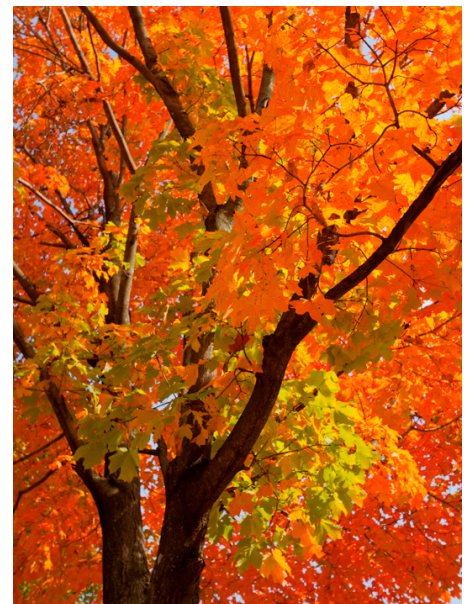
Sunday In-Person Communion

10:30 a.m.

Rector's Report

Changes. Every fall we're surrounded by change. Leaves are changing color and falling to the ground. Flowers are losing their zip and are closing up shop for the winter. The air conditioner gets switched off and the furnace is prepared to kick into high gear. Sweaters begin to reappear. Diocesan Convention plans are underway as both Eastern and Western Michigan prepare to elect a new Bishop Provisional to guide us through these next years of transition and possible deepening relationship. Change. It's everywhere. Even in the Church. Even at the local level.

As our Covid protocols changed and the building opened up, clergy across the globe began to brace themselves for the new reality that we both feared and anticipated. The fact is, habits become very hard to break. By breaking the pattern of regular, weekly, in-person worship for so very long, I at least wondered just who would be back when our buildings reopened. And, the truth of the matter is, that we're still in a time of transition. Covid isn't over. Not by a long shot if the Covid Risk Map is even part-way true. So, we're still not "back to the way things used to be". And, if I'm honest with myself, we may never fully return to that place. And maybe we shouldn't.



Okay, I suspect that many people have now either stopped reading this note or are toying with turning the page or scrolling down.

Change. It's all around us. Some change we expect and it's okay. Other change, not so much. And change in the church, for whatever reason, seems to fall into that second category more often than not. Our traditions are so much a part of us that we simply can't fathom anything different.

Things have changed. Drastically. Not just once, but multiple times.

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Rector's Report (cont'd)

(continued from page 1)

And they continue to evolve. Makes me wonder.....where is God in the midst of all of these changes? A quick answer is to respond, "God is, of course, as God always is, very present." So maybe we shift the question to go a bit deeper. "How do you perceive God's presence even now, even in the midst of all of the change we are faced with in this world?" It's not a new question. I believe that question is at the root of so many of our biblical tales. As situations changed, as wars were won and lost, through exile and exodus, through good times and oppressive times, in all times and in all places the people are constantly asking themselves and challenging themselves to see God, to look to God for new vision.

I believe we are in such a time as these. We must, in the midst of all of these changes, look to God for new vision. How might the church be changed in order to respond to these new realities. Not just Covid. Everything. The divisiveness and violence that seem to be permeating the world right now. The inequalities and brokenness that this time of Covid have brought to conscience.

It can seem so overwhelming we don't know even where to begin. And we're tired. Tired of Covid. Tired of the news. Tired of trying to fix the seemingly unfixable. We're tired. Tired of change. And it's easy to get stuck there. It feels like way too much work to fix tired.

So, I return to my original question. "How do you perceive God's presence now, even when we're so worn-out and tired that we don't seem able to see God?"

Because the absolute, unshakeable truth is that God IS present now. God is breathing for us when we can't seem able to draw in air on our own. God is holding us up when all we want to do is collapse. God is leading us, kicking and screaming perhaps, but God is there leading us, and sometimes dragging us into the future.

I can say this with absolute certainty because it's true in my own life. Every single moment that I feel overwhelmed with whatever was going on, somehow, I made it through. Maybe not into the future I wanted. But into the future nonetheless.

Separated in the midst of earning an M.Div. with two little boys who needed their mother more often than not, God was there. Waking me up every single day to get them off to school and then to get myself to chapel. Keeping me up every single night to help them with their homework and then get them to off to bed after which I could turn to my own homework. Naturally I'm a morning person. In seminary, I became a night person AND a morning person. I believe that was only possible because of God.

Moving to a new country and starting over again with needing to establish credit in order to even buy a car. The first dealership turned me down. Flat. No conversation. I hadn't lived here long enough to establish enough reputation to borrow money. God was there. A new congregation member owned a dealership and went to bat for me when no one else would. That convinced the credit folks to take a chance on me. My parishioner didn't have to go to bat for me. The credit folks didn't need to change their mind. Something....

maybe God....helped them to see a different future.

Losing the ability to travel back and forth to Canada where my family all resides. God was there. Keeping me in touch with my family by phone and now by Zoom so that we can see one another. It's not the same. But it's something. And it's sustaining. Technology isn't my thing. God has opened my mind not just to accept technology, but to learn how to use it in ways that help my family stay connected.

Facing the realities of loss and family disruption following unexpected death. God is there. Focusing minds, helping us have difficult conversations with ourselves and one another. Opening new possibilities for caring for one another. Learning to move forward while at the same time missing our loved ones. There's nothing easy about these changes. God strengthens us as we make that journey. Even on the days that strength seems impossible.

Even in the midst of every change we ever have to face, including now in the church, God is there. God is HERE. Sustaining us with a word in the present. Leading us into the future. God is faithful. ALWAYS.

Love and Blessings,

Tracie

Tracie will be away on vacation from Monday, October 11 and will return on Tuesday, October 26. For Pastoral Emergencies, please contact The Rev. Paul Brunell at 810-618-3453.

Building & Grounds Update

As we continue to work our way through Co-vid and continue to come together as a church family, many things have been accomplished. Thanks to generous anonymous donations, grants and the many hours that our volunteers both within St. Jude's and those outside our church family.

So far this year our flat roof, the eve troughs and an airconditionair that handled our sanctuary have been replaced. The Blue Spruce on the North side of the Church was dying and now has been removed. The front Steps to the main entrance have been patched thanks to a friend of St. Jude's at no cost. And the church doors have been stained and completed.

The properties committee is still looking at the removal of the dead maple tree. A couple of proposals have been received but we are lacking the funds to remove it at this time. Volunteers are working on the lighting at the main entrance and painting the railings and the porches to the entrances of our building.

A couple of years back we had a study done on the bell tower and noted at that time there are some preventive maintenance that needed to be done but again no funding available and put on hold. This past month a thank you goes out to Mark Harris the son of Rex and Judy Harris who put together a drone video of the flat roof, church roof, chimney and the bell tower. The properties committee is reviewing this video and we hope to have recommendations to the vestry in the near future.

Our team is always looking for new members to join us and volunteer in this worthwhile ministry. If your interested leave your name and number at the church office or let Ron Trimmer. You would be more than welcomed.

Ron Trimmer
Building & Grounds Committee Chair

Thank You!

Tracie would like to thank you all for your lovely card and the amazing gift basket that honored Pastor Appreciation Day. I am humbled and so thankful for all the gifts in this incredibly special box. Once I get back to church after my vacation, the beautiful cross will be added to my wall. Truly it is an honor to serve God with you all! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Family Promise Hosting

Our hosting for Family Promise is postponed until after the New Year. The Day Center continues to meet the needs of many homeless families. We can support the Day Center by taking on a project to help update their facility, support the Student Center, or assist family. If you're interested in helping out, contact Diane Putnam at 810-938-5370 or d1putnam@charternet.

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 September 2021 : \$0

Total Received through September in 2021: \$2,231.00

Fall Clean-Up

It is hard to believe that we are now into fall. The properties committee has selected **Sunday October 31, 2021** as the day for the grounds clean up around St. Jude's.

We are looking for volunteers after the Worship service to stay and give us a little time to prepare our grounds for the winter months. Your help would be greatly appreciated

The rain date would be Sunday November 7, 2021.

Hope to see you there!
Your Building & Grounds Committee



REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Maringo from "Our Daily Bread", June 17th edition

The Way of Faith

The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me."

Judges 7:2



In a 2017 World Cup qualifying match that pitted the US against Trinidad and Tobago, the Soca Warriors shocked the world when they beat the US men's national team, a team ranked considerably higher. The upset eliminated the US team from the 2018 World Cup.

Trinidad and Tobago's victory was so unexpected in part because the United States' population and resources dwarfed those of the small Caribbean nation. But those seemingly insurmountable advantages weren't enough to defeat the passionate Soca Warriors.

The story of Gideon and the Midianites features a similar upset, one between a small group of fighters and a large army. The Israelite army actually had more than thirty-

thousand fighters, but the Lord whittled the army down to just three hundred warriors so the nation would learn that their success was dependent on God—not the size of their army, the amount of money in their treasury, or the skill of their leaders (Judges 7:1–8).

It can be tempting to put our trust and confidence in things we can see or measure, but that's not the way of faith. Though it's often difficult, when we're willing to depend on God, to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10), we can go into situations with courage and confidence, even when we feel overwhelmed and unqualified. His presence and power can do amazing things in and through us.

By Lisa M. Samra

Reflect and Pray

When have you faced seemingly insurmountable odds? Whether you tasted victory or defeat, how did you experience God's provision for you?

God, when life gets challenging, help me learn to rely more and more on Your mighty power and grace.

MUSIC NOTES

October is a month of transition from the foliage and warmth of early autumn to the colors and barrenness of late fall. There is also a shift in the liturgical calendar from the well-loved stories we have heard through the summer to teachings of healing, humility, and faith as we prepare for Advent. The musical selections reflect these themes.

Some of the great hymns of the church will be featured throughout October, such as Joyful, joyful, we adore thee; O God, our help in ages past; I, the Lord of sea and sky; and Praise, my soul, the King of heaven.

St. Jude's Ringers also will debut after a long hiatus with the hymn of faith, Great Is Thy Faithfulness.

Have a blessed month,
Marlene Weston

Family Promise Golf FORE Families

October 16, 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.

If you are unable to golf and would

like to contribute to Family Promises largest fundraiser, you can do so by contributing Silent Auction items. We are looking for gift certificates, gift cards, or items that could make a gift basket. Contact Diane Putnam at 810.938.5307 for more information.

For more information or to register, visit: <http://bit.ly/fpgcgolf>



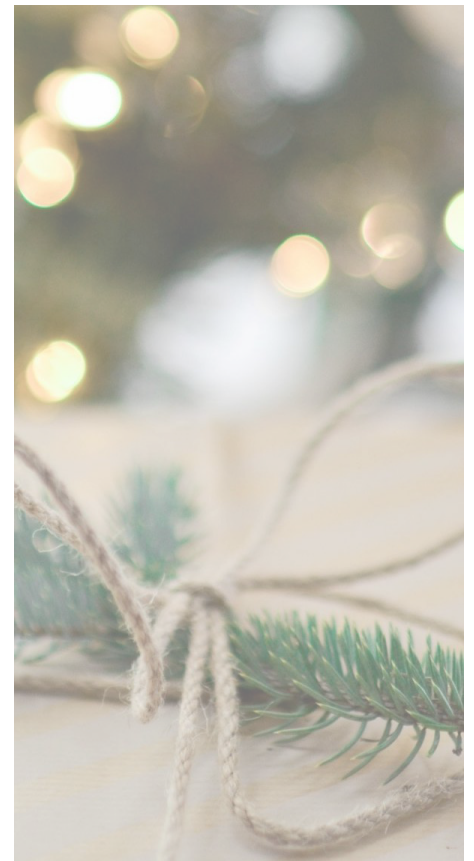
Holiday Bazaar & Craft Show 2022

November 11 & 12, 2022

It is hard to believe that we are only 13 months away from the second Holiday Bazaar and Craft Show. We have begun to get crafters for this event. If anyone goes to a craft show or event and finds a crafter that would be a good fit for St. Jude's, please get their card, fill them in a little on the event, and share this information with the Co-Chairs.

We also are looking for team leaders for this event. If you're willing to be a part of this, please let us know. If you have questions about the event feel free to talk with any of the co-chairs: Nancy Day, Lynn Hopper or Ron Trimmer.

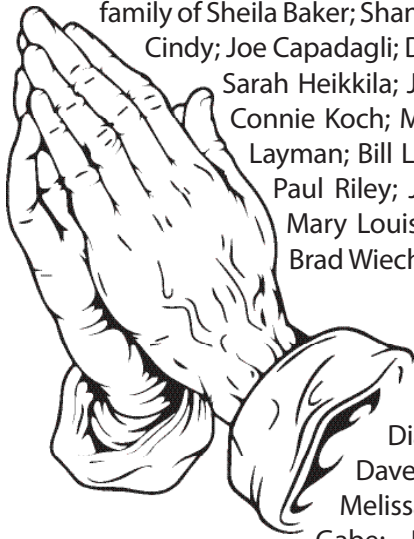
Each month we will keep you updated on this event.



PRAYER LIST

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for 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.; 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; the family of Tim; 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:

October 3 - Harry Eiferle; Larry & Pam Elder; Bonnie Ensign

October 10 - Rebecca Ensign; Josephine Feijoo; Mary Felix

October 17 - Gaye Lynn Foor; Greg & Kris Forsyth; Leigha Forsyth

October 24 - Amy Freeman; Bill & Marcia Freeman; David, Lynn, Gabrielle & Erica Freeman

October 31 - Mark & Pat Freeman; Matt & Linda Freeman; Michael Wolos



October Birthdays

- 2nd – Lisa Cronk
– Jerry Rucker
- 5th – Kim Alexander
- 9th – Kris Forsyth
- 10th – Nancy Day
- 15th – Michele Peters
- 16th – Terri Hutchins
- 17th – Evan Koch
- 18th – Sue Reilly
- 22nd – Beth Harvey
– Ron Chambers
- 26th – Dot Dowlan
– Mark Jagos

October Anniversaries

- 5th – Dave & Tracie Little
(8 years)
- 17th – Bill & Marcia Freeman
(69 years)
- 20th – Mark & Pat Freeman
(41 years)
– Jeff & Jennifer Koch
(18 years)





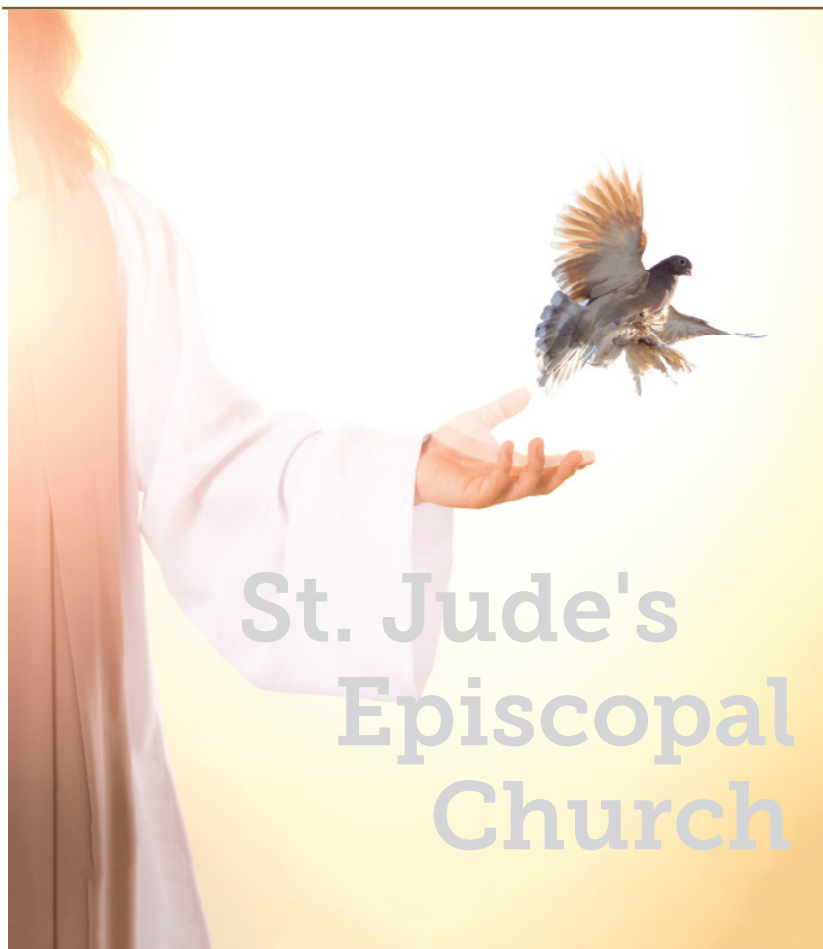
St. Jude's Episcopal Church

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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