

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

MARCH 2023... OUR 165TH YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

106 East Elizabeth St.
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St. Jude's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Judy Marinco, Deacon
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Administrative Assistant
Liz Sailus

Office Hours:
Mondays & Wednesdays:
9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tuesdays & Thursdays:
9:00 a.m.-Noon

Minister of Music
Marlene J. Weston
810-658-2683

SUNDAY SERVICES:
Sunday In-Person Worship
(also livestreamed on Facebook Live)
10:30 a.m.

Thoughts from the Senior Warden

During the Lenten Season, we are on a journey with Jesus preparing ourselves for Easter. It is a walk of love into the experience of transforming our lives. It is an appropriate time to reflect on our Spiritual journey and to look forward into the future.

We need to think big, dream big, and not just to settle for being comfortable. We need to maximize our tools, talents, gifts and the potential to grow. We know change is not necessarily fun and yet we know that growth requires change.

We as a parish continue to pray for our Search Committee who has been working hard and long to secure a new priest for St. Jude's. I ask that each of you include them in your daily prayers as they continue the process.

I ask you also to pray for your Vestry as they meet to handle the business of the parish. I also ask that you pray for those others that continue to go the extra mile behind the scenes: our supply priests; our Deacon, Judy; and our Organist, Marlene.

Our parish is so blessed. We have completed one year now through our transition for a new priest and I believe we as a parish have done it

together because we are there for one another.

Lent helps us to find a deeper relationship with God. May you all be a part of this journey as we prepare for Easter.

Yours in Christ,
Ron Trimmer

The Vestry asks for your daily prayers to include the following:
Almighty God, look graciously on the people of St. Jude's Episcopal Church. Be with us and lead us as we seek a priest for our church. We ask your direction and guidance for those who shall choose our new spiritual leader that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Grant us perception, faithfulness, and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all our deliberations. Grant us also the desire and the ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted us with this process. Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



March Birthdays

- 2nd Mary Louise Susalla
- 8th Carol Pettipher
- 9th Sophia Chambers
- 10th David Chambers
Brian Goss
Dan Harvey
- 14th Ella Koch
- 18th Rex Harris
- 19th Rosiland Burroughs
- 23rd Bonnie Ensign
Gabriella Pennington
- 31st Francine Rucker

March Anniversaries

- 6th Rex & Judi Harris (58th)
- 14th Bob & Terri Hutchins (59th)
- 16th Liz & Sean Sailus (4th)

Daylight Savings Time

Sunday, March 12!
Remember to
"spring ahead"
one hour.



Nursery

The nursery downstairs is now open each Sunday for parents who would like to take their children downstairs during the service. We have wifi in our downstairs so you can stream the service from Facebook on your phone or tablet if you wish.

MUSIC NOTES

This year, March falls entirely within Lent. These Sundays incorporate beloved events from the life and teachings Jesus. We will hear Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus that includes the beloved John 3:16: *God so Loved the World.*

Through the story of the healing of the blind man, we have the picture of Christ bringing light and salvation into the world darkened by sin. *I want to walk as a child of the light* illustrates this.

We conclude March with the raising of Jesus' friend, Lazarus, from the dead. *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* and *Hail, thou once despised Jesus* relate to this theme. Have a blessed month.

Marlene Weston

Notice of Retirement

Please accept this letter as formal notice of my retirement as Music Director of St. Jude's Episcopal Church effective after worship service on Sunday, June 4, 2023. This decision has not come easily or without some sadness. I began my ministry on September 1, 1996, under the rectorship of the Rev. Elizabeth Morris Downie. These years have seen much growth and variety in the worship at St. Jude's. There have been many changes in the personnel of the choir, but its principal purpose of leading worship remains the same. It was Rev. Downie's suggestion to form a handbell choir. It has been my privilege to direct this fine group.

I have so enjoyed leading the musicians here. They are dedicated and talented. They may not always agree with what I may request of them to do, but they come through. I will miss every one of them.

When I arrived, no records had been kept on choir anthems or hymns. There are now records on all of these that can be referenced. It has been my pleasure to create most of the music that is reproduced in the bulletins with music notation software on my computer.

St. Jude's has a rich history of choirs and choral music. The choral library was already very fine, and I was able to expand and update it while keeping the traditional music of the past that is timeless.

St. Jude's is blest with a fine organ. My colleagues agree! It possesses the correct sounds to lead the congregation very well. It has been my privilege to be the caretaker of it.

I played my first church service as an organist in November of 1970. That is a career of over 52 years! This past 27 years at St. Jude's is the longest time I have worshiped at one church in my life. The friendships and experiences here are priceless and make this decision all the more difficult, but it is time.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Music Director of St. Jude's. I will assist in any way I can during this transition.

Soli Deo Gloria! To God alone the glory!

Marlene Weston



What is a Vigil?

To be on a vigil is to be wakeful for a purpose. To the ancient Romans, that could be to stand guard, spy on the activities of a possible enemy, or prepare for a holy occasion. Originally, the desire to take part in the holy occasion is so strong that you can't wait for it to happen, which means you're so full of determination that waiting and getting ready is all you can do, to the neglect of sleep or food. You don't want to miss a second of it.

Many congregations, following their Maundy Thursday liturgy and stripping of the altar, hold a vigil, a watch, until noon on Good Friday.

"Could you not keep awake one hour?" were the words of Jesus in reproach to his followers in the first Gethsemane. Ever since, his disciples of subsequent generations have attempted to do better, and in some small way to make up what was lacking in the first bunch.

We will be offering a time of vigil again this year from 9 p.m. on Maundy Thursday until noon on Good Friday. You are invited to participate from home. There will be a sign up online for those who choose to participate online and on the bulletin board in Vandenberg Hall on Sundays. The link is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084daeac23a0fe3-at-home#/>

If you wish to participate in our prayer watch, reading portions of the Psalms or any of the Gospels of the readings

for Holy Week could be used. For some people, participating for an hour at a vigil is a daunting task. An hour can seem like a long time to spend in prayer. It isn't meant to be easy or routine. It is a time to be in conversation with God. While it may be a challenge, it can be a wonder-filled, grace-filled blessing.

It is a beautiful custom, one where it is possible to feel an added weight in the air. In essence we are asked to accompany Jesus to the Garden and console him during his great agony. All one needs for prayer on this sacred night is to simply imagine the scene and enter into the sacred night before Jesus' death on the cross. It is extremely powerful to imagine being there with Jesus in the Garden, as he prepares to sacrifice himself for our sins.

Judy Marineo

Resources:

1. *Faith Building: A Ministry of Virginia Theological Seminary. A portion of this article is adapted from "Times and Seasons: Creating Transformative Worship Throughout the Year" by Richard Giles (Church Publishing, 2008).*
2. *Aleteia, Philip Kosloski, 3/29/21*

A Voice from the Past

The church email received the following which we thought some members would appreciate if we passed on (with permission, of course):

I was rector of St. Jude's in the 70's. I have great memories of my time there. I am now retired, but still active in various places. I will be praying for you as you choose a new rector. From your information on the website, it looks like you are doing great ministry in both the community and diocese.

Peace and blessings,
Sid+

Online Morning Prayer Services Ending

After three years of providing a weekly Online Morning Prayer Service, our team has decided to take a break. We wish to thank all of you have faithfully prayed with us on Wednesday mornings.

Our last service was held on Wednesday March 1, 2023 with The Revs. Judy and Mike Marino.

Other Episcopal churches in our Diocese offer daily online services if you wish to continue to "attend" and pray with other online communities:

Christ Church, Owosso offers daily online Morning Prayer services led by the Rev. Paul Brunell at 9 am:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristEpiscopalOwosso>

St. Dunstan's, Davison offers daily online Evening Compline services at 9 pm:

<https://www.facebook.com/StDunstansDavison>

2023 Holy Week

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday Eucharist

Service @ 10:30 am

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday

Service @ 7 pm

Good Friday

Vigil

4/6 9 pm to

4/7 Noon

Sign up to "keep vigil" from home on line:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084daac23a0fe3-at-home#/>

Friday, April 7

Good Friday Service @ 7 pm

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday Eucharist @ 10:30 am

3rd Annual Craft Show & Holiday Bazaar

Friday, November 10, 2023
Saturday, November 11, 2023

Crafters Needed!

We are renting out tables for crafters to sell their home-made items to patrons.

Proceeds will go toward our elevator fund to build a lift and make our building more accessible to all.

Interested? Contact us!

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

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REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", February 22nd edition

Be Humble Day

He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!
Philippians 2:8



I'm often amused by the unofficial holidays people come up with. February alone has a Sticky Bun Day, a Sword Swallows Day, even a Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day! Today has been labeled Be Humble Day. Universally recognized as a virtue, humility is certainly worth celebrating. But interestingly, this hasn't always been the case.

Humility was considered a weakness, not a virtue, in the ancient world, which prized honor instead. Boasting about one's achievements was expected, and you sought to raise your status, never lower it. Humility meant inferiority, like a servant to a master. But all this changed, historians say, at Jesus' crucifixion. There, the One who was "in very nature God" gave up His divine status to become "a

servant" and "humbled himself" to die for others (Philippians 2:6–8). Such a praiseworthy act forced humility to be redefined. By the end of the first century, even secular writers were calling humility a virtue because of what Christ had done.

Every time someone is praised for being humble today, the gospel is being subtly preached. For without Jesus, humility wouldn't be "good," or a Be Humble Day even thinkable. Christ relinquished His status for us, revealing through all history the humble nature of God.

By Sheridan Voysey

Reflect and Pray

What would the world be like if humility was still a weakness? In what relationships can you imitate Jesus' humility today?

I praise You, Jesus, for being the Humble One. And I desire to humble myself to You today as my only fitting response!

Prayer List

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Prince, our Bishop Provisional; Judy, our Deacon; for the Search Committee and Vestry.

For Al; Bill; Laura; Rita; Kathy & Tom; Todd; Diane; Sue; Barbara & Joe; Cindy; Cathy; Molly; Sue; Linda; Marcia; Gabe; Kathy; Rose; Joan; Rex & Judi; Jim; Jim; Sharon; June; Barbara & Ed; Carl; Sydne; Becky; Laura; Mike; Mary Lou; Randy; Jack; Sherry; Kathy & Tom; Pam; Marsha; Leonard; Ellen; Glenn; Jim; Patti; and Brad.

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:

- March 5** Brian & Barb Goss
Jerry & Joan Graham
- March 12** Dee Grossmann
Rex & Judi Harris
- March 19** Lois Hartranft & Arlo
Dan & Beth Harvey
- March 26** Mary Ellen Hazell
Doug & Diane Hill

Spring Break School Lunch Program

Saturday, March 25, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. Elizabeth St.

Fenton, Michigan

On Saturday, March 25, we will be distributing food to families who need the assistance in the Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden school districts to help cover meals during their kids school break. We need volunteers who are willing to help pack meals on Wednesday, March 22 and many volunteers to help with the distribution itself here at St. Jude's on the 25th. There is a sign up for different jobs on the Outreach board in Vandenberg

Hall. Please consider signing up to help with this wonderful outreach opportunity for our community!

In the past, we have done a cereal drive, but this year, the food bank has plenty of cereal that we can buy for much cheaper than at the stores. So please do NOT bring in cereal this year! What they don't have but we need is pancake mix (the kind that you just have to add water). So please bring in (add water only) pancake mix now through Sunday, March 19!



FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Thank you to those who hosted coffee hour in the month of February: Francine Johnston; Terri Hutchins; Heather Ludwig; Mary Ellen Susalla; Ellen Tripp and Sharon Aldrich.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Vandenberg Hall if you wish to sign up to host a Sunday Coffee Hour.

EASTER FLOWERS



Easter is Sunday, April 9. We will have special spring flowers for the celebration of Easter Holy Eucharist service in the church building. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of these flowers, please get

your donation into the church office by Sunday, April 2.

If you wish your name and a special dedication to be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please make sure you include a note or an altar flower slip (available next to the altar flower sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Vandenberg Hall).



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Church Office: 810-629-5681

www.stjudesfenton.com

VESTRY

Ron Trimmer, Senior Warden

Clay Putnam, Junior Warden

Dee Grossmann, Clerk

Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer

2024

Dee Grossmann

Lynn Hopper

Ron Trimmer

2025

Julie Wood

Lois Hartranft & Arlo

Francine Johnston

Clay Putnam

2026

Bill Anderson

Paul Dolza

Heather Ludwig

Dave Rayner

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Charlie & Francine Johnston

John & Carol Pettipher



St. Jude's
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Church