

# THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

JULY 2023... OUR 165TH YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

## Thoughts from the Senior Warden

For over a year now I have written articles for the Beacon. I have tried to keep our parish informed of the many activities that have happened and those individuals that have kept our parish going without a Rector.

I said it before: St. Jude's is a family, and all are welcomed in our church. As we continue through the transition period and search for a new Rector everyone has stepped up to fill voids where possible. Our parish, I believe, has begun to work on our strengths and not our weaknesses. We have changed or improved areas that we can actually handle.

Yes, there are bright spots here at St. Jude's. At every vestry meeting we always ask the question "Where have we seen God this month?". I am amazed at those moments that are shared. It truly helps all of us to grow in our faith and belief in God. I urge everyone to take time every day and think "where have you seen God in your lives?".

St. Jude's continues to move forward with new happenings. On Sunday, June 18, we welcomed Tyler Morse as our new Music Director. We look forward to what he will bring to our parish through his ministry.

During this past month, St. Jude's

received two financial donations totaling \$20,000.00. This means over the next couple of months, we can begin work on replacing the handicap door entrance and totally repairing the front steps of our church. Other smaller projects are being handled by our amazing property committee.

Thank you to Heather Ludwig and her team for organizing and hosting a blood drive here at St. Jude's on Saturday, June 17. There is always a need for blood and by doing blood drives, we are inviting community into St. Jude's. Look for more blood drives to be scheduled soon.

On Saturday, August 12, our Vestry will be meeting not only for our regular business but also in a retreat to look at where we are and our vision for the future of St. Jude's. Please keep the Vestry in your prayers as they work together to enhance our parish.

May you all have a blessed and safe summer!

*Ron Trimmer*

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WEB:  
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FACEBOOK:  
St. Jude's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Judy Marinco, Deacon  
E-Mail: JAMarinco50@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant**  
Liz Sailus

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

Thursdays:  
9:00 a.m.-Noon

**Minister of Music**  
Tyler Morse  
TylerRMorse@gmail.com

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



## July Birthdays

- 5th Michael Reilly
- 10th Deborah Davies  
Mike Little
- 13th Jerry Graham
- 14th Liz Sailus
- 18th Ron Trimmer
- 20th James Simpson
- 21st Kathy Kortge  
Austin Rayner
- 25th Shirley Gernack
- 28th Bill McDonald  
Tim Norred
- 30th Kathy Hopper  
Nancy Ryan

## July Anniversaries

- 1st Charlie & Francine Johnston  
(45 years)
- 7th Lester & Nancy Jones  
(50 years)
- 12th Doug & Diane Hill (56 years)  
Dave & Denise Rayner  
(49 years)
- 29th Scott & Sandra Smith  
(51 years)



**The church office will be closed the week of the fourth (July 3-7).** We

will reopen Monday, July 10.

If you need assistance, please

contact our administrative assistant by email: stjudechurchfenton106@gmail.com.

If you need pastoral assistance, please contact The Rev. Paul Brunell at (810) 618-3453.

**Have a safe & happy holiday weekend!**

## JUNE COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



Thank you to those who hosted coffee hour in the month of June:

Francine Johnston and everybody else that brought food or helped with some part of Marlene's Potluck Retirement Celebration; The Sailus Family; The Johnstons; The Pettiphers

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. You don't need to anything elaborate. Just maybe a simple snack and coffee.

## Building & Grounds Update



The summer is upon us and your building and grounds team has continued to work and take on tasks to keep St. Jude's looking good and meeting our needs. As mentioned in the Senior Warden's thoughts this month, a lot will be going on.

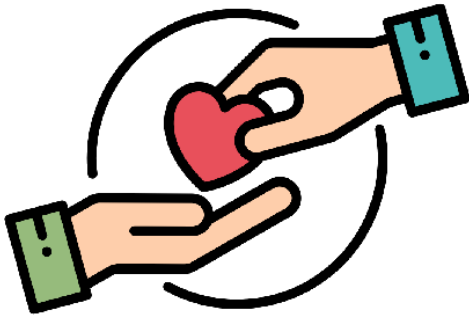
First, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the team of individuals who volunteer in our Memorial Garden; keeping the weeds pulled and the plants cared for.

As referenced in my senior warden report, we have the money thanks to a few

donors, to begin work on the replacement of the handicap entrance door and the rebuild of the front steps of the church. You will be notified of the schedule of both of these projects as work begins by the contractors. If you have questions let Doug Hill know on the handicap door and Dave Little on the front steps.

Saturday, July 10, 2023 at 10:00 am in Vandenberg Hall we will be holding our next properties committee meeting. If you would like to be a part of this amazing group, please join us! We will be discussing future projects and reviewing on-going items.

# Update on RMD Charitable Donations



A few years ago the Financial Committee issued an article describing the requirements and the benefits of using all or part of your annual RMD, (required minimum distribution), of a regular IRA as a donation to a qualified charitable organization. This process is referred to as a QCD, (Qualified Charitable Distribution). At our last meeting we decided it would be beneficial to revisit this process for those who may be interested in this opportunity to fulfill their pledge to St. Jude's and potentially save on their income tax obligation.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, such as St. Jude's, a QCD reduces your taxable income.

Keeping your taxable income lower reduces the amount of income tax you are required to pay.

Also, QCDs don't require that you itemize, which due to the recent tax law changes, means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving.

## Some other considerations:

- RMD is not required until age 72, but you can utilize the QCD option at age 70 ½ from a normal withdrawal from your IRA.
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$100,000.00. This applies to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year. (If, however, you file taxes jointly, your spouse can also make a QCD from his or her own IRA within the same tax year for up to \$100,000.)
- For a QCD to count towards your current year's RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.
- The QCD option only applies to a regular IRA not a Roth IRA.

If this option is something you'd be comfortable with, any financial planner or website of your IRA provider would be able to provide you with the necessary information and resources. Several of our parishioners are currently using this option.

Financial Committee of St. Jude's



## Movie Night

**Wednesday, August 16 at 6:30 PM**

Bring a friend and join us for Popcorn and Candy as we watch the movie "The Jesus Revolution" in Vandenburg Hall! This 2023 movie is the true story of a national spiritual awakening in the early 1970s and its origins within a community of teenage hippies in Southern California. The movie touches on many topics that we have discussed during our Sunday Adult Formation Group, including opening the doors and being welcoming to all. We hope you will stay afterwards to discuss the movie.

## Blood Drive

St. Jude's held its first blood drive, in partnership with Versiti Blood Centers of Michigan, on June 17th. The drive was a huge success as we collected 16 pints of blood. Our donors consisted of many people from the Fenton community as well as members of St. Jude's. We are looking to hold our next drive in mid to late September. Once a date has been set, it will be shared with everyone.



# REFLECTIONS

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

## The Power of Voice

*I have put my words in your mouth.*

Jeremiah 1:9



The most powerful orators in history are often those leaders who've used their voices to bring about positive change. Consider Frederick Douglass, whose speeches on abolition and liberty spurred a movement that helped lead to the end of slavery in the United States. What if he'd chosen to be silent? We all possess the capacity to use our voice to inspire and help others, but the fear of speaking out can be paralyzing. In the moments when we feel overwhelmed by this fear, we can look to God, our source of divine wisdom and encouragement.

When God called Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations, he immediately began to doubt his own abilities. He cried out, "I do not

know how to speak; I am too young" (Jeremiah 1:6). But God wouldn't allow Jeremiah's fear to get in the way of his divine calling to inspire a generation through his voice. Instead, He instructed the prophet to simply trust God by saying and doing whatever He commanded (v. 7). In addition to affirming Jeremiah, He also equipped him. "I have put my words in your mouth" (v. 9), He assured him.

When we ask God to show us how He wants to use us, He'll equip us to carry out our purpose. With His help, we can boldly use our voice to make a positive impact on those around us.

**By Kimya Loder**

*Reflect and Pray*

When have you been afraid to use your voice? How might you rely on God's strength and wisdom to speak up?

**Heavenly Father, give me the strength to use the power of my words to influence those around me for the better.**

## Prayer List

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

For Al; Margaret; Bill; Laura; Rita; Kathy & Tom; Todd; Diane; Sue; Barbara & Joe; Cindy; Cathy; Molly; Cory; Dale; Sue; Linda; Marcia; Gabe; Kady; Rose; Joan; Rex & Judi; Jim; Jim; James; Sharon; Mia; June; Barbara & Ed; Carl; Sydne; Becky; Laura; Mike; Mary Lou; Randy; Jack; Sherry; Kathy & Tom; Pam; Marsha; Chet; Leonard; Ellen; Glenn; Jim; Patti; Brad; Vince; Zack; and Shirley Gernack & her family.

**If you have updates or changes to the prayer list, please let Liz in the church office know.**



## Pray for our St. Jude's Family:

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>July 2</b>  | Nancy Mason;<br>Bill McDonald                       |
| <b>July 9</b>  | Pedro Melchor;<br>Jack Mills                        |
| <b>July 16</b> | Ann Minock;<br>Lorraine Moller                      |
| <b>July 23</b> | Tyler Morse;<br>John Morway                         |
| <b>July 30</b> | Tim Norred, Megan<br>Rosa and Audrey;<br>Jill Perry |



## St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. Elizabeth St.

Fenton, MI 48430-2322

Church Office: 810-629-5681

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



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Episcopal  
Church