

# THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

OCTOBER 2023... OUR 165TH YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

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St. Jude's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams,  
Priest-in-Charge  
RevSaw65@gmail.com

The Rev. Judy Marinco, Deacon  
JAMarinco50@gmail.com

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  
Tyler Morse  
TylerRMorse@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICES:

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

## Francis the Saint in Real Life

In the summer of 2016, our family went to Umbria in Italy as a graduation trip for our elder daughter, Margo. One day our host took us to the town of Assisi, famous for the churches founded or inspired by St Francis. He was so beloved during his life, and so quickly declared a saint after his death, that frescoes by artists *who actually met him* still exist. Like this one, which is in the Benedictine abbey of Saint Scholastica, near Rome, where Francis spent time in retreat in 1228!



I'd learned quite a bit about Francis from annual observances of his feast (his date is October 4) with a "Blessing of the Animals" frequently included. Many stories of Francis include his befriending animals and preaching to birds. Famously [he negotiated with a fearsome wolf](#) that was raiding farms around the town of Gubbio, into stopping his attacks if the residents would feed him their scraps instead.

the medieval churches dedicated to Francis and his friend Sr. Clare, and even prayed near his tomb, which is surrounded by those of his first monks. There was a display behind glass of Francis's clothes and sandals that had been made or repaired by Clare. The real things, right there in front of us, nearly 800 years old. We

also drove to the aforementioned Gubbio, with its own sainted bishop whose remains could be viewed under glass. That was a little too real!

A few St Francis facts, as we prepare to celebrate his life and his love for all God's creatures:

- Two of his writings are in the BCP and Hymnal. The prayer "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace" (BCP p. 833) is ascribed to him (I love [this version sung](#) by Sarah McLachlan and friends). "The Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon" which we've

We walked around Assisi, visited

*continued on page 2*

## Francis

continued from page 1

been singing as our "Song of Praise," was adapted a little differently at our [Hymnal's # 400](#).

- During a time of intense prayer, Francis had a vision of Christ and received the *stigmata* – the five wounds of Jesus' crucifixion in his own hands, feet and side. Which would sometimes bleed during the remaining two years of his life! The anonymous portrait at the beginning of this article was done earlier in Francis's life, *sans stigmata*; but later images, such as Cimabue's at right, include the marks. Francis was the first recorded person to get the stigmata, but I can't say I envy him.
- Francis also began the enactment of the nativity scene with live animals (an ox and a donkey) and an empty manger with straw, after visiting Bethlehem. Francis had accompanied



European Crusaders to the Holy Land, and there he realized how very poor Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus had been. As Francis knelt at the scene he put together back home in Italy, onlookers testified that there was an apparition of the Christ Child lying in that manger, whom Francis leaned forward to embrace.

I hope you will enjoy our commemoration of this real person with astonishing traits and mythologized abilities. What we know for sure is that Francis of Assisi turned his town, the church, and the wider world toward a simpler understanding of Christianity, and a greater respect for all God's creatures. No wonder his Franciscan order is still a vibrant understanding of following Jesus; and he serves as the patron saint of animals, ecological efforts, poor people, and his beautiful home country, Italy. And bring your pet for a blessing this Sunday between 12-12:30. I can't promise any miraculous behavior negotiations, but I'll do my best.

*Arrivederci,*  
*Susan* +  
Priest-in-Charge

## Prayer Shawls

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been busy making lap robes and prayer shawls. They are available for anyone... friend, neighbor, or family...and



can be blessed by our Priest. Specially designed cards have been made to give each lap robe or shawl. Let Deb James or Judy Maringo know if you would like one.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (usually at the church but sometimes at someones home). All are welcome to join us!

## Thank you, "Gardening Angels"

The Memorial Garden is being prepared for Fall, led by a dedicated group of parishioners. Special thanks to our Gardening Angels: Kelly C, Francine J, Kathy K, Dave L and Lynne R.

A churchwide **Fall Clean Up** of our grounds is scheduled for **Sunday, October 22** (rain date: Oct. 29) after the 10:30 service. It is perfectly fine to come to worship in your gardening clothes!



O Lord, send us sunshine and helpers on October 22!

## All Saints' Sunday

Sunday, November 5, we will be honoring All Saints' Day. We will also have a Commitment Card In-gathering and a Celebration of God's Abundance. We'll remember the saints who formed our faith and provided for St Jude's ministries in the past; and join together in committing to the future. If you have a loved one who has passed away in the last year and would like for them to be included in the service prayers, please let Rev. Susan or the church office know by October 29th.



## October Birthdays

2nd	Lisa Cronk Jerry Rucker
5th	Kim Alexander
9th	Kris Forsyth
10th	Nancy Day
15th	Michele Peters
16th	Terri Huchins
17th	Evan Koch
18th	Sue Reilly
21st	Jeff Wood
22nd	Beth Harvey Ron Chambers
26th	Dot Dowlan Mark Jagos
30th	Karl Alcorn

## October Anniversaries

5th	Dave & Tracie Little (10 years)
8th	Eric & Susan Williams (29 years)
17th	Bill & Marcia Freeman (71 years)
20th	David & Francine Zick (50 years)

### **Saturday, October 14 there will be a Flu Shot Clinic in Vandenberg Hall beginning at 10 am.**

We are working with Leroy Pharmacy here in Fenton to provide flu shots as well as other vaccinations (like the COVID booster) to members of our community. Please consider coming in (you can walk in or sign up for an appointment time on the bulletin board in the Hall) to get your up to date!

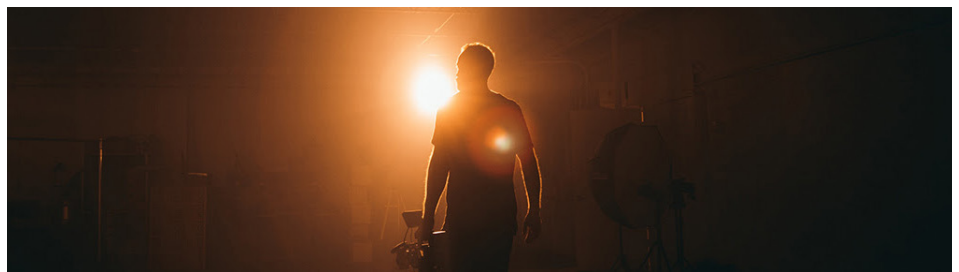
# REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Maringo from "Our Daily Bread", September 20th edition

## Shooting Ourselves in the Foot

*Teacher, "they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."*

Mark 10:35



In 2021, an engineer with the ambition to shoot an arrow farther than anyone in history took aim at the record of 2,028 feet. While lying on his back on a salt flat, he drew back the bowstring of his personally designed foot bow and prepared to launch the projectile to what he hoped would be a new record distance of more than a mile (5,280 feet). Taking a deep breath, he let the arrow fly. It didn't travel a mile. In fact, it traveled less than a foot—launching into his foot and causing considerable damage. Ouch!

Sometimes we can figuratively shoot ourselves in the foot with misguided ambition. James and John knew what it meant to ambitiously seek something good, but for the wrong reasons. They asked Jesus to

"let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory" (Mark 10:37). Jesus had told the disciples they would "sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19:28), so it's easy to see why they made this request. The problem? They were selfishly seeking their own lofty position and power in Christ's glory. Jesus told them that their ambition was misplaced (Mark 10:38) and that "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (v. 43).

As we aim to do good and great things for Christ, may we seek His wisdom and direction—humbly serving others as He did so well (v. 45).

**By Tom Felten**

*Reflect and Pray*

Why can ambition be both good and bad? How can we make it our ambition to serve like Jesus?

**Jesus, I desire to do great things for You, but for the right reasons.**



## Loving Our Liturgy

### A Coffee Hour Discussion on October 15

I'm inviting EVERYONE to stay for about 45 minutes after the service on **Sunday, October 15**, to tell me about St. Jude's worship traditions. I've intentionally not changed much (yet), to get a sense of how our movements, music choices, readings, prayers, announcements, etc. work as a whole experience. Your past and current staff *think* we've put together a meaningful combination, but have we succeeded for *your* Sunday morning to be nurturing? Not every style, hymn or ceremony appeals to every person – that's why we change things from time to time.

On October 15, I'll be asking:

- What you love about our service now;
- What you really miss, that we're not doing now;
- What we might do differently, at least for a season?

Thanks in advance for helping St Jude's worship stay (or become) an important part of your Sunday.

*Rev. Susan*



The date is set for 3rd Annual Craft Show & Holiday Bazaar on here at St Jude's: November 10th and 11th. It will be another year of coming together as a parish inviting the community into our church for food, 50/50 drawings, door prizes, great shopping and fellowship for all.

This year we will have around fifteen crafters from all over the state of Michigan. A couple of regulars and several new ones will join us. Many of our members have helped Heather Ludwig, Lynn Hopper and Ron Trimmer in coming up with recommendations for these crafters.

We are beginning to ask for help in all areas of the show:

- Admissions
- Food Court – see Kathy Hopper
- Church Booth
- Set-up on Friday morning
- Tear-down on Saturday evening

This year, we will be selling soup, cocoa and cookie mixes in a jar at the St. Jude's craft show table. These jars of mixes are similar to what the Youth Group sold several years ago as a fundraiser. There will be a sign up sheet in VandenBergh Hall if you would like to make a jar for the craft show. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Heather Ludwig.

All proceeds from this event will go toward our elevator fund.

If you have any questions, suggestions or if you'd like to help but unsure how, please see Heather Ludwig, Ron Trimmer or Lynn Hopper.

## Fall Blood Drive

The blood drive on September 16th was a great success. We were able to collect 14 units of blood which means we had the opportunity to save 40 lives. Our next drive will be held in January 20, 2024. More information will be shared as we get closer to the drive. **Thank you to all who participated in the blood drive.**

# The Complex World of Senior Living

Navigating the complex world of senior living options can be a daunting task for families seeking the best care for their loved ones. Assisted Living Locators of NW Oakland is a beacon of hope for families in the Tri-County area, offering invaluable assistance in finding the ideal senior living arrangements. With a commitment to compassion and expertise, this service is a lifeline for families during challenging times.

Assisted Living Locators of NW Oakland is not just a business for me; it's a personal mission. I understand the emotional and logistical challenges that come with finding suitable senior living options. Having experienced this journey firsthand with my mother, I was inspired to provide a service that eases the burden for others. The mission: to help families find the best senior living solutions at no cost. I offer a comprehensive range of services designed to match seniors with their ideal living situations. Whether it's assisted living, memory care, independent living, or any other senior housing option, I'm well-equipped to provide tailored recommendations based on each family's unique needs.

## 1. In-Depth Consultations:

The process begins with a thorough consultation

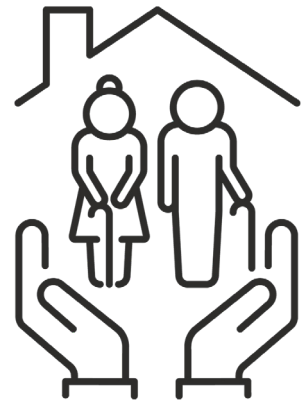
where families can openly discuss their requirements, preferences, and budget. This information is crucial in crafting personalized recommendations.

**2. Extensive Database:** Armed with a vast database of senior living facilities in the Tri-County area, Assisted Living Locators of NW Oakland is adept at identifying the most suitable options. I consider factors such as location, amenities, medical care, and social activities.

**3. Tours and Visits:** I arrange facility tours and visits, ensuring families have firsthand knowledge of the senior living communities. This transparency allows families to make informed decisions.

**4. Advocacy and Support:** Beyond just providing options, I serve as an advocate for families. I negotiate on behalf of clients to secure the best rates and ensure all questions and concerns are addressed.

One of the most remarkable



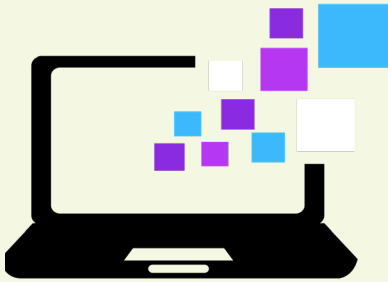
aspects of what I do is that my services are entirely free for families. The business is compensated by the senior living communities I work with, so families can benefit from expert guidance without any financial burden. This commitment to providing free assistance underscores their genuine dedication to helping families during difficult times.

In a world where senior living options can be overwhelming, Assisted Living Locators of NW Oakland shines as a light of guidance, compassion, and expertise. My personal mission to assist families in finding the best senior living solutions at no cost is a testament to my commitment to the community. With a comprehensive range of services and a team of caring professionals, this business is making a meaningful difference in the lives of seniors and their families in the Fenton/Linden/Holly area. If you would like more information, please see me in church or call me at 810-444-2378.

*Bill Anderson*

## Website Updates

**We NEED Your Help!**



We are going to update and re-do our church website and we need YOUR help. There will be a meeting with Liz (our administrative assistant) and anybody interested on **Wednesday, October 11 at 7 pm.**

It will be a hybrid meeting so you are welcome to join in by coming to the church or you can join us virtually via Zoom.

We're going to go over our website and try and decide what we want the community and people who look at our church online to see. What is special about St. Jude's? What is important to us? What do we want to share with those looking for a new church home?

You DO NOT need to be a "tech-y" to give your input and we'd like as many members of the church as possible to give their opinions.

If you can make it in person or virtually, please just show up or let Liz in the church office know that you need the Zoom link to join us online and she'll make sure you receive it.

## Thoughts from the Senior Warden

Believe it or not, I am excited to write this month's thoughts. We just finished celebrating the Season of Creation. I have a lot to celebrate as well. 2023 has been a truly interesting one. Our Vestry, the search committee, the building and grounds committee, our clergy and other teams and staff really have stepped up.

So far this year we brought in a new Music Director, Tyler Morse, with the retiring of Marlene Weston and our Search Committee, along with our Diocese and Vestry, brought the Reverend Susan Williams on board.

Changes are happening with our building and grounds. Thanks to a couple of donors we have our front steps repaired, and a new handicap door is being installed in October at the Memorial Garden entrance. Our sound system is being improved for our live streaming so those at home can truly be a part of our service.

Personally, my thanks go out to the St. Jude's family for all the cards and notes and prayers. During this time, several of us have health issues and our new Priest and parish prayers have been there for all of us. Many reached out to offer help, assistance if needed. St. Jude's is truly a giving and caring community. I am so blessed to be a part of it.

As we continue through the year we will continue working on old projects as well be given the opportunity to try new things. Among them is welcoming new visitors into our church. Please invite a friend or neighbor to join us in worshipping our Lord.

May the Lords Blessings be always with you.

*Ron Trimmer*

## SEPTEMBER COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



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

Dee Grossmann; The Cronks; The Johnstons; and everyone who contributed toward the potluck before CROP Walk on 9/24.

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.



# Many Ways to Give with Gratitude

"How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me?" asks Psalm 116:10. At a recent meeting of the Finance and Investment Committee, we made a list of ways most often used, and there are a lot! Are there any we've missed?

1. Instruct your bank to send St Jude's a regular payment. It comes as a check, with no fees to us.
2. Set up a regular online transfer from your account to St Jude's. Ask Liz in the office for help with this (VANCO charges us a small amount)
3. Bring or send us a hand-written check; with or without a numbered Giving Envelope
4. Use a credit card through our website [www.stjudesfenton.com](http://www.stjudesfenton.com). Click on Donate at the top, and then option 1.
5. Transfer funds directly from your IRA, tax free as a part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Note: RMD's are required after age 73, but tax-free transfers are allowable once you have reached 70 -1/2.
6. Text STJUDESCHURCH to 73256, followed by your gift amount, for a one-time donation.
7. Put cash into the offering plate, preferably paper! (No receipt is possible without an envelope)
8. Instruct your brokerage to transfer securities or other investments, should this be advisable at tax time. Ask Clay P. for more info on this. (We sell all such gifts as soon as practicable.)

NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE but we'd like your opinion:

PayPal donations

Venmo donations

Soon we'll be sending out a lovely brochure, encouraging you to commit your support for St Jude's ministries in 2024. We hope you will choose to try any of the above. Thank you for your generosity in the past, making St Jude's such a blessing to one another and to the community around us.

*Rev. Susan*

The Finance & Endowment Committee



## Prayer List

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan; for Susan, our Priest-in-Charge; for Judy, our Deacon; and for the Vestry.

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

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



We are joining with other Fenton Area Churches to pack boxes for Rise Against Hunger on **Sunday, November 19 from 4 - 6 pm** at Fenton United Methodist Church. More information coming. You can donate by going to [the website for the Fenton Ministerial Group](#).



## 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



St. Jude's  
Episcopal  
Church