

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

DECEMBER 2023... OUR 165TH 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 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.

Happy New Year!

Which would be... this Sunday? Oh, you've heard this before. The First Sunday of Advent (that's this one coming up) begins the new liturgical year, and a bunch of things always change. Here is a glimpse of what you can expect to see, pray and sing differently, in our Sunday worship.

Lighting the candles of our Advent Wreath: You will see right away that the wreath is back. This Advent we will light, week to week, Blue-Blue-Pink-Blue; and White on Christmas Eve. I've returned Pink to the line-up because I enjoy the tradition of "Gaudete" or "Rejoice" Sunday, an old tradition for the Third Sunday of Advent when a reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians was customary: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!"

Churches that use purple hangings in Advent tend to use



purple candles, instead of blue. But we have blue hangings, as you will see.

Some churches light their pink candle on the last Sunday of Advent, when the Gospel reading is the Virgin Mary's story. There are different traditions to name the four candles:

Prophecy Candle – Bethlehem Candle – Shepherd's Candle – Angel's Candle; or more simply, Hope – Peace – Joy – Love. I like: Watch – Prepare – Rejoice – Receive.

The vestments and hangings are Blue: St. Jude's is blessed to have both blue and purple sets; and purple gets used in Lent, in most Episcopal churches; and often in Advent, too. So why blue? Dark blue is the color of the night sky, where the smallest of lights is visible and gives hope. Medium blue is the traditional color for the Virgin Mary, as you can see in almost any painting of her. Which shade of blue would you say we have, and how does it color your understanding of Advent?

Assigning colors to a season is relatively recent, ie since the

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Happy New Year!*continued from page 1*

1500's. In the old-old days, a wealthy cathedral might have more than one set of hangings, but most churches would not. Later, as a variety of fabrics became more accessible, English cathedrals like Salisbury, York and Westminster chose a palette for the seasons; and neighboring churches copied them.

Distinctive readings and music for our expectations: What age and mood of Jesus are we anticipating? We begin Advent with a vision of his return, the "parousia" at the end of the age, when Christ will come back as our judge and king. We got a flavor of that in last week's Gospel; this week, the descriptions are even more dire! Then we get his first adult appearance, heralded by John the Baptist. Finally, we get to anticipate Jesus' birth into the family of Mary and Joseph of Nazareth.

The worldwide Church thinks about Jesus' first coming and second coming during Advent, simultaneously. It's too easy to anticipate just a cuddly baby in a manger (or wherever) and ignore the bold images of his return as he checks up on us. Try to hold them in tension throughout the season, especially at gift-giving opportunities.

Ringin' in the changes: With the help of our Ushers, we will make generous use of our tower bell to let the world know we are at worship and they are welcome, too!

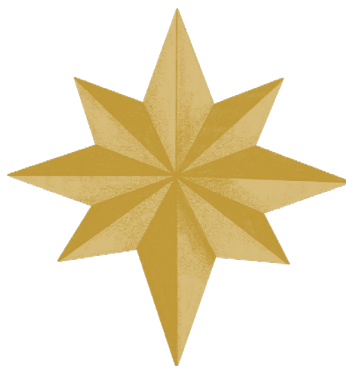
Historically, church bells alerted townspeople and, especially, farm workers that it was time for prayer. If they could make it over to the church, great! If not, they

could join in prayer right where they were. "The changes," in bell terminology, are a cyclical pattern of ringing all the bells in every combination when a church has a set of them. Remember calculating "permutations" in algebra class? Me neither. But there can be a lot, depending on how many bells are in the belfry!

Seasonal adjustments: You put away the tee-shirts and brought out the sweaters. In liturgy, a change of liturgical season is an opportunity to adjust the "how, who, and what" of worship. *How shall we emphasize the Advent Wreath?* A song and ritual will accompany the lighting of its candles. *Whose needs get remembered in our prayers?* The Prayers of the People and the Eucharistic Prayer itself will reflect the messages of justice and fulfillment in Advent. *What might be done more efficiently?* After a few months, I've noticed some ways we might improve our procedures, such as during the Offertory / Altar preparation. *Can we change it if we don't like it?* Yes! Our new Worship Committee will help me get your feedback and plan future adjustments. Epiphanytide, our next season, begins January 7.

I look forward to sharing the beauty, expectation and music of Advent with you.

Rev. Susan
Priest-in-Charge



Cookie Coffee Hour

December 17 is going to be "Cookie Sunday." If you would like to contribute some of your Christmas cookies/goodies to the coffee hour that day, you can bring them in any time between now and then. Just put the cookies in a freezer-type plastic bag labeled "Cookie Sunday" and leave them in the freezer in the kitchen. Our Christmas elves will take care of putting them out for coffee hour.

Advent Coin Folders

We have begun to collect money for our annual advent quarter folders. They are available to pick up in the library. There are folders for \$10 and \$20 amounts. You can fill with quarters, put in cash or write a check, whatever is easiest for you! The donations this year will go toward buying socks for Crossover Ministries.



Prayer List

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

For Al; Margaret; Bill; Todd; Diane; Sue; Barbara & Joe; Cindy; Cathy; Molly; Cory; Dale; Sue; Linda; Marcia; Gabe; Kady; Rose; Joan; Rex & Judi; Jim; Bob; Jim; Sharon; Mia; June; Ed; Carl; Sydne; Laura; Liz; Mike; Mary Lou; Pedro; James; 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.

NOVEMBER COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

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

Lynne Ronthi; Sue Premo;
Heather Ludwig; Michele Peters

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.

Nativity Play

Jesus' birth and childhood demonstrate that God has always believed that being human is Very Good (ref. the creation story, Genesis 1:27,31). What games did Jesus play?

The benefits of play are not for children only. Creativity, social interaction, silliness – all nourish us in mind, body and spirit. Let's play! Stay after worship on the three "normal" Sundays of Advent (Dec. 3, 10, 17), for refreshments and creative fun in Vandenberg Hall. Related to Advent, of course.

This Sunday, December 3: Everyone gets a Liturgical Calendar and a paper Advent Wreath to color, paint, decorate, take home. Learn why the seasons of the church year include color changes. Never be caught wearing the wrong vestments to church again! **Children's Table** with crafts for St Nicholas Day (Dec. 6).

December 10: Decorate the Jesse Tree. Get to know Jesus' family tree, as emphasized by Isaiah 11:1-5, "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." as we create ornaments from their stories.



Back in the Middle Ages, a familiar theme [for stained-glass windows](#) was the fruitful vine or tree, springing from the loins of Jesse, whose youngest son was a shepherd boy named David. We'll create our own version of a Jesse Tree Window in Vandenberg Hall. **Children's Table** with take-home ornaments to color.

December 17: People Bingo! In today's Gospel, religious people gather around John the Baptist and ask "Who are you?" Learn fun facts about your fellow parishioners, as you munch on home-made cookies on "Cookie Sunday" in Vandenberg Hall. **Children's Table** with a Christmas Cookie activity.

Susan +

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to contribute toward poinsettias to decorate our church for Christmas, please get your money into the church office by **Tuesday, December 19.** All of the people who donate will have their names printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. If you would like to include a dedication, please put a note with your donation. Thank you.



Our 3rd Annual Craft Show & Holiday Bazaar

Our parish held the 3rd Annual Craft Show on the second weekend in November. Our chairpersons, Heather Ludwig, Lynn Hopper and Ron Trimmer, were happy with the event.

Wares from a variety of thirteen crafters and the church booth which included booth of creative jars with various types of mixes such as muffins, cookies, candies, soups etc. as well as food concessions were available to be purchased.

This year we grossed \$2,791.00

less expenses of \$603.97. All of our profits will go toward our elevator and lift fund.

Our expenses were up this year because we had to replace our banner and the cost of various ads. We promoted St. Jude's Church both in the advertising and the distribution of pens and a welcome letter and information about St. Jude's.

All the crafters did well and felt that members of our parish were friendly and welcoming. All had said they want to come back next year and

wanted us to add more crafters.

Our chairpersons want to say thank you to all the volunteers that both prepared the church for the event and then came back and put everything back and ready for service on Sunday morning.

Mark your calendar now for the second weekend in November 2024 for our 4th Annual Craft Show and Holiday Bazaar.

Ron Trimmer

Thoughts from the Senior Warden

Gosh, it is hard to believe we are starting the new church year. Advent is upon us and we begin to prepare for the birth and the coming of our Lord. It is an exciting time and a thankful time.

The year 2023 has been a difficult time for me due to issues with my health and the challenges we faced here at St. Jude's. But as I have said in many of my letters, I, or should I say we, are very fortunate to be part of such an involved and caring parish. So many have stepped up and handled many of the roles both in the Vestry and building & grounds and even handling many of the duties related to the Craft and Holiday Bazaar. It truly is a village.

Liz, our Administrative Assistant, certainly kept the church running. Our

New Priest, Reverend Susan Anslow Williams, came aboard and was up and running on the first day. Many of us were in need of her pastoral duties right off the bat. We were fortunate to have Tyler Morse join us as our Music Director in August and bring music to our Sunday morning worship.

We count our blessings when two donors contributed funding to replace the crumbling steps at the main entrance and to replace a rotting door replacing it with a 42" Handicap door at the Memorial Garden entrance. Again many thanks go to David Little and Doug Hill for taking on these two projects and seeing them through to the end. Kelly Cronk has been working on the railing for the front steps and we hope to have them in by Christmas. Another thanks to Greg Forsyth in working with the wiring

for our sound system to improve our live streaming.

I wish all well during Advent and hope everyone has a Merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

Ron Trimmer



Christmas Families Giving Opportunities for You in December 2023

Dear St. Jude's caring and sharing family,

Your Outreach Committee is reaching out to you again this Christmas to provide gifts for families in our community including our Holly Group Home to help them celebrate their Christmas.

Things change every year, and this year has been no different! With your help and support, we can still reach out to those in need. There will be more detailed information in the December Beacon, Weekly Beacons, and announcements in church.

We are again asking for gift cards allowing each family the opportunity to purchase and wrap gifts for their own family. This year we are asking for donations of gift cards from Walmart, Meijer's and Target. We are hoping to give each person \$100 dollars to spend. Please submit your gift cards in a sealed envelope showing the cash value, and your name.

If you would like to purchase a gift instead of a gift card, the Outreach Committee will provide a list of ideas/suggestions for the Holly Group Home residents. This list will be posted in the Weekly and Monthly Beacon, as well as on the bulletin board in Vandenburg Hall. It would be great if you could review the list and call Mike and Judy Marinco (810/629-8074) to sign up for the gift or gifts you would like to purchase.

Please wrap the Group Home gift(s), and place securely on the outside of your gift a tag with the resident's name. Bring your donations to the church by our deadline of Sunday, December 12th. If you need to make special arrangements to drop off your donation, please call one of the Christmas Family Committee Members listed below.

In addition, this year the Outreach Committee is ordering Christmas Food Boxes from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan to give to each family that comes to the Basic Needs Pantry the first Saturday in December. These boxes contain canned goods along with frozen meats that can be used to prepare Christmas dinner and additional meals. The cost is approximately \$25 per box.

As an alternative to purchasing a gift(s) or gift cards, you may prefer to donate money to help our Christmas Families. If so, please write a check to St. Jude's, and note on the check memo line: "Christmas Families." Your check can be mailed to the church office. Donations could also be made [online](#), make sure the fund is marked "Christmas Families".

Thank you for your generosity in this always-present need to help others in our community!

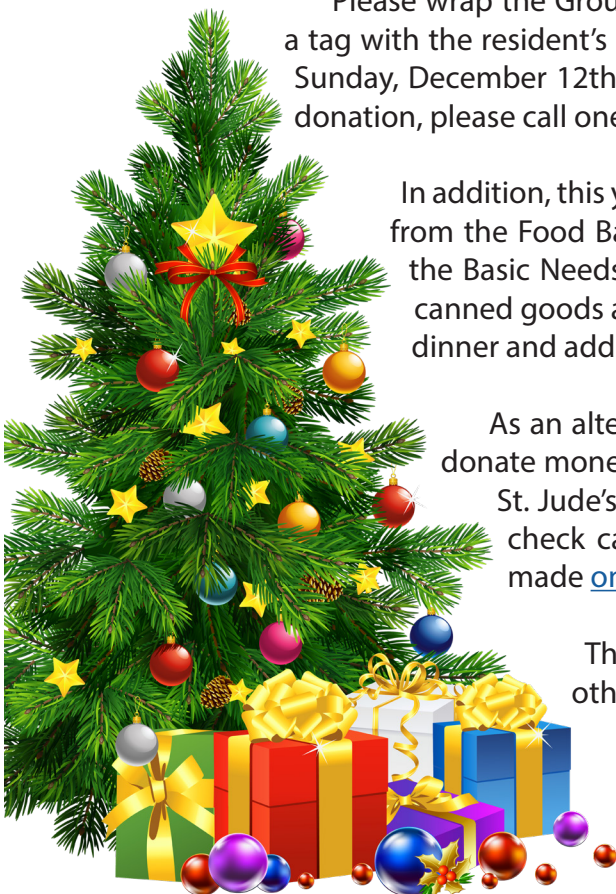
Christmas Family Committee Members

Sharon Aldrich – 248-249-4344

Mike and Judy Marinco – 810-629-8074

John and Carol Pettipher – 248-255-2260

Dave and Denise Rayner – 248-459-1976





December Birthdays

- 1st John Pettipher
- 4th Haryden Chambers
Mark Freeman
- 7th Gabrielle Freeman
Josephine Feijoo
- 8th Beth Jagos
- 15th Kelly Cronk
- 16th Rylan Jones
- 30th Nicole Jagos

December Anniversaries

- 1st David & Lynn Freeman
(27 years)
- 3rd Doug & Michelle Gangwer
(23 years)
- 6th Ron & Catherine Trimmer
(55 years)
Mark & Beth Jagos (25 years)
- 19th Paul & Sarah Dolza
(41 years)
Kris & Greg Forsyth
(36 years)
- 28th Scott & Sharon Michael
(21 years)
- 30th Dave & Debbie James
(46 years)
The Rev. H. Wayne &
Katherine Knotts (51 years)

REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Maringo from "Our Daily Bread", November 8th edition

Knowing the Shepherd's Voice

His sheep follow him because they know his voice.

John 10:4



When I was a boy living on a ranch in Tennessee, I spent glorious afternoons roaming with my best friend. We'd hike into the woods, ride ponies, visit the rodeo arena, and venture into the barn to watch the cowboys work the horses. But whenever I heard my dad's whistle—that clear sound slicing through the wind and all the other clatter—I'd immediately drop whatever I was doing and head home. The signal was unmistakable, and I knew I was being called by my father. Decades later, I'd still recognize that whistle.

Jesus told His disciples that He was the Shepherd, and His followers were the sheep. "The sheep listen to [the shepherd's] voice," He said. "He calls his own sheep by name and

leads them out" (John 10:3). In a time when numerous leaders and teachers sought to confuse Christ's disciples by asserting their authority, He declared that His loving voice could still be heard clearly, more distinctly than all the others. "His sheep follow [the shepherd], because they know his voice" (v. 4).

May we be careful as we listen for Jesus' voice and avoid foolishly dismissing it, for the fundamental truth remains: The Shepherd speaks clearly, and His sheep hear His voice. Perhaps through a verse of Scripture, the words of a believing friend, or the nudge of the Spirit—Jesus speaks, and we do hear.

By Winn Collier

Reflect and Pray

How do you think you've complicated hearing God's voice? What's the Shepherd saying to you today?

Dear God, I need to be reminded that You're speaking, and that I do hear You. Help me pay attention. Help me to listen and respond.

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Advent & Christmas

CELEBRATING ADVENT

SERVICES | DEC. 3, 10, 17, 24 AT 10:30 AM

NATIVITY PLAY FAMILY ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING SERVICES

COMMUNITY BLUE CHRISTMAS

SERVICE | DEC. 19 AT 7 PM

ALL FAITH TRADITIONS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

CHRISTMAS EVE

SERVICE | DEC. 24 AT 8 PM

WITH CHORAL PRELUDE & SPECIAL BITS FOR CHILDREN

HOLY INNOCENTS

SERVICE | DEC. 28 AT 7 PM

WITH PRAYERS ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST CHILDREN

Epiphany

SERVICE | JAN. 7 AT 10:30 AM

BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS

WE WILL PROVIDING PRACTICAL BABY GEAR FOR BABIES IN NEED
IN OUR AREA - MORE INFORMATION TO COME

106 E. ELIZABETH ST., FENTON, MI
(810) 629-5681 STJUDESFENTON.COM





St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. Elizabeth St.

Fenton, MI 48430-2322

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
Episcopal
Church