# THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

NOVEMBER 2023... OUR 165TH YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

106 East Elizabeth St. Fenton, MI 48430-2322 810-629-5681

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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.

## **Gratitude** is in the Air

The beautiful fall colors and few days of warmth last week really made me feel grateful to God. I know that it shouldn't take feats of nature to turn my thoughts in that direction... but they help! I guess that's why I wouldn't want to move to a place without seasons. Each change in Michigan brings reasons to thank the Creator of such an intricately-connected world of forests, flowers, and crops; critters hiding or digging up their food stores, birds getting ready to migrate (or not); lakes of all sizes, changing their colors as they reflect back the sky and shore; and that fallen-leaf scent that triggers memories of raking them up and jumping in.

Many studies of people's emotions, particularly depression, have found that the simple action of Giving Thanks (to God, to another person or creature, to the sunlight...) promotes good feelings and better health. Somehow our heart rate calms, our stress levels drop, and our grouchiness subsides when we start to notice and name our blessings; and give thanks for them. Taking action based on a sense of gratitude (rather than of duty, indebtedness or guilt) is similarly helpful.

One could argue that if pledging \$\_\_ to St Jude's out of a sense of

obligation (*I'm paying my dues*) yields the same result as pledging from gratitude (*I receive so many blessings here*), who cares what's the emotion behind it?

I think God cares. Over and over again, Jesus insists God's goodness and love are the best motivation, not following laws (even good laws), about how to act. His arguments with the Pharisees and legal scholars often stemmed from a conflict of priorities, as illustrated by Jesus doing something or helping someone on the sabbath. This Sunday (Nov. 5) we'll hear Jesus scramble everyone's assumptions by listing who really are the "blessed" - the poor in spirit, the mourners, the merciful ones. They will be the first to realize God's goodness in their lives.

When you fill out your Pledge / Commitment Card this week (if you haven't yet), lean into the gratitude. It's good for your heart and soul. And that type of generosity is what changes the world.

Grateful to be with you,

Susan + Priest-in-Charge

# Building & Grounds Update

This year continues to be a busy one for our Properties Committee. They continue to work together to accomplish many projects behind the scenes to keep our building and grounds cared for.

Greg Forsyth and his associates are handling the cable running from our camera to our sound system. This will definitely improve our sound to the live streaming of our Sunday Services.

Kelly Cronk has been working with our mechanical vendor to assure the furnaces are being maintained to keep the building warm this winter. He is also our representative to work with Longevity who will be keeping our parking lot and walks cleared during the winter months.

A big thanks to Armstrong Contracting and David Little for coordinating the project to replace the front steps. Again a big thanks to Bill Anderson and his team for selecting the contractor to replace the railings on the steps. The new railings should be in place by Thanksgiving. Kelly Cronk has been our representative working with the contractor.

Doug Hill has been working with the door company to replace our

handicap door. It is now complete and in place!

Our team continues to work on the many ongoing and needed projects. The largest one now is trying to determine if we should be doing a lift or should replace the handicap ramp. The cost for either is high and trying to find funding difficult. It is estimated a ramp would cost about \$30,000.00 in today's market. We are trying to prioritize our projects.

Being that we are now closing in on the end of the year, and folks are looking where they might consider a donation. Your consideration to donate to the Building and Grounds Custodial fund would be a good choice.

Again a big thank you to all the volunteers that contribute their time in keeping the Memorial Garden and the church grounds looking great.

Ron Trimmer Senior Warden Building & Grounds Chair



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 sign up to help on the Outreach board in Vandenbergh Hall.

# Sacrament of Healing on November 19

Many people commented at the Liturgy forum, that they really missed the Healing Prayers that were offered occasionally during a 10:30 service. So they will be back on Sunday, November 19! If you were part of the ministry of laying-on-of-hands (as the priest anoints), or would like to be, send Rev. Susan an email. We'll review how that has worked best in the past, and who does what on the 19th, at 10:00 am that day. No license is required, just an openness to the Holy Spirit and love for your fellow parishioners.



## **Advent Tea**

Our Annual Women's Advent Tea will take place on Sunday, December 3rd at 6 pm. If you didn't sign up for a spot, please see Denise Rayner or Francine Johnston asap. It would be greatly appreciated if you are coming if you would sign up for a salad, designated sandwich or a desert to bring to pass.

## **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; 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.

# Purple Rose Theater Outing

St. Jude's Social Committee is planning an outing on **November 26th** to the Purple Rose Theater in Chelsea to see Jeff Daniels' play "Diva Royale." "Diva Royale" follows three midwestern stay-at-home moms whose love for Celine Dion makes them plan a last-minute trip to New York City. For groups of 12 or more, the cost is \$44/person. If you are interested in attending this play, **please sign up no later than November 10th.** The signup sheet is in Vandenbergh Hall.

## All Faithful Departed/el

## Dia de los Muertos

S ugar skulls and dancing skeletons will decorate the Latin celebration "El Dia de los Muertos" on Thursday, November 2. It's a day to remember one's ancestors, not in a creepy way (NO zombies or Frankenstein's monsters) but with joy and gratitude for the connection of generations. The Disney movie "Coco" was a great introduction to the subject, despite the heretical notion that if the living ever forget the dead, then the dead "really" die. God's promise is that all people are alive, eternally, in Christ.

Anglicans call the "All Souls' Day" or "All Faithful Departed," and if we all went to church daily, this would be the day to read all the names of our ancestors. To confuse matters, on Sunday November 5 we'll blend into one "All Saints' Sunday" all of the above: the extraordinary Christian martyrs and witnesses of the past ("Saints with a capital S"), and our dearly departed loved ones ("saints

with a small S," made so by their baptism – just like us).



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never been too bothered by the combination, however; maybe due to loving Hymn 293 (which we'll sing on Sunday), "I sing a song of the saints of God." The playful poetry not only urges us to guess the Saints, "one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce while beast..." but reminds us in the last stanza: "They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still; the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will."

I look forward to celebrating our family of all the saints, thankful for the past and pledging for the future.

Susan+



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

Doug & Diane Hill; The Rosa-Norred Family; Ellen Tripp; Jim & Paula Ramelis; Kathy Kortge

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Vandenbergh Hall if you wish to sign up to host a Sunday Coffee Hour. You don't need to anything ellaborate. Just maybe a simple snack and coffee.

# 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 10th. 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 on-line.

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



#### **November Birthdays**

4th Dianne Simpson

5th Audrey Norred

Doug Hill

6th Jodie Hunt Dustin Rayner

10th Katherine Knotts

11th Greg Forsyth

Sharon Gay

Raquel Gazzi

**Arthur Pennington** 

12th Harry Chciuk

16th Harrie Hunt

18th Ann Minock

19th Mary Ellen Hazell

Rita Repko

Shannon Weigant

20th Barb Goss

21st Jon Burroughs

22nd Ellen Tripp

23rd Sarah Dolza

27th Sarah Bancroft

#### November Anniversaries

9th Clay & Diane Putnam

(44 years)

14th Jerry & Joan Graham

(70 years)

Chet & Mary Louise Susalla

(42 years)

Dave Rayner just retired from the CROP Walk board after serving on our behalf for the past 32 years! He'll be replaced as our representative by Jim Raemlis. Congratulations, Dave! Thank you, Jim!

# REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", October 20th edition

### In the Garden

The Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

Genesis 2:8



My dad loved being outdoors in God's creation camping, fishing, and rock-hunting. He also enjoyed working in his yard and garden. But it took lots of work! He spent hours pruning, hoeing, planting seeds or flowers, pulling weeds, mowing the lawn, and watering the yard and garden. The results were worth it—a landscaped lawn, tasty tomatoes, and beautiful peace roses. Every year he pruned the roses close to the ground, and every year they grew back—filling the senses with their fragrance and beauty.

In Genesis, we read of the garden of Eden where Adam and Eve lived, thrived, and walked with God. There, God "made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food" (Genesis 2:9). I imagine that perfect

garden also included beautiful, sweet-smelling flowers—perhaps even roses minus the thorns!

After Adam and Eve's rebellion against God, they were expelled from the garden and needed to plant and care for their own gardens, which meant breaking up hard ground, battling with thorns, and other challenges (3:17–19, 23–24). Yet God continued to provide for them (v. 21). And He didn't leave humanity without the beauty of creation to draw us to Him (Romans 1:20). The flowers in the garden remind us of God's continued love and promise of a renewed creation—symbols of hope and comfort!

By Alyson Kieda

- Reflect and Pray -

When has creation drawn you to praise the Creator? How do you see God in creation?

Dear God, thank You for the many reminders of You in Your creation. Thank You for beauty among thorns.



Friday, November 10

4 -9 pm

Saturday,
November 11
9 am -4 pm

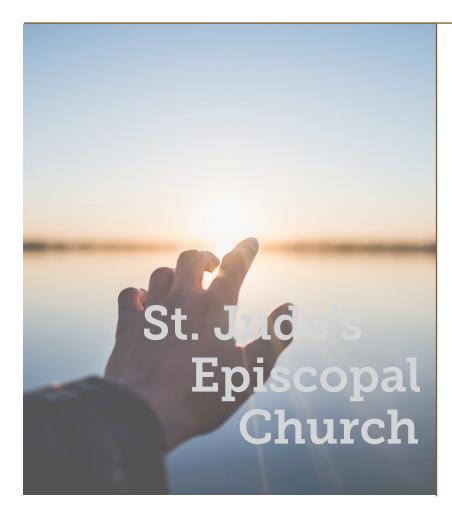
50|50 Raffle Drawings Both Days!

Admission \$3 per person

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. Elizabeth St., Fenton, MI (810) 629-5681 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