



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ March 24, 2021

We are returning to In-Person Worship this Sunday!

Starting this week, **Palm Sunday**, we will return to in-person worship. All in-person services will continue to follow recommended Covid guidelines. Masks are required, as well as proper distancing. Hand sanitizer is available in every pew, and communion is distributed with wafer only. If you are not feeling well, or not comfortable attending in person, please know that we are planning on making our service available on our website and Facebook.

Our Grocery Cart needs to be filled!

Food for Thought Ministry

The mission of Food for Thought is to provide hope and dignity to high school children by discreetly supplying food to students in need. There are food pantries located at both East and West Campus. To further our ongoing and growing ministry to children, we are asking for your support in donating food to our grocery cart to supply these pantries. The items requested are:

Canned tuna, chicken or salmon
Canned vegetables
Canned fruit
Canned soup
Peanut butter
Hot and cold cereal
Healthy granola bars and snacks
Pasta and rice
Pasta meals and sauce

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

March 28, 8:30 am
In-Person Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 1
St. Paul's In-Person Service
7:00 pm

Good Friday - Noon

April 2
Stations of the Cross via Zoom

Good Friday - Evening

First United Methodist In-Person Service
7:00 pm

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

7:00 pm
St. Ann's Woodstock, livestreamed on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRjioWzcYMIxa49h2oE_gog

Easter

In-Person Worship
8:30 am

As part of our shared ministry here at First United Methodist, St. Paul's will be conducting the Maundy Thursday service in-person and have Stations of the Cross via Zoom on Friday. FUMC will be conducting the Good Friday evening service. All are welcome to every service!

Intercessors are needed!

Intercessors read the Prayers of the People during our worship service, and we are in need of additional volunteers! Please let the office know if this is something you can help out with. This is low-key way to assist our worship service once every few weeks.



We Are God's Light: A Greeting from Bishop-elect Paula Clark

"I am honored and humbled to serve as your next bishop and I'm eager to roll up my sleeves and minister with you," said Bishop-elect Paula Clark in her video greeting to the diocese. "We will have plenty of opportunities to talk about the work God is calling us to do, but first I hope we can get to know one another better."

Watch the full video greeting from Bishop-elect Clark by [clicking here](#).

St. Paul's Vitality Grant

Last fall St. Paul's was awarded a Vitality Grant by the Diocese of Chicago to expand our outreach efforts. The Vestry decided to expand our outreach ministry with the McHenry high schools by offering scholarships to First Generation College Students who are attending MCC this fall.

We are very happy to report that last week the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Scholarship Fund was established at McHenry County College. We will be awarding 5 - \$2000 scholarships to qualified McHenry and Johnsburg High School students. Here is the link to the scholarship information and the application - check it out! Better yet, if you know of a student who meets the criteria, please encourage them to apply.

<https://mchenry.academicworks.com/opportunities/2294>

From Deacon Deb

Friends,

It's the same every year. As we look toward Holy Week and begin making preparations in earnest, it always feels like we've never done it before. It always feels uncertain - shaky. This time is no different and is not because we are in a new space with new restrictions. It has felt this way for years. With a full-time rector to collaborate with and copious notes from previous years to reference, it has always felt like walking in the dark.

I wonder if this is how it's supposed to feel. Into each Lent and Holy Week we bring the past year of joy and sorrow, success and failure, disappointment, and hope to lay beneath those precious feet. After the year we have had, we may find more than usual to offer.

As we look toward Calvary, some may have the courage to walk beside Him. For others, perhaps all they can do is stand in the crowd and watch. Either way, I suppose what matters is that we are there; witnesses to the incomprehensible events that turned the world upside down.

Holy Week begins on Sunday. As we begin our journey, let us set our hearts firmly in the sure foundation of Jesus – our true and unshakable reality.

In Christ,
Deacon Deborah

Servants for Sunday, March 28

Lector – Jeffrey Zabor
Intercessor – Terry Jaworski
Vestry Person of the Day - Jeff Lynaugh



Living Well Through Lent 2021
A Personal Devotional and Lenten Program
Listening With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

Listening Along the Pilgrims' Way
by Donald Fishburne

I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
—Jeremiah 31:33b

At a time of expectation before the Passover, some Greeks wished to see Jesus, so Philip and Andrew took these pilgrim seekers to him. As Jesus prayed, a voice from heaven shared God's glory. Then the crowd heard Jesus say, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." Jesus draws all people to himself—for our healing and salvation. But not without struggle. This would cost Jesus his life.

In the year since Ash Wednesday 2020 we've been on a journey. I would say a spiritual pilgrimage, deeper into the heart of God. We did not ask for the suffering and discord that began last year around the globe. But God has been with us all along the way. Perhaps this has been for you, as for me, a lean time of loss and grief, an extended wilderness time. For the longest time we have not been able to gather together around our Lord's table. But we heard our Lord's voice, and we listened. It's never too late to listen.

The Good News for me as we listen in this transformative pilgrim journey is that my prayer life and spiritual life have been broadened and deepened. My wife Sarah says my countenance and spiritual demeanor have changed. I'm more appreciative of the profound faith passed on to me by family, friends, mentors, and by members of the generations before. My ancestors, including literal Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower 400 years ago, were not perfect, nor am I, and now I have to reckon with that. At their worst, some were oppressors of one sort or another. At their best, they were pilgrims walking and sharing the way of faith.

In our day, we choose to take this journey with Jesus, who is guiding us toward Holy Week on a particular storm-tossed pilgrimage. All of us walk alongside Jesus, to mourn, to hope, and, through our faithfulness and our willingness to listen deeply to what this journey is telling us, to be lifted into his resurrected life. This is the perfect season to invite others to journey with us through Lent toward Easter, as Jesus draws us to the cross and into eternal life and love. All we need to do is begin, right where we are.

Jesus hears and knows our needs and our struggles. Our joys and sorrows. Our fears, our yearnings, our hopes. Jesus desires to create in us clean hearts, loving us into the reign of God, overflowing with peace and joy. Thank you, Jesus.

The Rev. Donald Allston Fishburne, D.Min. is an Episcopal priest and church consultant. He and Sarah are privileged to live, listen, love, and serve on the coasts of South Carolina and Maine. They have enjoyed leading pilgrims to the Holy Land and to other holy places, to walk where Jesus and his followers have walked, to see and to hear in new ways, and to be guided by the Spirit to share the Good News.

For daily reflections to follow up on this article [***click here***](#)

Submitted by Beth Lukas, Senior Warden

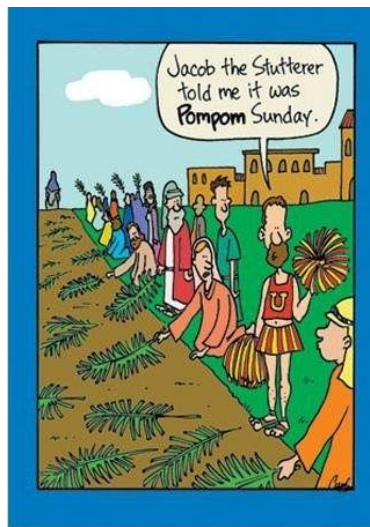
St. Paul's Prayer List

Week of March 28 - April 3

Please keep those on our prayer list in your thoughts during this time. If you wish to add to the list, please contact the church office.

Ongoing prayers: Yasmin, Kay, Edna, Amy, Tim, Eleanor, and Erin

Current prayers: Jenn, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Shirley-Patricia, Terry, Samantha, Debbie, Shawn, David, Lucy, Arthur, Andy, Joan, Shari, and Stacy



Questions or concerns?

Please contact our Senior Warden - Beth Lukas: Gramlukas2@gmail.com

In need of pastoral care?

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon: DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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