



September-October 2020

Dear Friends,

I found this in Nicki Gumble's *Bible in One Year* and thought it a powerful reminder of our call as a church and as followers of Jesus to keep hope and give hope.

He writes: "Twenty-one-year-old Matthew had been homeless for three years. Mark Russell (who was appointed head of the Church Army) met him on the streets of Charing Cross in London, bought him some food, and led him to Christ. As he was getting up to leave he said, 'Matthew, over the next month I am going to be on platforms speaking to thousands of people. What piece of advice do you want me to give to the Church of England today?' Matthew replied, 'The church's job is to stop arguing and to bring people hope!'"

Mark Russell commented, "I have never heard a better definition of what we should be about: Don't we have a gospel of hope? A gospel of life, a gospel of transformation, and above all a hope of eternal life, the hope of Jesus?"

Hope is one of the three great theological virtues – the others being love and faith. As Raniero Cantalamessa writes, "They are like three sisters. Two of them are grown and the other is a small child. They go forward together, hand in hand with the child 'hope' in the middle. Looking at them it would seem that the bigger ones are pulling the child, but it is the other way around; it is the little girl who is pulling the two bigger ones. It is hope that pulls faith and love. Without hope everything would stop."

Paul prays, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust Him."

As we continue to live in this difficult and strange time, a time fraught with anxiety, fear, frustration, anger, and more, we of all people need to not lose hope. Keeping our focus on Jesus is what keeps us hopeful. I like the way Corrie Ten Boon put it: "Hope leads to all joy and peace as we trust in Him. Joy and peace mean going around with a smile on our faces and an empty suitcase."

In Him who is our hope,
Father Derik Roy

Covid 19 Update

We continue to meet in person for worship on Sunday at 8 am, 10 am and 5 pm. All services continue to observe social distancing requirements and wearing masks. Communion is still being distributed with only the bread. One change is that we are having Kristin, our music director, provide some singing. We are constructing a series of Plexiglas walls to protect from germs from spreading by singing, and pray this will enhance our worship as well as keep people safe.

Please note we have also added a Wednesday morning communion service at 9:15 am in the main Sanctuary to allow us more room to continue the same safety requirements as we follow on Sunday.

Meetings and Christian Education are either in zoom format or in person.

We will be offering Sunday School and other studies in various formats. We hope that you will be able to find classes to suit your family members. However, we recognize that it is possible that your preferred combination for age grouping and modality (online vs. in person) may not be represented in our list. Please let us know if you would like to be in a class, but you do not see one here that would work for you. We would love to form more groups if it means more people can be involved in fellowship and engaged in Christian education!



Sunday School

The current class descriptions are below. To enroll please call Jeanne in the church office at (518) 885-1031 or fill out the form on the back of this newsletter and send in to the office.

Thank you, and we look forward to learning and growing with you this fall!

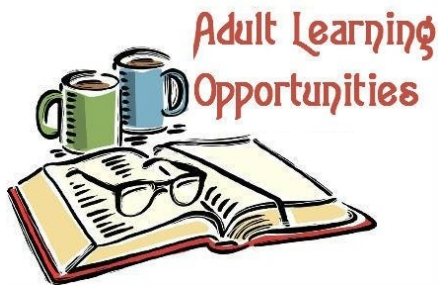
Preschool/ Kindergarten and First through Third Grades-- Our programs for our preschoolers and lower elementary students will each launch as a hybrid at home/online class. Materials will be sent home to parents to use with their children every week, and there will be online opportunities for students and for parents. We will send you the Spark-house curriculum appropriate for your child's age group for you to use at home during the week. Once a month we will host a Zoom gathering for each age group so they can see their friends and maybe do an activity together. We will also offer a separate parent group gathering once a month to go over the upcoming curriculum, brainstorm about what is working well for teaching our kids at home, and visit together.

Online Tween Bible Study-- There is currently a Zoom bible study happening with the members of last year's upper elementary Sunday School. We would love to have others join! The group meets at 9:15 on Sunday mornings to allow enough time for discussion before families tune in to watch the service from home. The current focus is on Genesis, and there is some growing leadership among the students to direct the topic of study from here. The group is facilitated by parents of the involved students on a rotating basis.

In Person Sunday School-- A group of Junior High students will meet in person on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Sunday School classrooms. This group will be facilitated by Christine Osgood and Katie Lehmann.

Online High School Discussion Group-- We are embracing this opportunity to bring fellowship and Christ-centered discussion right into your teenager's lounging location of choice. Meeting dates and times are TBD and depend on which students will attend. The discussion will be facilitated by Don Rohr and will take place weekly or bi-weekly over Zoom.

We would love to work with you to create other groups if the current offerings do not fit your needs or the needs of your family. Please provide us with any details you have.



Starting the week of September 21

You may register for any of our programs with Jeanne in the Church Office
at
518-885-1031
or email her at
jspeercec@msn.com

Monday, September 21 at 7:00 pm Zoom Study—Fruits of the Spirit

In this 9 week class you will focus on the Fruits of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness and Self-Control.

If interested contact the church office or email Michelle Mattice at m2mattice@outlook.com

Tuesday Evening Woman's Lectionary Zoom Study 6:30 pm—will focus on the scripture readings for each Sunday. Please contact Rachel Norsworthy at rachel.norsworthy@gmail.com or the church office, if you wish to join.

Wednesday, September 23

Holy Communion Service will begin again at 9:15 am. We will meet in the Sanctuary (main church)

Study Group at 10am. This will be an in person study. We will be viewing the critically acclaimed series "The Chosen," about the life of Jesus. There will be discussion after. The first season includes 9 episodes starting with the birth of Christ and leading up to the calling of the disciples and beginning of Jesus' public ministry. We will view this in the main church and discussion will be held there, because there is plenty of space to socially distance.

Wednesday Evening Men's Zoom Lectionary—7:00 pm

If you'd like to join our Bible Study via zoom please notify Father Roy, Noel Drindak or the church office. Each week we study the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday.

Thursday Evening 7:00 pm— It's Not Supposed to Be This Way, by Lysa TerKeurst

September 25-October 29 - 6 weeks. In Person.

Life often looks so very different than we hoped or expected. Some events may simply catch us off guard for a moment, but others shatter us completely. We feel disappointed and disillusioned, and we quietly start to wonder about the reality of God's goodness.

We will watch the video in the sanctuary and then meet to discuss it in the welcome center - with masks and social distancing. Each participant needs to purchase the book to read as we go along. The book can be found on Amazon.

Friday Liturgy: Eucharist and Silent Prayer. Starting October 9

Strengthen your relationship with Christ by joining us every Friday at 12:00 noon for a service of Eucharistic Liturgy and silent prayer in our church.

Order of Service:

A reading and reflection on scripture or personal spirituality.

Reception of Holy Eucharist.

Silent prayer and meditation.

Closure

This is an excellent opportunity to spend a half hour in quiet time away from distractions and nonstop demands of the week. In sacrament and quiet prayer, we can begin to find the Presence and Peace of our Lord. All are welcome. Any questions please contact Deacon Gil.

Prayer a Thon

We all know that the world is need of prayer right now. On October 10 our congregation will be working together to pray for the health of the world. To join this all-important marathon of prayer please visit

sign up genius at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FADAF2BA5F4C70-prayerathon>

to claim your time spot. The goal is to have someone from our congregation praying every minute for a full 24 hours. Once all time slots are filled please feel free to pray any time. Where two or three gather in his name he is present. Let us all come together and share our prayers for the world. Thank you all!



Margaret Anderson's 100th Birthday



Upcoming

Our Diocesan Convention originally scheduled at camp of the Woods in June is now taking place as a zoom meeting, Saturday October 24. Our delegates include all of our clergy, and our elected deputies; Don Rohr, Julie Rohr and Jayne Schmidt. Unlike our normal convention with workshops and worship, this virtual convention will only be a business meeting, voting on resolutions and elections of people to various committees.

Thank you

We have so many to thank for the giving of their time, talent, and energies, especially in this Covid-19 strange and difficult time.

1. Jeremy Bailey for continuing to provide his technical expertise and time to produce on-line services for those not attending the in-person worship services.
2. Julia Duchesne for continuing to keep our Altar Guild going during this time.
3. Mike Luger for his constant help with the many building and grounds needs and for pulling everyone together for our recent clean-up day.
4. Brian and Bonnie Horrocks for once again mowing our church lawns.
5. Glen Face for building the Plexiglas shield to allow Kristen and our musicians to sing.
6. Paul Cuddihy and his team for meeting with heating/cooling contractors to explore how we can provide a safer worship space with air exchange and the possibility of air conditioning.
7. John and Theresa Polson and their core of volunteers who have kept the food pantry running during a very difficult, but much needed time.
8. To all of our church family for your continued financial support. Your generosity continues to allow us to continue our ministries, pay our staff and honor our financial commitments. Amazingly our overall giving is ahead of our giving from last year at this time, even though many of you have not felt safe coming to worship and have been mailing in your offerings or using our online giving.

Missions

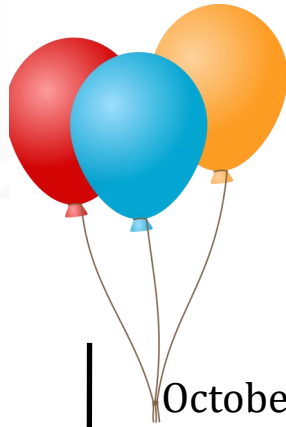
For many years we have dedicated one Sunday a month as a *Mission Sunday*. In the past we have supported missions abroad as well as missions in our national and local community. With covid19 the Outreach Committee is designating the months of September and October to donate money to the Episcopal Relief Fund to be used by those affected by Hurricane Laura in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, and those affected by the wild fires in the western part of the country.

If you'd like to make a contribution for this cause, please either leave a check in the offering plate during the Sundays of September and October or mail it directly to the church office. You also have the option of making a contribution with our online giving called tithe.ly.

Quilting Ministry

The quilting ministry meets on the third Saturday of the month from 10 am until noon. If you would like to request a quilt for a loved one in need of healing our 8 am Sunday worship contact is Joyce Reed, and Jayne Schmidt for our 10 am worship service; or you can call the church office. Also, don't forget that we continue to collect "Jesus" dollars that are used to support the quilting ministry.

*Happy
Birthday!*



September

1 Elaine Osgood
Elijah Roy-Urmston
2 Al Moser
3 Jean Simpson
4 Brandon Schmidt
Wendy Perreault
6 Jenna LaRosa
Cameron Rapelje
8 Vickie Fox
9 Evan Jorgensen
Naomi Roy
Anneliese Kitzmann
10 Ian Herrick
Bet LaRue
11 Billy Pearson
Dylan Whitt
Chris Cuddihy
12 David Guynup
13 Joseph Bruno
Emalyn Smith
Bryan Peck
14 Margaret Anderson
17 Brittney Koster
Curtis Niemeyer
18 Ian Bailey
Maddie Roy
19 Jason Constant
Bryan LaRosa
21 Morgan Miller
Richard Reed
Edison Roberts
Brad Roy
22 Adele Pearson
25 Russ Miller
29 Mike Luger
Rachel Smith
Chad Thomas
Cody Thomas
Fred Iannon
30 Alan Greenspan

October

1 Danielle Bailey
2 Victoria Perrault
Danielle Auspelmyer
3 Derik Roy
Josh Bush
4 Lane Smith
4 Sloanie Campbell
Breanna Mattice
6 Mark Ott
7 Alexis Guilbault
8 Lois McGee
Joan Moore
9 Nancy Doud
10 Stacia Bonnano
Bruce Krupa
12 Marguerite Sulzman
13 Mawunya Tamah
14 Debbie Igoe
15 Wendy Campbell
Allyson LaRosa
Ralph Ruiz
Jayne Schmidt
17 Bill Pearson
21 Ian Lanning
22 Beverly Baker
Jacob Kitzmann
Joyce Luger
24 John Boyd
Alexandria Miller
Greg Schmidt
Claire Weaver
25 Melissa Miller
28 Kelsey Ruiz
28 Kendall Whitt
29 Cathy Hughes
30 Charles Kubus, Jr
31 Sue Ann Dubois

*Happy
Anniversary*

September

5 Ashley & Josh Bush
8 Mark and Andrea Breslin
18 The Rev Richard and Chris Lehmann
22 Mark & Corey Ott
27 Mike and Joyce Luger

October

7 Rich & Christine Osgood
13 Dan and Kathi Rabideau
16 Tim and Amanda Russell
16 John & Wendy Perreault
17 Greg and Kelly Howell
Robert and Angeline King
20 Don & Julie Rohr
23 Garry and Wendy Campbell
24 Ralph and Paula Ruiz
29 Paul and Donna Sausville

Keep in Your Prayers

*Janice Baird
John Boyd
Garry Campbell
Judy Covey
Erin Dumovitz
Barbara Grandin
Bonnie Hall*

*Tim Iannon
Curtis Niemeyer
Mabel Siler
Ann Wait
Claire Weaver
Nancy Wemple*

Noah's Attic
Christmas Sale
November 12-13-14
Thursday—Saturday
9:30am-4:00pm

Vitamin D Day

We had a good turnout (despite the pandemic) on September 12, our latest church work-day. We called it vitamin D day since we all got that important vitamin for free along with all the donuts we could eat. We did weed whacking, bush trimming, power washing, painting, and more weed whacking. Cathy Roy went through two batteries and all the weed whacker string we had - the weeds were trembling in fear! The best part was Peg and Al who worked together to paint the porch steps at KidsFirst. Peg said that any mistakes were Al's fault.

Thanks everyone for helping, and if you missed it, we'll do it again.

Mike Luger

A MESSAGE FROM DEACON LYNNE:

I recently read an article that discussed the difficulty Christians are having during this time. The author described the four major events that are going on in our country.

First, we have the pandemic; then, we have a hyper-partisan culture; a civil rights movement; and finally an upcoming election!

The article went on to say that it can be helpful for people to discuss their anxieties with a trusted person, someone who you know will offer no judgment, or has no agenda, and will keep confidentiality.

I thought, perhaps, this might be an area where I could reach out to others in our church who are struggling during this difficult time. As most of you know, I have a Masters Degree in Counseling and used to work for the Episcopal Counseling Service.

I would offer free pastoral counseling by phone. It would be only on Thursdays and by appointment only. If you are interested please contact me by email: lyncrimi@verizon.net.

GOD BLESS YOUR AND YOUR FAMILIES.

Food Pantry

This summer the numbers at the food pantry have been steady. We've served approximately 120 families in the months of June, July and August. This comprises about 250 adults, 145 children and 20 elders per month fed this summer! We look forward to continue serving the community this fall and winter.

The food pantry has cut back its hours for the remainder of 2020. Our new hours are **Monday & Friday 10am-12pm and Wednesday 5pm-7pm**. We will also continue to pick up donations from the Hannaford in Milton on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We want to thank our volunteers and drivers for all they've done this summer to keep the food pantry open and serving the community. Also, for all of those that have donated food or pantry items thank you. And, a big thank you to Sue Olszewski and the volunteers at LifeSong.

The Food Pantry can always use volunteers, people willing to clean, and drivers to pick up food; please contact the church office.

Food Pantry Hours

Monday & Friday 10am-12pm

Wednesday 5pm-7pm.



The KidsFirst Childcare Center is almost at capacity for NYS licensing in the building and has remained healthy through this whole pandemic.

The Center is getting ready to start the new school year and this year has a new curriculum for the Pre-K classrooms.

Monday, September 14 virtual school started for the school-age children. KF is in need of volunteers to help the children log on to the computers. If interested please call Mary at 518-309-3540.

Sunday School Sign-Up

Please contact the Church office if you have any questions at (518) 885-1031

Email address _____

Family Name and Phone Number _____

Name of person being signed up _____

I would like to enroll in:

_____ Pre-K/ Kindergarten- Spark-House at home/online hybrid

_____ First to Third Grade- Spark-House at home/online hybrid

_____ Tween Online Bible Study

_____ Jr High In-Person Sunday School

_____ High School Online Discussion Group

_____ Adult Sunday School



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