



*In Memoriam*  
**Marguerite Sulzman**

Meg passed away Sunday, January 31, 2021. She was an active member of Christ Episcopal Church in Ballston Spa and she spent the last several years working at KidsFirst Child Care. A memorial service will be held at a future date at Christ Episcopal Church when the world is a little safer and family and friends can travel and gather safely.

*Website: ChristEpiscopalBallstonSpa.com*

*YouTube Station: Christ Episcopal Church Ballston Spa NY YouTube*

*Facebook: Christ Episcopal Church Ballston Spa*

*Instagram: @cecbspa*

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
Christ Episcopal Church  
15 West High St.  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



**CHRIST CHURCH**

March-April 2021

Dear Friends,

In his book, “Hope for the Troubled Heart,” Billy Graham wrote, “God’s love is unchangeable; He knows exactly what we are and loves us anyway. In fact, He created us because He wanted other creatures in His image upon whom He could pour out His love and who would love Him in return. He also wanted that love to be voluntary, not forced, so He gave us freedom of choice, the ability to say yes or no in our relationship to Him. God does not want mechanized love; the kind that says we must love God because it’s what our parents demand or our church preaches. Only voluntary love satisfies the Heart of God.”

By the time you receive this newsletter we will already be in the midst of Lent. The purpose of Lent is primarily a time to deepen our relationship with God. No other relationship matters more. Our relationship with God, and our love for God will determine the quality of all our other relationships and in fact determine the quality of our lives. Do you love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind? That question is crucial.

It’s amazing that God loves us just as we are, more amazing or perhaps better put, more shocking is that we don’t accept that love. Some Lenten questions to reflect on:  
Do you love God? How do you show God you love Him? How are you deepening your love for Him? How are you reflecting that love to others? These are simple questions, yet our answers have a profound impact on our lives. Take time this Lenten season to love God back!

In God’s Love,  
*Father Derik Roy*

**Lenten Opportunities to Grow in our Faith**

**Sunday afternoons at 4 pm Bible Study on the Book of Corinthians.** This is an in-person Bible Study prior to the 5 pm worship service and will be led by Fr. Richard Lehmann.

**Wednesdays in Lent – 10 am “Who is Jesus”**  
Please join us for this in-person class using the study series by Louie Giglio. We will take a close look at Jesus.

Feb 24: Good or God?

March 3: Friend or Foe?

March 10: King or Pawn?

March 17: A Way or The Way?

March 24: The Lion or The Lamb?

**Thursdays at 7 pm “Why Easter Matters”**  
led by Fr. Roy based on the book by Andy Stanley.

Please join us for this zoom class. If interested contact Jeanne in the office 518- 885-1031 or email jspeercec@msn.com to register so that a zoom invitation can be sent to you.

Sessions include:

February 25: The High Cost of Following Christ

March 4: The Risk of Surrendering to God

March 11: The God who can be trusted

March 18: The Foundations of our Faith

## Ongoing Opportunities for Study and Growth

### Tuesday at 6:30 pm Woman's Lectionary Zoom Bible Study

led by Rachel Norsworthy. Each week the upcoming scriptures for Sunday are discussed. If interested contact Jeanne in the church office at 518-885-1031 or email [jspeercec@msn.com](mailto:jspeercec@msn.com).

### Wednesday at 7 pm Men's Lectionary Zoom Bible

Study led by Father Roy and Noel Drindak. Each week the upcoming scriptures for Sunday are discussed. If interested contact our the church office at 518-885-1031 or email [jspeercec@msn.com](mailto:jspeercec@msn.com)

## Ongoing Worship Opportunities

**Sunday** in person at 8 am, 10 am and 5 pm

The 10 am service is live-streamed and available after that on our website or YouTube station.

During the peace at our 10:00 am service, we have been showing a 5-10 second pre-recorded video of folks we have been missing. If, you would like to contribute your "peace video" please contact Fr Roy or Jeremy Bailey.

**Wednesday Morning worship service** is in-person and at 9:15 am.



Please note that our Friday noon service led by Deacon Gil will resume after Easter. In its place during Lent at noon we will have a **Stations of the Cross** service.

## Sunday School Update

The Sunday School students have started their final Spring Session. Thank you to all the leaders and families who continue to teach their children about God and his love for us all, safely from their own homes. The children are so blessed to have your guidance and encouragement. We look forward to when we can safely gather and learn together!

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## *Keep in Your Prayers*

Janice Baird  
Garry Campbell  
Margaret Cook  
Judy Covey  
Julia Duchesne  
Erin Dumovitz  
Barbara Grandin

Linda Hendricks  
Tim Iannon  
Russ Miller  
Amanda Russell  
Mabel Siler  
Peggy Vary  
Nancy Wemple

## Annual Meeting Report Cont.

The **Outreach Ministries Committee** report was given by the Chairperson, Christine Osgood.

Included were special reports given by Mary, KidsFirst director and her assistant Stephanie; a report from Noah's Attic, given by Wanda, our Noah's director, and Mike Luger, board chairperson. The Food Pantry report was given by John and Theresa. Please go to our website to listen to their reports.

Christine also shared the good news that Paul Guilmette was ordained as a Deacon and that sadly because of Covid we weren't able to take our mission trip to Belize. She also reported an update on the Diocese, noting that Bishop Love has retired and that the Standing committee (an elected board of the Diocese) has Ecclesiastical authority for the Diocese, while at the same time beginning the process to elect a new Bishop. This process will probably take a year. Father Roy currently serves on the Standing Committee.

A report was also given by Bonnie Hall, chairperson of the **Pastoral Ministries Committee**. She too updated us on those things taking place in the midst of the pandemic. Certainly worship continues thanks to the willingness and expertise, and time and energy put forth by Jeremy Bailey, who is primarily responsible for all our live-streamed and videoed worship; Kristin McCabe for continuing to provide music; our Deacons who have been faithful in helping to lead worship; and our greeters, cleaners, altar guild and more.

Bonnie also thanked our Sunday School leaders Katie Skanes, Don Rohr, and others that have kept Christian Education for our children available. Sadly, we had to cancel VBS last year, but with Melissa Miller's leadership, we are ready to go this year if we are allowed to do so. The dates for VBS are June 28-July 2. Mark your calendars.

She also reported that DOK is going strong under the leadership of Bambi Becker, and the quilting ministry, under the leadership of Margaret Cook, Joyce Reed and Tammy Boyd, continues to bless many people. The pastoral ministry committee also started a phone calling ministry to help us to stay connected.

Fr Roy thanked the many, many people who make Christ Church "A loving community seeking to know Jesus Christ and make Him known"; the staff, Deacons, Fr Lehmann (who leads our 5:00 pm Sunday worship), and the many lay volunteers. He also thanked those whose terms on the vestry have been completed. They include: Andrew Cook, warden; vestry members, Bambi Becker, Paul Cuddihy and Bet LaRue.

It was decided because of Covid to keep the same delegates to convention, Don Rohr, Julie Rohr and Jayne Schmidt and the same members of the Chapel Columbarium Committee, Glen Face, Lois Mitchell and Beverly Granger.

Elected to Vestry were Don Rohr – junior warden

Vestry: Mike Drindak, Mike Luger, and Katie Lehmann

Continuing on Vestry are: Alan Greenspan as senior warden, and vestry members Dave Bush, Christine Osgood, John Polson, Rebecca Grugan, Megan Lovelace and Bonnie Hall. Judith Bell continues as clerk of the Vestry.

**You can find all our services on our YouTube station**

***Christ Episcopal Church Ballston Spa NY YouTube***

**Greetings from the Food Pantry!** We've had a great start to the New Year so far with a surprise grant from SEFCU from the close out of their No Neighbor Hungry Stock the Shelves Campaign of \$5,800. This was in addition to the \$2,500 end of the year grant they award the pantry annually. We are very thankful for their support as well as the support of many community members and organizations that have donated to the Food Pantry so far this year. If you would like to make a donation to the Food Pantry, please stop by during our open hours and we can assist you.

The Food Pantry now has open hours on Tuesdays from 12pm to 2pm thanks to Bambi Becker and friends. Our open hours are Monday and Fridays from 10am to 12pm, Tuesdays from 12pm to 2pm and Wednesdays from 5pm to 7pm. Follow us on Facebook at Christ Church Food Pantry and our Christ Church webpage for updates.

Thank you to all of our awesome volunteers! We've gained some new volunteers this year and are always looking for more help, especially with the Food Bank pick ups and deliveries. If you want to help out please contact Theresa Polson by email at [theresapolson@gmail.com](mailto:theresapolson@gmail.com) or text (518) 281-7823. We could not run this successful ministry without all the volunteers and our thoughtful church community. We look forward to a great 2021 at the Food Pantry!

### Annual Meeting Report

Because of Covid, we had our first ever virtual annual meeting on January 31. In fact the detailed reports can still be found on our website and YouTube station.

A report was given by John Polson, vestry chairperson of our Resource Ministry Committee. His report covered our 2020-year end finance report, building and grounds update, and introduced and welcomed our new treasurer, Laurie Engle. Thanks were expressed to Kathryn Cook for filling in between Beverly Granger's retirement and the hiring of Laurie.

Highlighted in the report was that with the PPP loan we received (that has now been totally forgiven) and the generous giving of our church family despite the pandemic, the church being closed for over 3 months, and low worship attendance, we still ended the year with all our bills, except our Diocesan assessment paid. We even did better this year with our assessment than the year before.

The generosity of all our church family has been amazing!

John also updated us on building work done and work to be done in 2021. This includes a new shingle roof on the KidsFirst building, renovations to the Sacristy and soon the installation of an air exchange/air conditioning unit to be installed in the next few weeks and hopefully ready by Easter. This project has been financed by a special request and you have responded again with amazing generosity.

Annual Meeting Report Continued on next page

## Holy Week

Because of Covid this Holy Week will be a hybrid of in-person worship and live-streamed/virtual worship. We certainly hope to see you, but understand if you are not comfortable.

Our **Palm Sunday Services** will be held in the church at our regular times; 8 am, 10 am and 5 pm.



Unlike past Palm Sundays, we will not start in the Welcome Center but gather in the main church. The 10 am service will be live streamed and available after the service on our website and YouTube station.

A table will be set up outside the back door in the parking lot with Palm branches on Palm Sunday after the 10 am worship for those who would like palms and did not come to the worship service in person.

### Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

Our traditional Seder meal dinner and worship service – the Jewish Passover meal Jesus celebrated with His disciples will be done virtually this year. You will have an option to sign up for the “**Passover Bag**”. The bag will have many of the items you will need to follow along with our virtual service as you go through the ritual at your home. More to come as we get closer to Holy Week.



### All Night Prayer Vigil

Our prayer vigil begins Thursday night at 9 pm and concludes at noon on Good Friday. It has been the tradition at our church to have an all-night prayer vigil starting after the Seder meal. There will be a sheet for you to sign up for an hour of prayer in the Welcome Center or you could call the church office. Prayer for the hour you choose can be in person at the church or from your home. Certainly more than one person can sign up for an hour. Our hope is that at least one person will be praying every hour. It is our way of remembering Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane before His arrest, trial, and crucifixion.



### Good Friday – noon

We will have an in-person service for Good Friday that will be live-streamed and then available on our website and YouTube channel.

### Easter 8 am, 10 am, 5 pm

Come join us in person for Easter or as we live-stream our service. It then will be available on our website and YouTube channel after the 10 am service. For those wishing to worship at home there will be a sign-up for **Easter Worship Bags**. You will need to pick them up prior to Easter and the bags will have everything you need to join our Easter Celebration from home.



Help the Church Day!

Mike Luger is organizing another Help the Church day on Saturday, March 27th. This will be our sixth one. Everyone is welcome to help with small projects around the church. Because of Covid, our favorite phrase, we'll wear masks, separate as much as possible, and work outdoors as the weather permits. We'll start at 8 am and end at noon. We have painting, cleaning, electrical repairs, and some overgrown bushes to tame. Maybe you have a pet project you would like to work on. Mike will have some tools and paint but if you bring your own then we know we'll have them. Thanks in advance for the help! If you have questions, contact Mike at 884-0595 or lugermike@yahoo.com.



KidsFirst will be having some fun in the next few months. All of our classrooms are full at this time and the children and staff will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day and I am sure there will be a visit from a Leprechaun. We will be having an Easter Egg hunt for Easter and the children will be doing projects with the theme "He is Risen." We will also be planting a tree for Earth Day and getting to our raised bed gardens and getting ready for our Spring clean-up. The center is at max capacity and we have kept Covid out of our building -which we are all very happy about! Follow KidsFirst on Website [www.kidsfirst1.com](http://www.kidsfirst1.com) and on Facebook -Kidsfirst1daycare

Covid Update

While doing our best to keep people safe, we will continue for now our practice of wearing a mask and social distancing. However, as we begin to try to return to some sense of normalcy we have begun to allow singing and will no longer require signing in or temperature taking when you arrive.

We are particularly excited that we have begun the installation of the air exchange system that will exchange the air in our church 4 times every hour as well as cleaning the air of all germs via a UVA system. This will make our worship area much safer from infection. We also continue to use our fog machine to disinfect and continue to wipe down and clean our building.

Noah's Attic Hours

Sunday and Monday—Closed  
Tuesday—9:30-3:00  
Wednesday and Thursday—9:30-4:00  
Friday—9:30-3:00  
Saturday—9:30-2:30

Donations are being accepted throughout the week. Please call first: 518-885-9455.



March Birthdays

- 1 Holden Popkoski  
Aubrey Thomas
- 2 Alex Guilmette
- 3 Rachel Montalbaro
- 4 Patrick Campbell
- 5 Robert Bonanno  
Julia Duchesne  
Faith King  
Phoebe Lanning
- 6 Rich McCabe  
Paul Sausville
- 7 Marcy Melander  
Elaine Pearson
- 8 Brian Horrocks  
Anne Walsh
- 9 Alexandra Bruno
- 10 Bruce Uhlinger
- 11 Geoffrey Wood
- 12 Gracelyn Guynup
- 13 Donna Thomas  
Ashley Ponessa
- 17 Barbara Sutherland  
Salli Poltynski
- 18 Kathy DeMartino
- 19 Alex Dumovitz
- 20 Lena Dorman
- 22 Connor Doud
- 23 Nathan Bonanno  
Paul Cuddihy  
Bailey Reynolds
- 25 John Perreault

- 26 Mike Carson  
Chris Elliott
- 28 James Van Valkenburg
- 30 Diane Iannon  
Lolly LaRue
- 31 Scott Lutgens

April Birthdays

- 2Grayson Keefe
- 2 Alita Rossen
- 3 Isaac LaRue
- 4 Sydney Carson
- 5 Eve Lansing  
Melanie Speer  
Matt Willey  
Matthew King
- 7 John Bell  
Katie Skanes
- 8 Shannon Rich
- 9 Rob Mancini
- 10 Peter Loyola  
Jay Thomas
- 13 Angeline King
- 14 Angelica Bretz-Aguirre  
Bonnie Horrocks  
Bert Grandin
- 17 Greg Howell  
Kyle Newton  
Jacob Polson  
Amy LaLonde-Paley
- 18 Lorraine McPherson
- 22 Anthony Polson
- 25 Angela Roy
- 25 Madalynn Bush
- 29 Brody Kubas
- 30 Beverly Granger  
Karl Newton  
Byron Norsworthy



March

- 20 John & Theresa Polson
- 24 Richard & Nancy Doud

April

- 4 Marissa & Jared Bongo
- 9 Michelle & Joseph Miner
- 11 Paul & Deborah Guilmette
- 12 John & Tammy Boyd
- 24 Ray & Sara Nichols
- 29 Jaye Kaye & Jim Van Valkenburg