



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"THE LITTLE STONE CHURCH"

MAY / JUNE, 2020

NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIEST:

**"Be Not Afraid, for
I am with You!"**

It was one of those cold, damp, rainy Mondays where the water has already soaked into your sandals and the bottom of your robe is already wet. Some of the disciples of the Lord and his followers had taken palm leaves from the trees and twisted them into hats to keep the rain off their heads. Others had thrown their cloaks up over their shoulders to form a protective hood. Jesus, the Lord, seemed not to notice the weather, though his head scarf was soaked.

We came into the town from the North Road, some singing in anticipation of another great welcome; but for once, the crowd was subdued and even quiet. The town square was only half full. No! That is wrong! There were people covering half of the square. The other half was empty -- except for the small group huddled on the other side of the Town Well. Lepers! The crowd had backed away from them, pressing themselves against the walls of the buildings as if it gave them support and protection. "Lepers!" The word crept from whisper

to whisper, ear to ear, until fear itself were almost tangible. "Lepers!"

They stared, not taking their eyes away from the grey mummy-like clothing of the huddled group, like people transfixed at the sight of a wolf or rapid dog. "Lepers!" The whispers continued. The square was like a still-life picture, frozen in time. The only movement was the person of Jesus moving through the crowd, with no sound. He almost seemed to glide, and then there he was in the open, crossing the square, arms extended until he was in the midst of the little huddle of grey death. Hands and arms reached out to touch him. He was speaking to them, laying hands upon them. The crowd watched as the Lepers sank to their knees, crying, praying, throwing off their rags, their faces shining and bright. They held one another, sang songs of praise, hugged, sprang, danced in jubilation. Then, they were gone and Jesus stood alone, his body slumped forward, his head down in his hands, and he seemed to be praying. Still, the crowd did not move. They simply stood and stared for the longest time.

"Miracle!" the Apostles shouted. "It's a miracle! The master has cured the Lepers. It's a miracle!"

The word spread across the crowd, yet still nobody moved. Jesus raised his

eyes to heaven and prayed. Then something strange happened. A lone figure appeared out of the South Road. Still wearing the rags of a Leper, he walked quickly towards Jesus and threw himself at Jesus' feet. Now all could hear the words the Master said: "Did I not cure ten Lepers? Where are the other nine? Go, your faith has saved you!" For the rest of the week, the disciples talked about nothing but the cure of the Lepers. "We were gripped by fear," they told themselves. "We had no faith, so that our feet were rooted to the spot. I was petrified," said Philip. "I could feel the blood draining from my face, hands, and feet. I wanted to run, but my legs would not obey me."

"Only Jesus was calm," said James. "He was like a breeze of peace passing through our midst. It was as if God had come among his people. He had no fear, only love. After, I felt ashamed and humbled at what I saw."

We all experience 'fear' in our life. Fear like a wet blade touching our heart when the Doctor says the word we least want to hear: "cancer!" Fear when we hear the news: "He has died." No matter the circumstances, we can all experience fear. They say that in wartime, in battle, the 'brave' are not those without fear. The brave are those who, despite fear, do what they need to do to save others.

Today, fear has walked among us and our nation and indeed our world has gone to war against disease, a virus, and death. We are at war, but this is a war without soldiers. This is a war where the heroes all wear hospital scrubs, masks and gloves, battling every day to save lives. Fear runs in their veins, pulsates with their heartbeat, clouds their minds. But despite that fear, they walk forward, from bed to bed, sick person to sick person, dead body to dead body.

Months ago, some of them were in college or even high school; others long in years, have come back from retirement. Death walks among them, striking down the strong with the weak, the man and the woman, the doctor and the nurse; but still, they steel themselves for yet another shift, and another battle with death and with fear. It was that great wartime leader Winston Churchill who, in the midst of Britain's darkest hour, said, "Never has so much been owed by so many to so few!" One day, we will awake from this nightmare of 2020 Coronavirus and know that these words apply today to the men and women who stood shoulder to shoulder, with death all around, to save the lives of our people and our nation. And around the world, that same service was repeated over and over by the caregivers of our planet.

Today, they go to work to save the homeless in from the street, or the millionaire Wall Street stock broker. For it no longer matters how much money you have in the bank. All you need today is your ID -- Human Being - - to qualify for their help. Hang out your window tonight, as they do in Italy, England and across Europe and shout: "THANK YOU HEALTH WORKERS, DOCTORS, NURSES AND ALL HOSPITAL STAFF! THANK YOU, OUR HEROES! For as Jesus said, "When you did it for the least of these little ones, you did it for me."

In 1854, Florence Nightingale (a young woman from England) walked through the hospital beds of wounded British and French soldiers in Sebastopol in the Crimea. She was barely 21 years old. It was there she found infection, pain, disease, and death. She addressed it the only way she knew ... with care, attention, hygiene, and Christian love.

She took her inspiration from the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Matthew Chapter 5: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

Years later, she should would return to London to discover that her own name – regarded as 'the Lady with the Lamp' - - was known throughout the country. Her name was used in every school, her praises were sung in Parliament. The Queen called her a National Hero and invited her to found the Royal School of Nursing. Today, her nursing Manuals are the yardstick for nursing care throughout the world.

Florence Nightingale lived a long and fruitful life, dedicated to the sick and to nursing. On her desk was a cross and a Bible, the tools of her career and the guiding light of her life. She was a Christian through and through and told her young nurses in training: "This is your mother, this is your father, and you must be as Jesus for each one of your patients. Do that, and you will be the finest nurse in the world."

"Do NOT be afraid," said Jesus, "for I am with you, and will be with you until the end of time.

My Peace I give you, and may my Peace remain with you, now and forever."

Let Us Pray, dear People of Christ Church. Let Us Pray as we have never prayed before for our health care workers, for the families of the dead, for the mercy of God throughout this troubled time. Do not give up hope, do not despair, trust in God and in the Love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

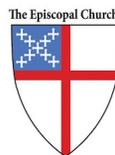
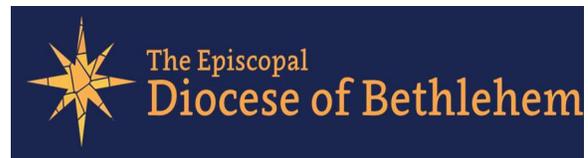
*Prayers and Blessings,
Fr. Bill*



OUR CHOIR has been on hiatus since winter of 2020; and now, throughout the ongoing virus pandemic, our voices are still quiet. During the

uncertainty of the coronavirus social distancing, it's uncertain as to when our choir will resume ... it's a wait-and-see situation.

In the meantime, please keep a positive attitude; and as Lawrence Welk would say, "keep a song in your heart." Hopefully, life will soon return to a sense of normalcy. When we do, we'll again be worshiping and singing together with songs of hope and praise in our hearts. Until that time, keep healthy and keep safe. – Dawn Pentecost



Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As we continue to learn more about the current pandemic, we are discovering that more drastic measures must be taken in order to protect, not just the vulnerable, but all people in our communities. In light of recommendations from medical experts, our Governor, and our President, I once again call upon all congregations of the Diocese of Bethlehem to suspend in-person gatherings, including worship (until we're able to safely gather together again.).

(Recently), I joined you in worship around the diocese. I watched pre-recorded services and attended as many livestream worship gatherings as I was able. Through these

virtual gatherings, I heard a resounding reminder that the Church must not be entombed! I heard strong voices demanding that we shout down fear and death once and for all. I heard a clarion call to remember who we are as followers of Jesus. As Christians, we must recover our sense of purpose. We must reach out and remind the communities we are called to serve why we are here-to proclaim a risen Christ to a broken and frightened world. This crisis, this pandemic, this moment is like no other. And it calls us to stay strong together.

Though this pandemic may keep us from gathering in person, we remain the Church, we continue to be the people of God, and we are the body of Christ!

In God's love,




Join Sandy Milien every Wednesday at 1:30pm for The Way of Love in Times of Uncertainty, an opportunity for reflection and conversation about continuing to practice the Way of Love during this time of distancing and isolation.

For those with a home computer, go to the diocesan website, www.diobeth.org and follow the link to hook into this informative weekly dialogue from our Diocese.



**REMEMBERING
CAROL DENNIS –**

We were all shocked by the sudden passing of Carol, our sister in faith. Carol was a member of our church family for only a short time, but she became a full participant in the life of Christ Church.

You would see Carol on Sundays in the choir, in the kitchen during the community meals, decorating the church for the holidays, sharing fellowship during coffee hour after worship services, and visiting with the shut-ins of our parish as a Eucharistic Visitor. She was a woman of faith and of Christian love, which was so evident to all of us. Carol was a joy to be around, and we will miss her.

Condolences go out to her children, Kathy Henning and her family, Gary Dennis, and to her brother, Donald Race, and to Sandy Wilmot, her close friend from their childhood days.

A memorial service will be scheduled in the future at our church on a date to be announced.
– Jack DeMark



**NEWS from the
PEWS**

- It is with saddened hearts to share that Jack DeMark's Mother, Marge DeMark, passed away at home on April 24th. As Fr. Bill shared so well: "O Lord, thank you for taking our sister Marge by the hand and gently leading her to everlasting life." Our Christ Church family is with Jack and his family in Spirit.

Condolences may be shared with Jack and his family at 855 Kelly St., Vandling PA 18421.



WHAT CAN WE DO? – There is no doubt that we are paying attention to the news of the corona virus. How could we not? It’s always on the TV and radio news, in the newspapers, and in conversations among ourselves.

It is easy to become fearful and maybe panicked by these current circumstances. But we must remember that our Faith has us trusting in God in all such times of difficulty.

We need to pray even more now when getting together with family and friends isn’t possible -- during this new rule of ‘social distancing.’ Besides this spiritual encouragement, we need to give some assurance to those who have lost jobs or who are afraid of losing their job. But how can we help?

We can help others find work by lending our phones, offering rides and speaking to potential employers. Or, we can direct them to the local food pantry or social service agency. We can also purchase gift certificates at the local grocery store for those who are unemployed.

The least and easiest thing we can do is pray. Pray that the economically affected are spared the misery of no income for a long period of time. Pray that the medically affected are able to heal and recover in due time.

And pray that soon we will all be able to gather again at our little stone church for the glory of God. – Jack DeMark



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 OR CALL 865-579-1530



ST. JAMES, DUNDAFF –

Everything is getting lined up for Summer worship at the little white chapel in

Dundaff – except for the Coronavirus. Our planned opening is Memorial Day Sunday, May 24th, supply clergy is lined up, and Lucy will return as our organist.

Worship each Sunday will begin at 11:00am, and Fr. Peter Pearson will be our supply clergy for most of the

summer. Since he is also permanent supply at St. Mark's in Moscow at 9:00am, this results in our later service time this year. '

Other clergy for the summer will be Deacon John Davis (2 Sundays), Fr. Earl Trygar (one Sunday) and Mo. Beth Haynes (2 Sundays).

At this point, it is hard to predict exactly when Susquehanna County will allow worship services to resume. And considering the Governor's current plan for phased re-opening state-wide, it is questionable if St. James can keep its Memorial Day schedule. But please stay tuned, and we will get word out when more is known.

- Bob Schreiber



The Stone Soup Kitchen at Christ Church

NEXT FREE MEAL: ???

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our monthly free community luncheons are postponed until further notice.

As always, we're grateful to each and every one who shares this special church mission ... for their help to buy ingredients, bake deserts, and prepare and serve the meals together with love. Remember, ALL ARE WELCOME, so come along and join us when we reopen. Until then, stay well and be safe.

-Susie Schreiber



HERE'S WHAT'S COOKIN' in OUR CHURCH KITCHEN

Cooks and bakers have long known that passed-along recipes are the proven best. Tried and true, they're so extra tasty because they always hold memories of the beloved family member or friend who initially shared it. This tasty **Molasses Cake** is from choir member and church friend **Carol Dennis**. Sadly, Carol joined Heaven's choir in April, but her shared treat lives on with future bakers. And the **Strawberry Bread** from a Church Mouse is another yummy reminder that one of summer's favorite berries awaits all bakers. Enjoy them both!

MOLASSES CAKE

Preheat oven 59 359 deg. Grease and flour a 13x9 in. cake pan.

Ingredients

4 c. flour
2 c. sugar
½ lb. (2 sticks) butter
1 tbsp. baking soda
2 c. boiling water
1 c. molasses

Directions

Measure flour, sugar, butter into large bowl. Crumble mixture into fine crumbs and take out 1 c. of this mixture and set aside for topping. Add baking soda to remaining mixture, blend well. Add molasses, boiling water and mix until smooth. Pour batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle reserved crumbs over top of cake. Bake 50-60 mins. until tester comes out clean. Enjoy warm with vanilla ice cream.

STRAWBERRY BREAD

Preheat oven to 350 deg. Grease and flour two loaf pans.

Ingredients

3-1/4 c. flour
1-3/4 c. sugar
½ tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda
3 eggs, slightly beaten

1 c.+ 2 tbsp. oil (can split quantity w/ half melted butter)
 2 10-oz. pkgs. Sliced frozen strawberries w/juice
 1-1/4 c. chopped nuts (if desired)

Directions

Mix first five ingredients in a large bowl. Add liquid ingredients and blend well by hand (do NOT use a mixer). Pour into prepared loaf pans, or large muffin tins.



Monthly **VESTRY** meetings are generally held on the third Sunday, about 12:30pm, in the church Undercroft. All are welcome.

Current Vestry Members & Contacts:

- Dawn Pentecost (term ends 1/31/23)
- Susie Schreiber (term ends 1/31/21)
- David Seaman (term ends 1/31/21)
- June Arrowsmith (term ends 1/31/22)
- Karen Toolan (term ends 1/31/22)
- Juliann Doyle, Vestry Secretary
- Jack DeMark, Sr. Warden, Ex Officio



STAY IN TOUCH with the Christ Church office via the parish phone: 570-785-3425 (please leave a message, as the line is regularly checked). Or by email: christchurchparishforestcity@gmail.com.

We also have two web sites: www.christchurchforestcity.com is the official church web site. The second website is: www.christchurchforestcity.shutterfly.com. This site contains photos of some of our recent activities. You can also sign up to become a member and receive email notices of events that are on the web site calendar.

Mail should be directed to Christ Church, PO Box 118, Forest City, PA 18421. For church emergencies or situations requiring immediate attention, please call Sr. Warden, Jack

DeMark, at 570-540-5936 or 570-785-5792. – Bob Schreiber, Church Secretary



SUNDAY, MAY 10th

Near or far, our parents are always in our hearts, and forever remembered.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21st



SUNDAY, JUNE 14th

commemorates the adoption of the US flag on June 14, 1777. And since this date in 1885, it has been the official day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag, and for America.



FROM ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE PRAYER ...

especially for these trying times

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
 Christ behind me, Christ before me,
 Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
 Christ to comfort and restore me.
 Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
 Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
 Christ in hearts of all that love me,
 Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.



MAY

- 3 Saundra Murphy
- 6 Janet Seana
- 7 Katie DeMark
- 15 David Seaman
Priscilla Walters
- 16 Ivy Carpenter
- 20 Jennifer Dovin
- 24 Sr. Laurie Niblick
Susan Schreiber

JUNE

- 4 Rev. Steve Matylewicz
- 7 Paul Mihelc
- 9 Luke Carione
Marie Cookson
- 13 Mary Foote
- 18 June Arrowsmith
- 19 Charlie Davis
- 20 Donna Gasper
- 26 Lisa DeMark

BIRTHDAY PRAYER: *O God, our times are in your hands. Look with favor, we pray, on your servants listed on our birthday list as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. And so, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



MAY

- NONE

JUNE

- 9 Lisa & Jack DeMark
- 22 Claudia & Charlie Davis

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY PRAYER:

Grant, O God, in your compassion, that the couples on our anniversary list, having taken each other in marriage, may live out the covenant they have made, may they grow in forgiveness, loyalty and love; and come at last to the eternal joys which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with them, this day and forever. Amen



CHURCH CHUCKLES

A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl, "because white is the color of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today." After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says, "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"

Thanks to www.churchtechtoday.com

A one-dollar bill met a twenty-dollar bill and said, "Hey, where've you been? I haven't seen you around here much."

The twenty answered, "I've been hanging out at the casinos, went on a cruise and did the rounds of the ship, back to the United States for a while, went to a couple of baseball games, to the mall, that kind of stuff. How about you?"

The one-dollar bill said, "You know, same old stuff ... church, church, church."

Thanks to www.jokes4all.net

Mrs. Smartt was fumbling in her purse for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle.

The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, "Do you always carry your TV remote to church?"

"No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally."

Thanks to www.stewardshipoflife.org

CLOSING THOUGHTS ...

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

- Hebrews 11:1

*"Walk of Faith:
Look for the joy in the passage
and the message in the missing."*

- D. O'Day, Guideposts

"Faith, not fear."

- Shared motto of a Forest City Friend

*"Keep your face to the sunshine and
you cannot see the shadow.*

It's what sunflowers do."

- Helen Keller



THE NEXT CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

will be for July/August 2020; article submissions are due by June 19th. Please email your news items, recipes, and photos to Karen Toolan, kbtwrite@nep.net; or post them to 993 State Route 2029, Clifford Twp. PA 18470.

Please note that this is YOUR newsletter. So, if anyone from Christ Church would like to be one of our fun-loving, news-gathering, and photo-snapping fellow *Church Mice*, please contact the church office. More mice and more photos are always welcomed!

Until we all meet in church again, take care, stay well, be safe, and God bless.

The Roving Church Mice

