



A publication of St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Cross Currents

Worship: Sunday at 8:00 and 9:45 am

July 2020 Edition

My Sisters, Brothers and Others in Christ,

It's been fifteen weeks since we last gathered for in-person worship. Since the suspension of in-person worship, we have improvised other ways to worship together, we have recovered other less common orders of service, and we have strived to maintain a sense of connection in a time of mandated isolation.

Happily, for now, the suspension of in-person worship has been lifted. As a result, for the past two weeks the Vestry, staff, and committees of St. Michael's have been evaluating our ability to return to in-person worship within the guidelines provided by the Diocese. And now we are prepared to submit an application to the Diocese reporting our ability to comply with its guidelines.

Anticipating the Diocese's acceptance of our report, we are in the midst preparing for a return to in-person worship. The planned date of this return is Sunday, July 19. However, there is a notable caveat to this announcement. Given the current upward trajectory of coronavirus cases in Lucas County over the past week-and-a-half, we must acknowledge that this decision to move toward in-person worship is not a certain thing. The health of our members, guests, and community is, as followers of Christ, our preeminent concern. Thus, there is the ever-present reality that we may revert to a suspension of in-person worship. To the point of the health of members, guests, and community, the norms for attendance of in-person worship will be published and shared in separate correspondence.

Our plan is to hold one service outdoors (weather permitting) each Sunday at 9:00 a.m., and attendance will be limited to 50 people. If the weather does not cooperate, the service will be held in the parish hall (aka fellowship hall).

Given the space allocated for this letter, I cannot enumerate every norm for in-person worship. As stated above, these will be forthcoming shortly. In the interim, please continue to hold the Vestry, staff, and ministry teams of St. Michael's in your prayers for discernment and leadership.

Yours in Christ's love and anticipation,

Forst +



Building a People who Love, Learn & Serve in Christ's Name!

"AND THE SURVEY SAYS..."

We received an incredible 76 responses to our survey, and we are so grateful to everyone for taking time to participate. It cannot be overstated how valuable your input is, as we continue to find creative ways to serve our parish family and stay connected. I'd like to address some of these insights and resulting changes:

ONLINE SERVICES: If you've watched the services, you have noticed how we have evolved. The biggest comments involved sound quality and the use of masks. We are adhering to our own Bishop's guidelines and recommendations about wearing masks but we recognize that it affects sound quality and we have worked to improve volume and recording practices.

VIRTUAL COMPLINE: At the beginning of the shutdown we created the virtual, on-line compline services twice a week for two reasons – to continue the Wednesday tradition we had for meeting in-person and to have a mid-week respite from the world. The Sunday compline was created as a means to connect with our parish family on Sunday, since we didn't begin our own digital services from our church until the end of May. Virtual compline has been a great way to connect – to see faces and hear voices.

Since we have been providing weekly services, and based on feedback from the survey, we are going to continue having compline on **Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm**. The Sunday evening compline services will no longer be held, but we will be implementing another connection point on Sundays . . . please keep reading!

CONNECTION + ENGAGEMENT: Everyone responded that they had been contacted in some way by a member of vestry, a member of the outreach committee (that was my misnomer. I should have said Lay Ministry Team, and sincerely apologize), a staff member, and / or clergy. I cannot thank all of these folks enough for their creativity and hard work and caring in reaching out. The comments written indicate that generally all communication is appreciated, be it phone calls, emails, notes. We are now working on new, creative ways to stay connected.

The survey also shows that some of you are struggling emotionally and mentally. Please know there are resources online to help you. If you go to lovelearnserve.org/worship/worship, just underneath the picture of the nave there is a link to a resource for daily prayer. This might be a means to center and anchor one in the midst of the daily stress we all experience. Also, the Diocese of Ohio has compiled a comprehensive list of resources that may be more specific to your needs: <https://dohio.org/blog/march-2020/helpful-resources-for-individuals-families-and-c>.

On the survey, 5 people indicated they would like help from the church. Only two gave their name. If you are one of the three who responded to this question, please call the office and leave a message, or reach out to Fr. Foster directly (frfoster@lovelearnserve.org)! We have no way of knowing who needs help and we want to hear from you!

We received a very positive response that a Virtual Common Grounds would be welcome, so we are working on making this happen on Sundays during the summer. More to come!

(Continues on page 3...)

"AND THE SURVEY SAYS... ." (CONTINUED...)

ONLINE GIVING: Over 25% of respondents said they have explored our new online giving system(s)! Feedback indicates it is fairly easy to use. The vast majority indicated they are happy to mail their checks to the church, and we are sincerely grateful for that as well, always! We will continue to offer both ways of giving. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you'd like a walkthrough of the system or have questions.

RETURNING TO IN-PERSON GATHERING: Fr. Foster, the vestry, and our amazing staff have been working hard to develop a plan to return to worshipping in person. This plan involves continuing to provide online services for those who will not attend for very real and important reasons. In adhering to the Diocese's guidelines, we will not be distributing communion. Much more to come on this, for sure, as we continue to actively, deliberately and thoughtfully plan our re-opening.

I would like to thank everyone who indicated they would be willing to volunteer and help in some capacity, you'll be hearing from us! And I'm profoundly grateful to all of you for your patience and prayers as we have learned (quickly!) how to better use technology to keep us connected. Thank you!

– Julia Burtscher,
Senior Warden



Where would we be now without the insight and hope gained from the arts, especially generated by young people? Off The Beaten Path had the joy of presenting such gifts last fall in the extraordinary concert by the Sphinx Virtuosi ensemble. They gave us our inaugural theme: "For Justice and Peace." We thank them for that inspiration.

We turn a new page with a virtual presentation of a perhaps overlooked celebration of justice: 100 years of Women's Suffrage in the US. The 2019-20 Toledo Opera Resident Artists are ending their year in Toledo (and at St. Michael's in the Hills choir) with a burst of creativity, celebration, and learning.

Justin Bays, St. Michael's Director of Music, is producing the concert, "Nevertheless We Persist," featuring vocal music that reflects on the journey to guarantee voting rights for women. The program features performances by the Opera/s Resident Artists who have served this year as section leaders and soloists for St. Michael's Senior Choir.

Join us for a virtual treat in performance videos that tell the story, "Nevertheless We Persist." The concert will appear as a three part Facebook series. Tune in on August 12, 19, and 26th at 7 pm on the St. Michael's in the Hills Facebook page to hear "Nevertheless We Persist."

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Will our Children have Faith?

For the past few months, I've been thinking about the words of John Westerhoff. He poses the following, "The question is not will our children have faith but, will our faith have children?" In the Prayer Book Guide to Christian Education it states, "Christian education and formation is a network of mutual responsibility for doing a ministry in which all persons, both laity and clergy, share. We have an awesome task to share the love of Christ with our children and youth! Vacation Bible School (VBS) was one way that our church family helped to form disciples amongst our youngest parishioners and community members. I am sorry that we will not be having a traditional VBS this year. Nevertheless we persist! We will begin providing more online content for our children and youth this summer! We will share in music and worship activities while social distancing. Please make sure that you are subscribed to St. Michael's YouTube page.

God Bless, *Imani*

Evangelism in Unlikely Places

The English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible reads as follows, "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching 2 Timothy 4:2. When I pray in the mornings, I ask God to help me share the love of Christ with a few people. I had two special Evangelism encounters that I'd like to share to encourage you. While chatting with the dentist, I learned that it is indeed a small world, after all. My dentist said, "I just knew that you were a Christian, I just didn't know that you were an Episcopalian, that's the same thing as Anglican isn't it?" As it turns out, my dentist is a part of the Anglican Church in Nigeria and I attended her nephew's confirmation at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church this past winter! Additionally, I began to listen for the familiar jingle of the ice cream truck. Once I heard it, I stepped outside and purchased ice cream then I bought ice cream for the assembled children. Some of the parents who were watching came to ask why I bought the children's treats and it opened the door for me to talk with them about God's love. Evangelism can happen anywhere! Share Christ's love today! I know that you can do it!



Join me in a fun race! I'm setting up a St. Michael's Team! The Registration fee is \$15. Let's show our gratitude for all of the ministries responding to the COVID-19 pandemic while staying active! Register for the

Great EpisGOpal Race Virtual Run/Walk to support the 2020 UTO Ingathering. You're invited to join us anytime July 24 through August 1 to run or walk, indoors or outdoors, bike, skate, scooter or skateboard, for a half marathon, 10K, 5K or 1 Mile "your way". Please visit: unitedthankoffering.org/race. Please email me (imani@lovelearnserv.org) with any questions before you register.

WEEKLY COMPLINE UPDATE

NEW TIME!

Please join us for Virtual Compline!

Every Wednesday

6:00 PM



We will now be offering Virtual Compline only on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. We are offering this service via Zoom web conferencing. This allows us to see each other's faces and interact with each other online, real-time. *Don't know how to use Zoom?*

We can work through it together! You can join from a PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, Android device, or even via an old-fashioned telephone call!

To access Zoom, visit <https://zoom.us/j/3266613552>. The first time you use this, you will need to download a software program, but it is very fast. When prompted, click "Join Audio Conference by Computer."

If you want voice only, please dial (929) 205-6099 and enter meeting ID: 326 661 3552

When asked for a participant ID, click "#"

The Order of Service for each Wednesday is posted on our website when available.

Please join us! We would love to connect with you, share a simple service, and worship together.

WHAT DOES RETURNING TO CHURCH LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

As we prepare to return to in-person worship in a new way (starting outdoors), we encourage you to consider your own health when making the decision if returning to St. Michael's is right for you and/or your family. We would love to share a letter from one St. Michael's family....

June 30, 2020

Dear St. Michaels,

We are missing you all. Through this pandemic, our family has not ventured far from our home. Thankfully, our children have each other to talk to, play with and my favorite, giggle with each other. As a family we have found that we are closer than we have ever been, (There's always a silver lining). We watch the YouTube videos online, mostly on Sunday's. We participate in the services when we can. Now they say it's okay to have services together, in limited capacity. This is progress. We are not sure how this looks for our family. Our family is in the high risk category, as most of you well know. What are our choices? We choose to stay close to home.

*Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered together
in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

As a family we will worship together and keep the spirit of St. Michael's in our hearts. Know that we miss you all.

Lovingly yours,

The Waweru family



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

Supporting our summer ministries and mission is only a click away! We offer convenient online giving, available anywhere, anytime, right from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts – a great option for members who are out of town or traveling frequently. Get started by visiting our website: www.lovelearnserve.org. See the “Give Online” option in the upper right hand corner.

Resources ▾

Give Online

To give through our mobile app, download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play and search for our church by name or ZIP code.

**GIVE
PLUS+**

We appreciate your generosity and we hope that you will consider giving a gift to support our congregation!

Please reach out to Senior Warden, Julia Burtscher, if you have any questions. If you prefer to mail your weekly / monthly / quarterly pledges, please feel free to do so. *Thank you!*

A NOTE ABOUT ONLINE SERVICES...

Although we are planning to return to in-person worship outdoors on July 19th, please remember you will still be able to watch the service online via our Facebook page or YouTube Channel.

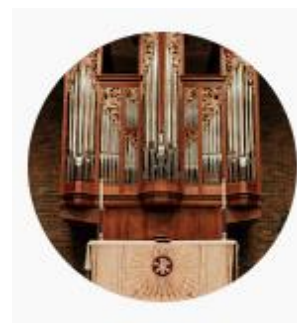


CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!



Check out our YouTube Channel!
Visit www.youtube.com
and search for “St. Michael’s in the Hills”

When you see the organ graphic below, you will know you’ve found the right channel! Here you will find videos of sermons, services and enjoy some anthems by our Senior Choir section leaders.



ONLINE RESOURCES:

- Father Foster’s Sermons
<https://lovelearnserve.org/news-events/links/>
- Weekly Compline Services via Zoom (New time!) Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm
<https://lovelearnserve.org/worship/worship/>
- Every Sunday, Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am, Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland
<https://trinitycleveland.org/worship/>
- Daily Worship at the Washington National Cathedral
<https://cathedral.org/>
- Bible readings from the Episcopal Lectionary at
<http://lectionarypage.net/>

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4 Joseph Boesel | 19 Katie Kropp |
| 8 Lillian Spaulding | 20 Preston Smith |
| 10 Isabelle Carter
Barney Stewart
Claire Waweru | 23 Al Stephens
Grace Wipfli |
| 11 David Francisco
Steven Lloyd
Steven Randall
Catherine Kight | 28 David Ensing
Max Braun |
| 12 Marilyn Rossnagel | 30 Vivian Maltese
Craig Van Horsten
Rachel Maltese
Mark Maltese |
| 13 Tami Keleher | 31 Valerie Wiley
Mike Ward |
| 15 Anne Morris
Carol Kanfield | |
| 16 Carol Simmons
Stephanie Egan | |
| 17 Kate Arnos
Laurie Webb | |



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

August Newsletter: *Articles due July 22*

The Office remains closed at this time. If you should need to get into the building, please email or call the Office to arrange this.

Updated Parish Directories are always available. Contact the office to request one. Digital or printed copies are available.



MEMORIAL GARDEN WORKDAYS

We continue to have Memorial Garden work days the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9 am—11 am, weather permitting. Come prepared for the weather and to do some weeding. Gloves and a water bottle are a good idea, as well as a mask. Contact Dee Becker with any questions. Scheduled upcoming days are July 18, August 15, and September 19.



WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS...

Homebound: Isabelle Carter, Carolyn Cousino, Kay Marion, and Al Reiser.

Parishioners: Bob Butler, Dick Aldinger, Elmer and Letty Haigh, Carol and Dennis Kanfield, Gayle Kurrelmeier, Jackie Moore, John, Marilyn Palermo, Lindsay Smith, Lillian Spaulding, Peter Handwork, and Puffin Coe.

*Family & Friends: Leland Ames, Didi Beckham, Dixie, Evelyn, Lee Gable, Jean, Karen, Lexi, Sandra, Nancy, and Eileen.

For those in harm's way: Michael, Ian Reinheimer, John P. Smith, Scott Sykes, Russell, and all essential workers.

**Family and Friends remain on the prayer list for one month unless the Church Office is otherwise notified.*



Pastoral CARE

When you are sick, hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please notify the church office or Fr. Foster. Privacy laws prevent institutions from sharing such information. Also, the church office is happy to keep a record of your emergency contact info. should someone need to be contacted. In the event of a pastoral emergency after office hours, Fr. Foster Mays can be reached at: (419) 482-8383.



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THE VESTRY

Julia Burtscher, *Senior Warden*

Dani Zoorob, *Junior Warden*

Class of 2021

David Braun
Julia Burtscher
James Carlisle
Barb Malkoski

Class of 2022

Nancy Elzinga
Kay Gerhardinger
Eboné Waweru
Dani Zoorob

Class of 2023

Jen DeBacker
Joe Myers
Carol Nichols
George Shirk

PARISH STAFF

Imani Driskell – Director of Children's, Youth and Family Ministry

Rebecca Park – Organist

Justin Bays – Director of Music

Michelle Knecht & Kim Schrinel – Administrative Assistants

Diane Reeves & Lisa Watson – Sextons

Gretchen Rohm – Financial Administrator

PARISH LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Foster Mays – Priest-in-Charge

Julia Burtscher – Senior Warden

Dani Zoorob – Junior Warden

John Graham – Treasurer

David Braun – Clerk