



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

Cross Currents

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

March 2021 Edition

My Sisters, Brothers and Others,

During the past year we have gone from regularly scheduled, communal, in-person worship and gathering to less frequent, safely distanced or remote, more loosely, technologically tethered communal worship and gathering. In short, we have gone from the tangible to the virtually intangible. It's not the same, it's just feels different.

While all of us likely lament the lack of tangible contact and its consequences, if we have been participating in remote worship, perhaps we can also acknowledge that we are seeing new (and perhaps old) acquaintances appearing amid the likes and comments on Facebook and YouTube. Even while we yearn for a return to what was, we are seeing others joining us in our communal worship. Even as we maintain our distance, we are reaching others who want to be in community with us. Go figure. It's not what we're accustomed to, it feels different.

Amid the changes we have experienced in the past year is one you may not yet be aware of. It is one many of us are not accustomed to, it feels different. It is a collaboration among parishes in the West Mission Area to share resources in order to expand the offering of Christian formation opportunities throughout the Mission Area. It's not how things have been done in the past, it is different.

On page 2 of this newsletter and on the Mission Area website (<https://westmissionarea.org/>), you will find the particulars of a professionally curated offering, which include: Sunday morning group devotional discussions, Sunday midday illustrated family devotionals, Monday evening meditations, Tuesday evening lectionary study, Wednesday evening Bible study of the Gospel according to Mark, Thursday evening visio divina or divine seeing as a method of meditation, and others still to be determined.

In this season of Lent, even as we are fasting at a distance, through communal collaboration and sharing of resources we are able to feast communally – albeit at a safe distance – upon something that has not been done before. This is different, yet it has the potential to nourish us through these 40 days and until Pentecost if we just dare to embrace something different and say yes to those bidding us welcome.

In the name of the one who came as one of us to show us a new way, I am ...

Yours in the love of Christ,



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

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY

Our Vestry had a very productive meeting this month especially with the West Mission Area Council working on various online events addressing the season of Lent. The vestry is also identifying ways to stay in touch with parishioners and support them.

— *Dani Zoorob*, Sr. Warden

LENT WITH THE WEST MISSION AREA CHURCHES

Lent is a time in the church year set aside for special devotion, especially prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Join us in observing these holy forty days by participating in the following WMA classes or events.

Visit www.westmissionarea.org for access to this vast array of opportunities to assist with your Lenten pilgrimage to the cross and empty tomb, together with members of other congregations throughout our area. When you visit the website, you will find links to get you connected to each group. In addition to these recurring weekly classes, you are also invited to attend special events which are highlighted online.

SUNDAYS, 9:00AM

Adult class centered around the eco-feminist Lenten devotional by Episcopal professor Sylvia Sweeney. No registration required; come any week. Led by Dr. Jennifer Vasquez.

SUNDAYS, 11:00AM

This 30-minute meetup is for all ages, centered around children; we will discuss the Lent devotional, "Where Your Treasure Is," from Illustrated Ministries.



MONDAYS, 5:00PM

Join Pastor Julie Beitelschees on a 6-week journey of "Living Well Through Lent: Listening with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind."

TUESDAYS, 4:30-6:00PM

Reverend Jeff Bunke facilitates this weekly gathering to explore the "coming Sunday's" appointed scripture readings.

WEDNESDAYS, 7:00PM

This weekly Bible Study explores the Gospel of Mark and features lectures from Dr. David Lose. No registration required; come any time. Led by Dr. Jennifer Vasquez.

THURSDAYS, 7:00PM

Visio Divina, Latin for "divine seeing," is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Paula Davis will lead this practice; all are welcome.



Have questions? E-mail: westmissionarea@gmail.com



JOIN US FOR COMMON GROUNDS VIA ZOOM!

Join us for Zoom Common Grounds on Sunday's, March 7, 14 and 28 at 10 am. The programs will be about 45 minutes long, with plenty of time following for discussion and sharing.

The Zoom link will be found in the Friday email preceding the Sunday program, and can also be found on the church website, lovelearnserv.org. Go to the "Learn" tab drop-down menu and click on "Common Grounds." The Zoom link can also be found there. Also, please note that most of our Zoom Common Grounds programs have also been recorded and can be viewed on St. Michael's YouTube Channel.

MARCH 7: "FORGOTTEN NO MORE: THE PEOPLE OF THE TOLEDO STATE HOSPITAL CEMETERIES"

Jane Weber, lifelong member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Maumee (and their organist) will tell us about the Toledo State Hospital Cemetery And Reclamation Project. For hundreds of years, people with psychiatric, neurologic, and medical disorders were often removed from society, sometimes for a lifetime. In Toledo, many were sent to the state hospital to live out their days. Almost 2000 patients were buried in the state hospital cemeteries between 1888 and 1973. The city grew up around the cemeteries and the people buried there were forgotten. Come learn about the history of Toledo State Hospital, and hear stories of the people buried there.

MARCH 14: "HIDDEN TREASURE IN PLAIN SIGHT"

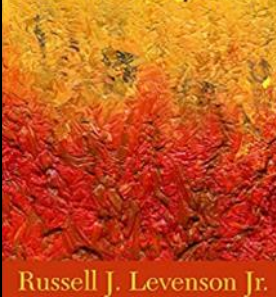
We will appreciate and discuss the 250 uniquely-created St. Michael's kneelers. Learn about the Anglican kneeler tradition, the history of our finely-crafted kneelers, how we care for them, and how we make new ones. Please join Julia Burtscher, Kay Gerhardinger, and Carol Nichols for this colorful program, reprised from the original presentation on November 17, 2019.

MARCH 28: PALM SUNDAY

"Thirty pieces of silver,' (Matt. 26:15) - Representations of Judas Iscariot in Western European Art"

We are grateful to have parishioner Larry Nichols help us enter Holy Week, with the power of art. Join us to learn through Larry's guidance as we see in new ways. Larry Nichols, William Hutton Senior Curator, European and American Painting and Sculpture before 1900, Toledo Museum of Art

A PATH TO WHOLENESS *A Lenten Companion*



LENTEN BOOK STUDY

For those seeking inspiration and devotion for Lent and beyond, *A Path to Wholeness* is an invitation to Lenten observance through Biblical passages and reflections. Each Wednesday in Lent, join us online each week at 6:00 pm via Zoom for this study. To register, call or email the office. A kindle version of the book can be purchased via Amazon.

*Wednesday Night Compline
will not be meeting
throughout Lent.
Instead, we invite you to join
us for our Lenten Book
Study, meeting via Zoom
each Wednesday at 6 pm.
See details at left.*

EASTER OFFERING: FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR & SEW HOPE

This Easter Season, a time of great need, brings us an opportunity to support two needed organizations. The Easter offering will be divided between Feed Your Neighbor, a local food bank and SewHope, a Guatemalan community that was hit hard by both the pandemic and a hurricane.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR:

St. Michael's has a history of offering non-perishable items to Feed your Neighbor. In this time of virtual worship, hunger is still a great issue. Funding offers food banks opportunity to use bulk buy power to stock shelves.



SEW HOPE:

A portion of the Easter Offering will be allocated to SewHope's Pandemic and Hurricane relief fund. This organization, began by Toledo Christians, suffers greatly from this double devastation. Our parish involvement began with a food packing event called "Kids Against Hunger". This involved children and adults working together, assemble line style, to pack nutritious, dehydrated food to ship to Guatemala. Since then, parishioners Meridith and Gillian Heckler have been on mission trips to Guatemala to experience the awesome interaction with local families. Meridith taught in the school, and Gillian served in the clinic. SewHope is currently building a new school, which will be completed this year! Following St. Michael's tradition, we will continue our sponsorship of two children living in Peten, Guatemala. This link offers more insight as to the connection between St. Michael's and SewHope, as well as a secure link to directly donate: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTA3OTgx



If you prefer to mail a check to St. Michael's, please write "Easter Offering" on the memo (and keep an eye out in mid-March for an Easter letter from St. Michael's with a special offering envelope inside!) Outreach committee chair, Ann Heckler, will see that outreach funds cover both organizations with your mail-in gift. Recognizing this year's challenges & COVID restrictions, our committee would support ideas from Parishioners for Outreach needs & opportunities. Feel free to Email Ann at yoga2day@hotmail.com or call the office to share any ideas.



"CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?"

As you all may very well know, I have been editing the service videos for church. One thing I have noticed during the editing process is that the sound can be a hit or miss at times. With all the different recording devices we use, it would be a daunting task to identify each person's individual technical needs but there is one thing we all have the ability to adjust. Our voice. The recording device can only pick up what we put into it, so I want to provide you with some exercises and tips that you can do at home before you record your portion of the service.

1. Try warming up your voice.

By taking a few seconds to do some gentle humming, you will release some throat tension that hinders the voice from projecting. You will treat your voice like it is a slide whistle when doing this humming exercise. Move through your range focusing entirely on the buzz sensation and the relaxation of any unnecessary tension.

2. Slow down.

Sometimes we want to rush through the readings. I want to give you permission to take your time with the readings. By taking your time, it will allow the listeners to fully understand the reading and any of the finer points that are being made. Pretend you are speaking to a child while reading. Typically, this practice will slow the speed and change the cadence of your voice.

3. Listen to the recording.

Take a 30 minute break from the recording if time allows for you to do so. Then play back the recording and just listen. Are you able to understand everything? If so then excellent! If not, please consider taking another go at the reading. By taking the 30 minute break we allow our thoughts of how we did in the recording to disappear. This will provide us with a fresh perspective on our own "performance."

I hope these suggestions help us to create an even better service for all to enjoy! I also want to thank everyone for their contributions to the service. It is so lovely to hear and see people in these distant times.

—Justin Bays



WRAPPED IN PRAYER

In the Religion section of The Blade on Sunday, February 21st, an article was shared about some local knitters, and included a few quotes from Anne Morris, coordinator of St. Michael's Knit and Pray ministry.

If you have access to The Blade, please check it out! The article is titled "Holding onto prayer: With handmade 'prayer squares,' church renews support for health care workers."



EASTER AND HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday
9:00 am

Maundy Thursday
7:00 pm

Good Friday
12 Noon

Easter Sunday
9:00 am

*Join us
ONLINE
via our
Facebook
page or
YouTube
channel*

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.lovelearnsolve.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!*



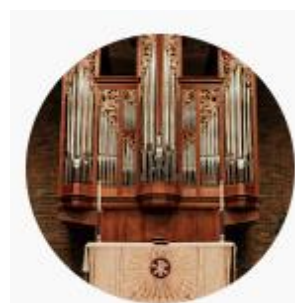
If you are on Instagram,
we invite you to follow our church account:
@stmichaelsinthehills

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://lovelearnsolve.org/news-events/links/>
- Weekly Compline Services via Zoom
(New time!) Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm
<https://lovelearnsolve.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/>

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Pamela Cousino | 18 Millie Walker
Sage Egan |
| 2 Becky Hauck
Shirley Hancock
Donna Wipfli
Matthew Hileman
Elizabeth Lathrop | 19 Mikayla Gomulinski |
| 3 Dick Hutchinson | 22 Helen Williams
Terri Ward
Kenneth Webb |
| 6 Dee Becker | 24 Jano Nolette
Jeff Boyer |
| 10 Scott Hendricks
Maya Francisco | 25 Rod Durgin
Charlotte DeRosa |
| 12 David O'Connell
Ron Boller
Hannah Spengler | 26 Gayle Kurrelmeier
Cam Smith |
| 13 Nancy Hughes | 27 Kent Gardam |
| 14 Alex DeRosa | |



WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS...

Homebound: 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, Ginger, Mark, and Rod and Joan Durgin.

*Family & Friends: Didi Beckham, Dixie, Evelyn, Lee Gable, Jean, Karen, Lexi, Sandra, Nancy, Bill, Michele, Monica, Caleb, Dick, Chris and Alan.

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

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



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

April Newsletter: Articles due March 22nd

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.



Dear friends of St. Michael's,

Who would have thought turning 90 would be a blessing? The arrival of all your birthday cards was overwhelming. I am truly blessed and thank each and every one of you for your kind thoughts.

With gratitude and affection,
Joan O'Connell



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

Dani Zoorob, *Senior Warden*
Maureen Latigo, *Junior Warden*

Class of 2022

Jim Boyer
Kay Gerhardinger
Eboné Waweru
Dani Zoorob

Class of 2023

Jen DeBacker
Joe Myers
Carol Nichols
George Shirk

Class of 2024

Maureen Latigo
Al Stephens
Nancy Lehmann
Donna Tozer-Wipfli

PARISH STAFF

Michelle Knecht & Kim Schrinel – Administrative Assistants
Gretchen Rohm – Financial Administrator
Justin Bays – Director of Music
Rebecca Park – Organist
Diane Reeves & Lisa Watson – Sextons

PARISH LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Foster Mays – Priest-in-Charge
Dani Zoorob – Senior Warden
Maureen Latigo – Junior Warden
John Graham – Treasurer
Al Stephens – Clerk