



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801

Office 570-278-2954, Mon. to Thu. 8:15am to 1:00pm

Click on link to email St. Paul's: stpaulsmontrose@epix.net

Click on link to go to our Website: <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

Click on link to go to our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

Mission Statement for St. Paul's: To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

Sept 20 - 26, 2020

Morning Prayer Sun. Sept. 20 at 10:00 am

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Vera Dunn & Barb Undercoffler

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Officiant: Tom Undercoffler

Counters: Steve Kupscznk & Richard Marker

Greeter/Usher: Martha Kupscznk & Vickie Calby

Readings for this week

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm: 105:1-6, 37-45

Epistle: Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

With all of the negativity encompassing our church, society, and faith, in the present time, I find myself frequently retreating to the safety and solitude of soul searching. I find it very disheartening and bewildering as to how did this happen? How did we get here? What in the world is going on?

As a child I remember that religion was, and everybody did it, every Sunday we went to Church, whether it be Catholic or Protestant. The difference was the Protestants drank the wine and the Catholics didn't. As simplistic as that sounds it is a comfortable place to be.

Jesus said we must enter Heaven, or the Kingdom of Heaven, as a child. Unfortunately it is not that easy to accomplish or for that matter very pragmatic. Today we must approach our Faith with a multitude of avenues encountering countless influential obstacles and

interventions whether it be social, political, or family related. Do we even have enough time? Or, search your conscience, do I care?

Many passages from the Bible attempt to depict where the location of heaven is, but in the final analysis it is being in the presence of God, and Hell is the absence of God. The Church is a sanctuary to teach us how achieve this place of existence in bringing God to our presence. However the key is being aware of your presence, where are you? Awareness can only be affirmed through belief. If you are not committed in your belief then you cannot be aware of the presence. Without the presence you are, as Adam and Eve in the Garden, naked before the world.

What is your understanding of childlike? How is it possible to achieve with the complexities of today's society and influences and events of this world?

Childlike faith is not about the avoidance of questions, because children ask many, many questions.

Becoming like a little child means that we maintain the wonderful and beautiful characteristics and qualities of children that life in this sinful world tends to strip out of us.

For Example: Like tenderness of conscience, Openness about emotions and feelings, Creativity and imagination, Wonder and awe, Joy, Eternal hope, Playfulness and humor, Trust. Easy forgiveness, Undying love,

Boundless exuberance and energy, always thinking the best about life and other people, Being willing to learn and grow.

As adults, we sometimes perhaps a few, get bored with flowers, bugs, and sunsets. We lose delight in talking with others about nothing.

Unfortunately in today's world we are constantly bombarded with hyperboles by the media and social networks, who or what can you truly believe?

Evil is very prevalent in our daily lives. To understand true evil, you have to see it. That's why the yearly 9/11 memorials are so important.

We must still believe in a just God even though no justice was granted. We well know that we will never understand why evil visits the virtuous. We simply accept the fact.

How can people falsely accuse others for money or power ruining lives? How can peaceful demonstrators destroy our cities and towns?

The evil list is extensive. But regrettably those who actually acknowledge an evil presence in the world are relatively few.

As Christians we have a reasonability to be aware, resist and scrutinize the events and dichotomy surrounding us. Stand fast to our convictions.

We are duty bound to strengthen our spiritual beliefs and select our Church leaders carefully to guide us on the right paths. Extreme vetting has become an absolute necessity.

At this point I will close with some quotes to ponder from comedian George Carlin, though crude and brash at times he does in some respects, at other times make sense.

"We have multiplied our possessions but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too

seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living but not a life. We've added years to life, not life to years."

"Tell people there is an invisible being in the sky who created the universe, and the vast majority will believe you. Tell them that the paint is wet, and they have to touch it."

Richard Marker

Vestry Highlights September 10, 2020

We opened the meeting with prayer and approved the agenda. The minutes of the July 9, 2020 meeting were approved.

We read and discussed Acts 15:1-11. Peter determined that because God gave the Gentiles the Holy Spirit, He accepted them as they were and that they need not be circumcised according to the law of Moses.

Report on updating the internet—Frontier upload and download speeds now rival Spectrum's so no determination has been made about which company to use.

A computer has been installed to access programming on the big screen in the parish hall.

Kurt Sussman has made numerous improvements to the website and is awaiting our approval to launch it.

Diane and Tom Lager will speak with us on 9/13 about this year's virtual ALS walk. The Vestry voted to give a \$200 donation in honor of Fr. John Wagner.

On behalf of Christ Church, St. Mark's, and St. Paul's, we accepted Fr. Arthur L. Jones, III resignation. The Wardens will meet with Bishop Kevin on 9/17 to discuss administrative details relating to his resignation.

Lynne handed out a simple explanation of Black Lives Matter as it was forwarded to her.

She asked the Vestry members to read it and give it some thought.

The Vestry would prefer asking for food donations for Interfaith's Christmas Bureau rather than asking for monetary donations, but we will agree to what Interfaith decides.

The \$100 donation previously approved for the Heroes Thank You Celebration will be used to offset some of the cost of Thank You signs purchased by Montrose CommUNITY.

John Finlon investigated online payment of pledges and donations. The bank charges 3% per transaction plus approx. \$30/month fee. We will look into Venmo and Go Fund Me.

We need leaders for Morning Prayer and volunteers to write an article for the weekly updates.

Lynne closed the meeting in prayer.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 8, 2020

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. *O God, look with favor, we pray, 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 life. Amen.* We give thanks for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week. *Grant o God, in your compassion, that those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week 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.*

Birthdays for September: Esther Welden 9/19 and Sean Eckert 9/28.

Walking for Those Who Can't

ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a disease that affects the nerve cells that control voluntary muscle movements such as walking and talking (motor neurons). ALS causes the motor neurons to gradually deteriorate. Symptoms can be treated, but there is no cure **YET.**

On Sunday, Diane and Tom Lager visited us from St. Mark's and St. John's in Jim Thorpe. Diane is the team leader for John's Soulful Walkers. Last year our team walked in Allentown to support the ALS fundraiser. This year the walk on October 11 will be virtual, but not being physically present does not diminish the need for raising funds.

Our dear Fr. John Wagner has ALS and we have a wonderful opportunity to support him and others with this disease. Donations may be made online at <http://web.alsa.org/goto/johnsoulfulwalkers> scroll down to search for a team. Type in John's Soulful Walkers and click go. Click on John's Soulful Walkers in red to go to team page. If you can join team John's Soulful Walkers on Oct 11 for the "virtual" walk click on the red "Join our team" tab toward the top of the page. Then follow the prompts to make your donation.

Or mail-in donation forms may be found at the back of the church. Please write "Diane Lager-Lehigh Valley Walk" in the memo line of any checks so our team is credited with your donation. Donation forms may be turned into the office or given to Lynne. We will mail them together to Diane.

The ALS Association helps those with ALS in many tangible ways and it funds research to find a cure. Let's be part of that.

Help Stop the Stigma

Patrick has asked for our prayers. His doctor took him off a long-term medication and he has voluntarily gone into rehab for a safe and secure place to withdraw from the med. Please send cards and well wishes to:

Patrick Gallagher

Just Believe Recovery Center

100 Lincoln Ave.

Carbondale, PA 18407

Our support is important for his recovery.

Lynne

Your tithes and pledges can be mailed to the church office at 276 Church St., Montrose, PA 18801.

For those who are ill or have requested our prayers: Margaret Burgh, Kathy Warriner, Naomi Bennett, Justin, Rita Leigh, Fr. Arthur, Mo. Jenny, Charlotte Ellis, Cathy Hammons, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon & Patrick Gallagher.

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact: you can call the parish office during office hours. After hours call Lynne Graham 570-934-1160.

5 Photos this week.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." (*Matthew 18:21-35*)

Fr. Bill's Morning Prayer

Morning, steals across the horizon, breaking into our dreams and bringing us to prayer. Deep into September, our prayers ask for your help Lord as the country burns under the intense heat of these Wild Fires. Lives lost, homes destroyed, Firemen in danger. The planet is burning, the seas rising, glaciers disappearing, ice-shelves

melting. We pray, that with your tender mercy you look down on your Creation and bring relief and hope.

Hope is such an important aspect of our human nature. It releases our spirit and gives wings to our dreams. Without hope we fall into a darkness, where we do not know the way. Hope inspires. We need Hope in our lives Lord, when death, pain and suffering is all around. Hope married to Faith, as we stop even at the graveside of those that we love. Faith, Hope and Love is the garland we carry to many a tombstone. Faith we still have, and a love of the beauty of your Creation, but our Hope has waned under the terrible pressure of Climate Change. We fear the death of our planet, the destruction of civilizations, the plight of the poor in coastal regions, indigenous people in the deep forests, and we pray to you Creator of all, for your intervention.

*“I would flee to a far off place and make my lodging in the wilderness.
I would hasten to escape from the stormy wind and tempest.
...for your loving kindness is greater than the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.” Ps.57.*

Alas, here we are Lord. Locked, exiled in our own homes; our friendships spider-webbed and our shoes lying unused. We have become monastics in this ‘time of plague’. Let us keep ‘the hours’ faithfully praying to you, as of old. Let our day begin with you, the sunrise being our prayer of praise. Tend the garden of our Noontime, as we pause in prayer to you. May all our labors, toil and effort ascend to you as prayer and as the sun declines our Vespers and Compline speak our thoughts of thankfulness and adoration.

As we rest, and darkness falls, heal this place that we love. Protect Lord, your Creation, heal the scars of human wear. Bring to each new day a re-creation, a new growth, and a renewal in its season. Re-dress the balance that once you placed firm upon the cycle of the days, the moon-shadow of the tides and the clock of Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.

Help us Lord to be Co-Creators in every way we can be, caring for this garden that you have placed us in. From the animals that surround us, to the cat upon our knee, birds that fly, Bumble Bee and the trees that bring us shade. Bless and protect in our time of need for their is more than human sickness here, our planet is ill and in need of care and you Lord have the will and means to doctor it to health. Amen.

Fr. William McGinty (Fr. Bill) of Christ Church, Forest City, writes a daily Prayer that he sends out in Email. If you would like to be on Fr. Bill's list just let Dan know.

Susquehanna Sunset



There's a Susquehanna sunrise and a sunset every single day, and they're absolutely free. Michelangelo would be impressed.

Another Sunny Sunday

Now we all know why we live in Montrose – it's the beautiful summer weather we have been experiencing. While some of us had sweaters or light coats on, it turned out to be a beautiful, late summer Susquehanna morning last week. Mary Ann DeWitt played the Prelude, Piano Meditation and Postlude and Carol led the service. Rich, Dan, and Ben did the readings. With autumn on the horizon, Sunday mornings in the garden at St. Paul's will come to an end but they have been a good bridge to get us back to church.

We welcomed Tom and Diane Lager from St. Mark's and St. John's in Jim Thorpe to speak with us about an opportunity to make donations to ALS in honor of Fr. John Wagner.





Coats for the Community Begins its 14th Year



It's that time again. It's fall and it's time for Coats for the Community to start their coat distribution. This is our 14th year and to be honest, we didn't know if we were going to have a give-away this year because of Covid-19. We buy most of our children's coats at Salvation Army on half-price Wednesdays. The stores were closed for the three months when we usually buy coats. Similarly, we get most of our adult coats from Inter-faith and they were also closed. But, we have almost caught up in our inventory, and are planning our first distribution at St. Paul's in October. So again, check your closets for any warm, gently used coats you no longer need. Ask your grandchildren for their outgrown coats, too. We are accepting donations. Just leave them at church. Talk to John or Dan if you can help with distribution here at St. Paul's.