



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](mailto: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.

**Feb. 21 - 27, 2021**

**Morning Prayer Sun. Feb 14 at 10:00am**  
**online** <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

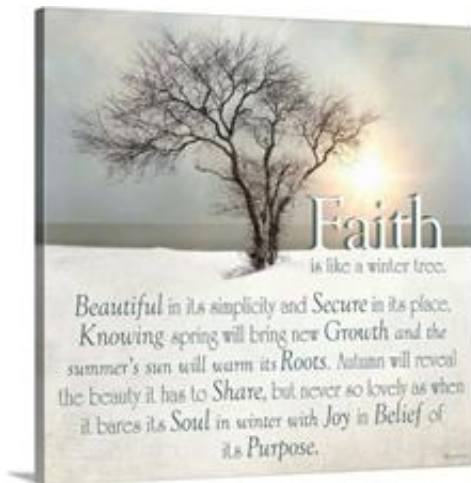
**This Week's Lay Ministers:**

Altar Guild: Sandy Seeger & Marsha Jones  
Announcements & Lector: Lynne Graham  
Officiant: Cathy Hammons

**Readings for this week**

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm: 25:1-9  
Epistle: 1 Peter 3:18-22  
Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

**"VIEW FROM THE PEW"**



Faith, we all need it...now more than ever!

I spend a good bit of time looking out my windows these days. Some may say the view is barren, but I see beauty. The way the new fallen snow clings to the branches of the tree, the ice on the lake, then later snow covering it. The beautiful cardinal at the bird

feeder...adding a splash of color to an otherwise black and white world.

I also see ice fishermen! As I watch them make their way to their chosen place...where they set-up all their belongings, and sometimes tents, I think of faith.

To me taking that first step out onto the ice and then to keep going, knowing the further they go the deeper the water beneath becomes, is a huge leap of faith.

Colleen, our dog, loves to go out on the ice. She would keep going right out to the middle and beyond. Never looking back, just joyfully running and jumping, ears flapping. I imagine this is the way one feels when they truly, "let go, and let God," just pure joy knowing God is in control and having faith things will turn out as they should.

Just when I think I might be getting there, believing God will take care of everything and I don't have to get myself in knots, life happens and off I go. Shoulders tense, jaw clenched, forehead wrinkled.

When the conversation of faith comes up among my friends, it is amazing how many people have these same feeling and conflicts. Yes, we believe in God, totally, but we don't have faith in Him alone to bring us out on the other side of our problems, He needs our help.

God actually does need our help, but not by thinking we are in control. He asks us to recognize when He has the reins and to use the talents and gifts, he has given us to help Him accomplish what needs to be done.

I believe after this past year, if we have not learned something from it, then we are not listening. The fact is, there is nothing we can do to change what is happening, so we had better place our faith in God to lead us where we need to be. I think we can already tell, the other side does not necessarily look like what we would like it to. To some it may look like the view out my window, barren.

So now is when it's up to us to be the splash of color in a black and white world. To ask God to strengthen our faith and lead us where we need to be.

Our Saint Paul's church family has been and continues to be that splash of color. As Dan's weekly pictures so beautifully depict, we are out there helping wherever we can.

Many are out in the community lending a hand where needed. We try to be a human contact by calling and checking on those who are shut-in hoping to brighten their day in some way. We lend our support and listening ears to those going through personal trials. We send cards.

God leads and we follow. Yet, we are still human, and we still get in knots from time to time. I'm learning when this happens, I need to just sit quietly and listen...God will lead.

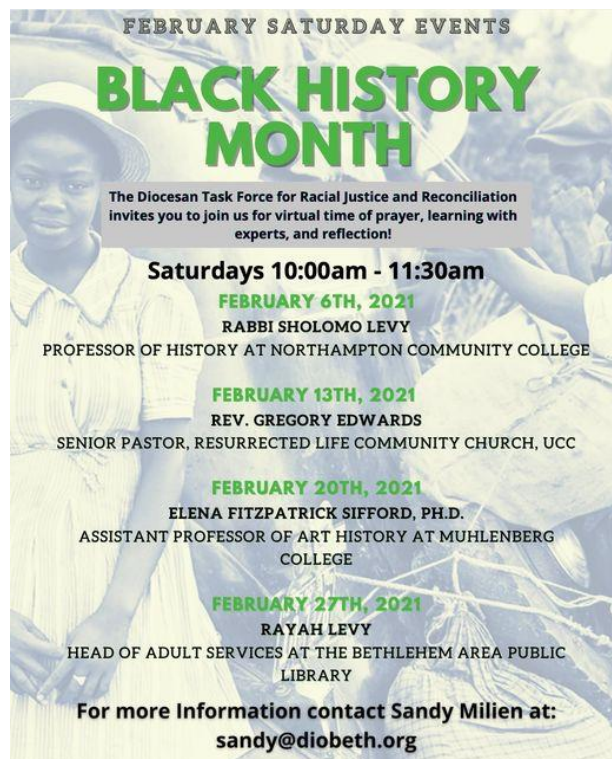
So, don't be surprised to see me step out onto the ice someday, running, jumping, ears flapping, (metaphorically speaking of course,) knowing God is in control, my faith secure! A feeling of joy in my heart!

Vickie Calby

### **It's Winter Time**

It's winter time in Montrose and with it comes snow and ice. If you are at church and the walks could use some salt, we have a broom and salt bucket at each door.

**Reminder** with winter comes winter weather! If there is ice or snow and there is a question about church being canceled, listen to WPEL at 96.5 FM.



**FEBRUARY SATURDAY EVENTS**

# **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

The Diocesan Task Force for Racial Justice and Reconciliation invites you to join us for virtual time of prayer, learning with experts, and reflection!

**Saturdays 10:00am - 11:30am**

**FEBRUARY 6TH, 2021**  
RABBI SHOLOMO LEVY  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**FEBRUARY 13TH, 2021**  
REV. GREGORY EDWARDS  
SENIOR PASTOR, RESURRECTED LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC

**FEBRUARY 20TH, 2021**  
ELENA FITZPATRICK SIFFORD, PH.D.  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ART HISTORY AT MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

**FEBRUARY 27TH, 2021**  
RAYAH LEVY  
HEAD OF ADULT SERVICES AT THE BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

**For more Information contact Sandy Milien at:**  
**sandy@diobeth.org**

### **Important Dates for Lent**

#### **February 24, March 3, March 10, March 17**

"Grace in the Wilderness" by the Rev. Mark Michael. 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

A 4 week discussion of Lenten disciplines.

Free to all, but you must register online at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grace-in-the-wilderness-tickets-134323155173>

The day after each of the above sessions, Thursday 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, and 3/18 we will have an online discussion among those of us who attended the previous night's session.

#### **March 28 Palm Sunday**

We will conclude our collection of donations to match the \$500 grant towards Easter treats for Meals on Wheels recipients and drivers. We will include dyed eggs and a 5 piece box of Leopold's chocolates in each Easter "basket." "Diabetics will receive an appropriate treat."

#### **April 1 Maundy Thursday**

Watch for details on our Holy Week service schedule.

#### **April 2 Good Friday**

## **Vestry Highlights February 11, 2021**

We opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed Sandy Seeger, and Tom Undercoffler to their new terms on the Vestry. John Warriner was welcomed back after serving Maggie Sock's unexpired term last year. We approved the agenda.

We held election of officers for 2021.  
Lynne Graham—Sr. Warden

Vickie Calby—Jr. Warden

Karen Blye-McAbee—Clerk of the Vestry

John Finlon--Treasurer

We approved the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting.

Lynne read the Bible study scripture Psalm 147 which happened to be the Psalm from last Sunday also. We talked about how God binds up wounds and heals. We discussed vs.12 "the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him" and how the meaning changes if fear means respect or revere.

The Parochial Report is due in March. This year the report is asking about challenges and opportunities during the Covid pandemic year and also for the future.

The Rev. Melinda Artman is aware of our interest in finding clergy. Hopefully, she can facilitate a meeting among the three parishes to openly discuss our plans for the future. Melinda is available to officiate services for Easter Vigil and Easter Day.

Lenten Program. Ash Wednesday is February 17. We will livestream the service from St. Paul's at 7:00 with the Sr. Wardens from Christ Church, St. Mark's, and St. Paul's. There will also be a call in number for those who wish to just listen to the service. Everyone is encouraged to register online for "Grace in the Wilderness," a 4 week Zoom program on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 offered by the Diocese of Washington (D.C.) We will

discuss the presentation among ourselves on Thursday evenings. Our three parishes will provide an Easter treat to Susquehanna Co. recipients of Meals on Wheels and their drivers. We received a \$500.00 grant to be matched by donations from our three parishes.

We reviewed and approved the Budget for 2021 which includes a pay raise for Betty. The budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting. We accepted the Treasurer's report with thanks to John for his stellar job of keeping us all informed.

We need leaders for Morning Prayer and volunteers to write articles for the *View from the Pew* in the weekly updates.

Lynne closed the meeting with a prayer from Guerillas of Grace by Ted Loder.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 11, 2021

## **MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY**

**First Wednesday of the Month:** Free Soup Dinner St. Paul's Episcopal Church 4:30-6:00 p.m.

**Second Friday of the Month:** Montrose Mobile Food Pantry South Montrose Community Church 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Registration required by calling 570-533-3980

**Third Monday of the Month:** Free Soup Dinner South Montrose Community Church 4:30-6:30 p.m.

**Fourth Friday of the Month:** Food Distribution Endless Mountains Health Care

2:00-4:00 p.m. Registration required by calling 570-278-5529 or email at [panderson@Endlesscare.org](mailto:panderson@Endlesscare.org)

**\*\*Please note** that the Free Soup Dinners are take-out only during the pandemic\*\*

**Birthdays for February** Kristina Kinney 2/24, Carol Lasher 2/27 & Nancy Finlon 2/28

**For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:** Margaret Burgh, Kathy Warriner, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Charlotte Ellis, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon, Patrick Gallagher, Johanna Masters & Jeannine Ball.

**Our thanksgivings:** We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. *O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on your servants 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. 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.*

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

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

**8 Photos this week.**

## **LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

### **The Gospel**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. (*Mark 9:2-9*)

### **Fr. Bill's Morning Prayer**

In this early morning we rise to pray and begin this day. The depths of Winter are upon us; the snow piled high with no birds in sight. We are Lord, still in Epiphany; late in Epiphany; in a time of waiting. We desperately need lifting, like mourners after a funeral; living in this 'Limbo', where there is no hope of Spring. It is worse than a 'Holy Saturday' moment, a time entombed, waiting for a 'Resurrection Morning'.

Truth be told we probably need Lent this year Lord, more than any other year. February 17, cannot come too soon. Last year was such an interrupted Lent, thrown as we were into Covid, isolation, self-distancing and lockdown. We were too panicked to count the cost. It was as if we were at once at war. ---This year, we wear that blank stare of weariness, and the pale faces of drifting survivors, numb to everything but the hideous numbers of loss that has stolen a place in



our heads. ---Now Lord, we would welcome travel; that long walk into the Desert of Lent. Six weeks of cleansing, emptying, casting out the toxic mix of resentment, bitter truths, lies and guilt that our memories accumulated during our 'cabin fever'. ---We need refreshing Lord, if only to be washed by the windswept sands of Sahara.

No, the Desert will do, for the desert has no memories of its own. It has no voices, but our own and your voice calling. How often did we read that you went off to a lonely place to pray? How long did you truly spend alone in the Desert before your ministry really began? What were you seeking in the hills and barren caves? What were you praying now that you had left the Kingdom of your Father and chose to dwell here in this Godless Globe at the very edge of the many Universes? ---Were you showing us a self-emptying, that leaves us stripped of all but pure spirit? Were you preparing us for a 'new way' scrubbed clean by the sands of that wilderness?

Bring it on Lord, this Lent of yours, for this year we are ready. "Dust thou art, and on to dust you shall return." We have seen it. Our friends' ashes stand on the shelf awaiting burial in the Spring! I told you Lord that we are numb. We need Lent to blow the air, wind, breeze, Oxygen through our heads and bodies. We need to be resurrected. We go into the Desert to seek you. We need to renew the 'seeds of faith' for ours have been buried. Not by the cruel snows of winter, but by the death cries of our friends dying alone, with only the tubes muffling the agony of their bleeding lungs. We need the 'seeds of knowing' that you sent your Angels to be with them, at their end. We need faith knowing, that the slamming of the great stone upon their tomb, was not the final, last and only sound they heard!

Bring us then to Lent Lord, for we are ready. Like John the Baptist we are girded, sandals on feet and staff in hand. Guide us in the way of prayer. Starve us with bread, water and your Word that we may see a hopeful Easter somewhere on the horizon of our day. 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.*

## **February 14th Service**

Last Sunday was Valentine's Day. ❤️ The February 14<sup>th</sup> live-streamed Morning Prayer service was led by Vickie Calby. It was the 6th Sunday after Epiphany and we were trying out our new video mixer but had some hiccups. The announcements and readings were done by Lynne. Cathy Hammons played the organ Prelude, Organ Meditation and Postlude. As with all our live-streamed services, you can watch it any time on YouTube.

## **9:50 Waiting for the Service to Start**



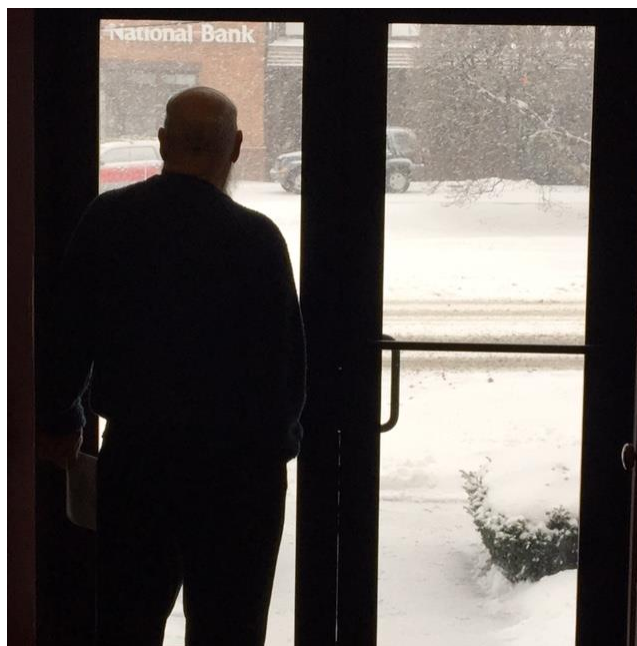
## **February in Susquehanna County**

**No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn**



**The Woods are Lovely, Dark and Deep**

**But I have Promises to Keep**



There's something about watching a fire burn or snow falling that leads to reveries and reflection. A prior winter, a February snow, promises to keep – who knows what thoughts this parishioner was thinking or what memories that had been lost were found as he watched the snow come down that snowy Sunday morning.



## Contributions needed for Easter Treat for Meals on Wheels

In preparation for Easter this year, our three Episcopal parishes have decided to provide an "Easter treat" to the recipients and drivers of the Meals on Wheels program in Susquehanna County. But we need your help. Partnering with Chocolates by Leopold (Montrose), we are going to provide two dyed eggs, some jelly beans, and a five-piece box of candy to each recipient. "Diabetics will receive an appropriate treat." Also included will be a note letting them know that we care about them. We have already received an anonymous grant towards the cost which we have been asked to match as part of our Lenten discipline. This is an excellent opportunity to set aside the money that you would ordinarily spend on treats -- candy, sweets, donuts, and soda, etc. Please send your donation to St. Paul's office (276 Church St., Montrose, 18801) to help match the grant for our project. Just think! Improve your diet, tackle the Lenten disciplines of fasting and almsgiving, and let your neighbors know that they are loved all at once!!



## THIS WEEK - Vestry Meeting on February 11



New vestry members Sandy and Tom attended their first vestry meeting on Thursday night. Since the meeting is at 5:30, a meal is provided by one of the members.

## **Montrose Mobile Food Pantry on February 12<sup>th</sup>**



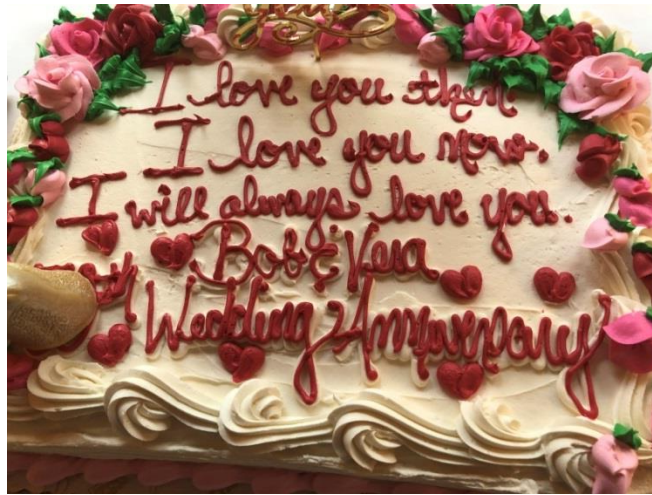
St. Paul's had several parishioners who volunteered for the February 12<sup>th</sup> Food Pantry. Besides Karen and Lynne above, Vera and Stephanie were there. It was a cold day and when the picture was taken, it was 19 degrees. They had been there for 4 hours, and they look a little cold. Burr!

## **Dunn 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

Fr. Charles officiated as Bob and Vera Dunn celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 13<sup>th</sup>. They renewed their marriage vows and both look as young and as happy as they were in 1971. If you see them give them your best wishes.







A bell's not a bell 'til you ring it - A song's not a song 'til you sing it - Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay - Love isn't love 'til you give it away!