



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

June 26- July 2, 2022



276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801

Office 570-278-2954, Monday-Thursday 8:15am-3:00pm


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> 

To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

In person worship or you can watch live streamed on YouTube. Go to St. Paul's website

| <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org> and click this red button  on the front page, which takes you to our YouTube page.



Donations You can scan the QR Code. Or go to St. Paul's Website and click the Donate Button for online giving. You can mail your tithes & pledges to the church office at 276 Church St., Montrose, PA 18801

Church Closures

Please turn your radio dial to WPEL 96.5 FM. We will announce any closure of our church service on that station.

View from the Pulpit: Bishop Kevin

As our own Mother Liz is out on vacation this week, we have a message from Bishop Kevin.

“Fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, yes,
I will help you ...” Isaiah 41:10

Dear People of Bethlehem,

Once again, gun violence has entered our communities, ravaging the lives of many. On Friday (June 16, 2022), a gunman opened fire during a potluck dinner at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. Yesterday, we learned that three people were killed.

We weep, and we mourn while wondering what we can do to end this senseless violence. We may even feel helpless as we wonder what it will take for sensible gun legislation to be created and implemented.

Yet, we must persist in working for this important legislation, because God’s arm is long and mighty. The journey may be arduous, but the Life-destination is always before us. And with God’s help, we will move the needle and point it towards Life, Peace, Hope and Justice.

In confidence, let us pray.

Let us pray for our family at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama.

Let us pray for the departed souls of the three individuals who were killed.

Let us pray for the grieving families and friends.

Let us pray for The Rev. John Burrus, assisting clergy and lay leadership as God guides them in caring for the community.

Let us pray for the shooter and his family.

Let us pray for a nation being ravaged by gun violence.

Let us pray for courage and holy boldness to advocate for an end to gun violence and the institution of gun safety laws.

Lastly, let us pray for continued strength and continued hope in God’s justice and God’s deliverance.

Amen.

Know of my love,
Bishop Kevin

View from the Pew:

Inspirational Christian Story

The parking lot filled rapidly on Sunday morning as members of the large church congregation filed into church. As usually happens in a church that size, each member had developed a certain comfort zone - a block of space within those four church walls that became theirs after the second or third sitting.

It was as much a part of their church experience as the recliner was to the television at home. Some of the older members had been sitting in the same row on the same side for several decades. A team of oxen could not have moved them to the opposite side of the church.

One morning a stranger stood at the edge of the parking lot near a dumpster. As families parked cars and piled out, they noticed him rummaging through the trash. "Oh no! I don't believe it," whispered a lady to her husband. "That's all we need -- a bunch of homeless people milling around here."

One worried little girl tugged on her dad's sleeve. "But Daddy..."

Daddy was busy sizing up the bearded stranger, whose baggy, outdated trousers and faded flannel shirt had dusted too many park benches.

"Don't stare at him, honey," he whispered, and hurried her inside.

Soft music filled the high-ceiling sanctuary as churchgoers settled into their usual spots. The choir sang an opening chorus, "In His presence there is comfort ... in His presence there is peace..."

Sunlight suddenly flooded the center aisle. The double doors swung open and the homeless man, sloppy and stooped, headed toward the front.

"Oh no, it's him!" somebody muttered.

"What does he think he's doing, anyway?" snapped an incredulous usher.

The stranger set his bagful of dumpster treasures on the very first pew which had been upholstered in an expensive soft teal fabric just three months ago. The music stopped. And before anyone had a chance to react, he ambled up the stairs and stood behind the fine, handcrafted oak podium, where he faced a wide-eyed congregation.

The disheveled stranger spoke haltingly at first, in a low, clear voice. Unbuttoning and removing his top layer of clothing, he described Jesus, and the love He has for all people.

"Jesus possesses a sensitivity and love that far surpasses what any of us deserves."

Stepping out of the baggy old trousers, the stranger went on to describe a forgiveness that is available to each and every one of us...without strings attached.

"Unconditionally He loves us. Unconditionally He gave His very life for us. Unconditionally and forever, we can have the peace and assurance that no matter who we are, where we've come from, or how badly we may have mistreated others or ourselves, there is hope."

"In Jesus, there is always hope."

"You see, my friends, it is never too late to change," the man continued.

"He is the Author of change, and the Provider of forgiveness. He came to bring new meaning to 'life'."

Men and women squirmed as reality hit them like an electrical current. The stranger tugged at his knotted gray beard, and removed it.

"I'm here to tell you that we are loved with a love far beyond human understanding, a love that enables us to accept and love others in return." Then tenderly he added, "Let's pray together."

That wise pastor - under the guise of a homeless "nobody" - did not preach a sermon that day, but every person left with plenty to think about.

-- Author- Unknown
SANDRA SEEGER

We would love for you to be included!

Article submissions (photos, community news items, or a personal or faith story) are due every Wednesday. This is YOUR newsletter, and all congregants are invited to share their stories and photos. Please email your items to Kate at stpaulsmontrose@epix.net; post an item to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 276 Church St. Montrose, PA 18801 on Facebook; or drop a note in the offering plate.

Sundays Service

June
26th



Readings for this Week:

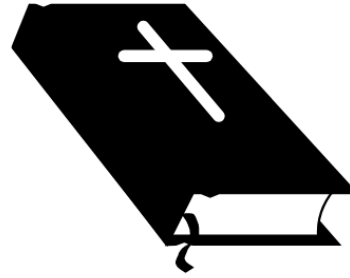
First Reading: Old Testament:

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalms: 16

The Epistle: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62



This Week's Ministers:

Altar Guild: Karen Blye & Barb Undercoffler

Celebrant: Lynne Graham

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Karen Blye

Organist: Cathy Hammons

Camera & Broadcast: Andrew Wurth

This week's Hymns:

God of the prophets, bless the prophets' heirs!

Christ is made the sure foundation



This week's Gospel according to Luke:

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Happenings and Announcements



Mother Liz is out this week!

If assistance is needed, please contact Lynne Graham for a timely response. (570) 396-7612



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon, Jeannine Ball, Sandy Nagy, Addie Evans, Carol Marker, Ellen Ely, Rev. Janet Watrous & Suzanne Beamish.

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:

You can call the parish office during office hours. After hours, call Mother Liz 212-222-8109.



This Months Birthdays:

Janet Kuhn 7/9, Maggie Sock 7/15, Maximus Bartron 7/20, Stephanie Calby 7/25



This Months Anniversaries:

There are no known anniversaries this month! If there is an anniversary that we are missing, please contact Kate in the office. Thanks!

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.

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Last Week's Service and Events

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JUNE 19th

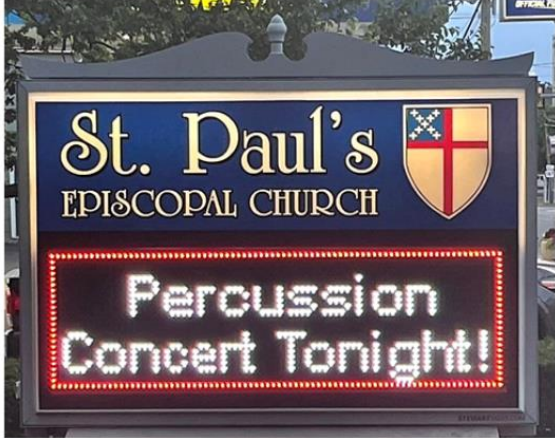
Praise to the living God!
All praised be the Name,
who was, and is, and is to be,
is still the same;
the one eternal God,
ere all that now appears,
the First, the Last, beyond all thought
through timeless years!

The June 19th live-streamed 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham did the announcements and Tom Undercoffler read as lector. Rudy Sumpter played the organ. The service included the Prelude and Postlude, along with four hymns. As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube. Just go to our webpage and hit the red button.



Percussion Trio

On Friday, June 17th, at 7:00, the Susquehanna Symphony Society and the Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra presented their second performance -- a Percussion Trio. St. Paul's was packed again. It was a beautiful night and the musicians were outstanding. A good time was had by all. They are welcome back any time.



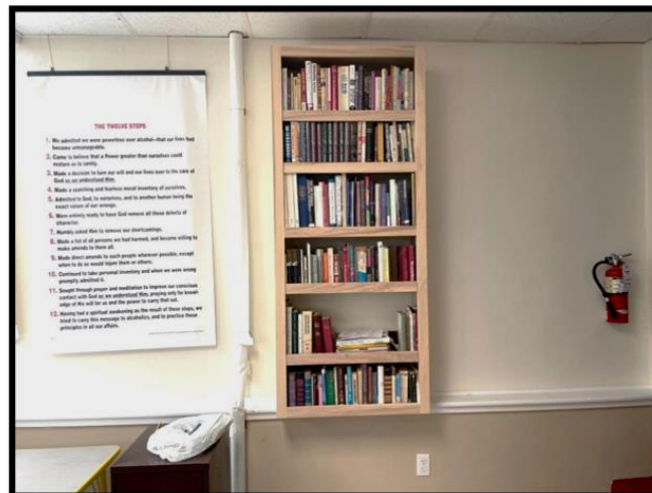
Hedge Trim for July 4th

You can tell that it's almost time for the July 4th parade, because Cooper VanCott does his yearly hedge trim and mulching. Dave cut the grass and Patrick weeded right before Cooper came and the church looks great. We are ready for the 4th.



Celtic Room Gets New Bookcase

The Celtic Room got a new bookcase this week. The AA group has a small library there and the old bookcase was leaning pretty badly. The room looks good and is ready for the overflow breakfast folks on July 4th.





Summer Solstice

On Tuesday, June 21st at 5:13 AM, the Summer Solstice arrived. It's the longest day of the year and is the official start of summer. For those who were up, the sun was just appearing and it was a beautiful Susquehanna summer day! Happy summer.

MID-JUNE IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

"In June, as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day." After some warm days, we had some cooler weather this week. That nemesis of farmers, multi-flora rose, is blooming in the fields.

While pretty, its thorns are a nightmare. A welcome sight, the first native day lily just bloomed, the predecessor of thousands to come. They line our roads and by July, will be in full bloom. Be careful driving, the fawns are cute but unpredictable as are the nervous mothers. The farmers are still haying. Everything is still green and the ponds are still full from the spring rains. Summer is a welcome visitor.



Remember When – Here Comes the Parade



Montrose History

Below is an early photograph of the Tarbell House, now where the Uptown Grill is, taken from the courthouse. The bar downstairs wasn't put in until the 1930s. It's one of the few early Montrose businesses that has remained basically unchanged.

