

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

February 5 - February 11



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: Mother Liz

This week's View from the Pulpit includes the pastoral response from the Presiding Bishop's on the death of Tyre Nichols whose funeral is today (February 1). Let us offer our prayers for the repose of Tyre's soul, for his loved ones who are grieving their tremendous loss, and for justice and peace among all people. Additionally, as I cannot imagine the pressure and danger experienced by those in law enforcement, whose members by and large, serve honorably and with distinction, I am including a prayer for law enforcement officers which comes from the National Police Memorial in Australia. May all members of law enforcement be protected and guided as they seek to protect and serve.

--Mother Liz

A pastoral word from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on the death of Tyre Nichols

Sense cannot be made of the murder of a young man at the hands of five men whose vocation and calling are to protect and serve. This was evil and senseless.

There is a passage from the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah, which is later quoted in Matthew's Gospel when innocent baby boys are killed by an immoral dictator:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more."
—Jeremiah 31:15, Matthew 2:18

With the murder of Tyre Nichols, another mother, as in the biblical texts, weeps, with the mothers of Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others. A family grieves. A community fears. A nation is ashamed. Like the psalmist in the Bible, something in us cries out, "How long, O Lord, how long?" How long violence, how long cruelty, how long the utter disregard for the dignity and worth of every child of God? How long?

As if this wasn't enough, there is another horrible dimension to what happened. Tyre Nichols was beaten, kicked, and cursed as if he was not a human being. Then, after he was lying on the ground, having called for his mother, they let him stay there for several minutes without anyone, including the police and EMT who were present, providing medical assistance. Not one Good Samaritan.

Jesus once told a story to teach about what it looks like to love one's neighbor, which Moses and Jesus both said is a commandment of God. It's a story about a man beaten nearly to death and left on the side of the road to die by people who knew what Moses taught about love for God and neighbor—and what the prophet Micah taught when he said that God requires three things of us: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Only one person stopped to help the man, and he did so without regard for the fact that they were of different religions, nationalities, ethnic groups, and even different politics. This second man was a Samaritan, and he helped because the man on the road was human. He helped because he was a fellow child of God. He helped because the man lying on the side of the road, regardless of race, class, clan, stripe, or type, was his brother. And the man who helped has been called the Good Samaritan.

The fundamental call and vocation of law enforcement officials, and indeed every one of us, is that of the Good Samaritan.

Here is where there is hope: The Good Samaritan in the parable of Jesus was not the last one.

There are Good Samaritans who are government officials in Memphis who, after assessing what happened, fired the offending officers, charged them with crimes against human life and dignity, and have committed to addressing systemic and cultural issues that created an environment in which this evil was enabled.

There are Good Samaritans doing what is necessary to radically reform the environment and culture of law enforcement—to create an atmosphere in which the dignity and worth of every human being is respected, protected, affirmed, and honored.

There are Good Samaritans in law enforcement, and other first responders, who often work while others sleep, laboring to protect and serve, at times risking their own lives for the neighbor they do not even know.

There are Good Samaritans, people of goodwill and human decency, who are peacefully protesting. There are Good Samaritans who are activists working tirelessly for the realization of communities and countries where there is truly, as the Pledge of Allegiance proclaims, “liberty and justice for all.”

While we grieve, we cannot give in or give up. Just throwing up our hands in despair is not an option lest we leave a brother, a sister, a sibling on the side of the road again. No, let more Good Samaritans arise so that Tyre Nichols’ death will not be in vain.

Please pray for Tyre’s family, the whole Memphis community, this nation, and world. But also pray for people to rise up like the Good Samaritan and work to create change so this never happens again.

And may the soul of Tyre, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercies of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

A Prayer for Police

Text modified. The original text is meant to be offered by police officers, but we have changed the voice so we can offer it as a prayer for police officers. <https://npm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/The-Police-Prayer.pdf>

God of all people, we know it is from you that we have learned what goodness and justice are. You have given law enforcement officers the task of maintaining law and order in our community.

As they seek strength to meet the many challenges encountered in this endeavor, give them the courage and the resolution to do their duty at all times, and such a respect and love for justice that neither promise nor threat will ever make them depart from it.

Help them with your guidance to be the guardian and the friend of the whole community, a friend to children, an example to youth, a counselor and adviser to all citizens.

Grant them the skill and the wisdom, to make them always stronger in protecting and supporting the community.

Guide them in knowing how to enforce the law with wisdom and equity.

Help them to be a personal example of honesty, goodness, and justice, and grant that their actions will inspire in our community confidence in its police officers.

We make our prayer to you, confident of your love and your compassion. Amen.



View from the Pew:

Whose woods these are, I think I know.... Robert Frost's famous poem. Everyone knows it – we learned it in High School I believe. It's about a cold snowy evening, woods, and obligations. We had our first snow here last week. First snows for the previous three years were earlier in November but this year ours finally came with two inches of big, slow-falling flakes. November is our waiting month. One that gets dark at 4:30 and one in which we wait for snow (and winter).

We know it's coming, we just aren't sure when. As with all first snows here, the one that came didn't stick. The ground was still too warm to keep it around. But, it clung to trees and provided a winter vista that we here take for granted and we know other bigger storms will follow.



On the surface, Frost's poem is simplicity itself. The speaker is stopping by some woods on a snowy evening. He takes in the lovely scene in near-silence, is tempted to stay longer, but acknowledges the pull of obligations and the considerable distance yet to be traveled before he can rest for the night.

To get to our house when we come home on 267 from Vestal where we shop, we use Birchardville Hill Road. That takes us on dirt roads through about a 3-mile stretch of mostly woods. Dirt roads and dark woods are a normal part of driving here for those of us who do not live in town. The Markers, Dunns, and Undercofflers all go down country roads to get to their homes. Snow on those roads just makes it a little more challenging.

Particularly in one heavily wooded section on our drive at night near Bunnell's, when there is snow on the ground or it's snowing, I like to stop and turn my lights and radio off. Sitting in the darkness, I open the windows and feel the cold and listen to the silence of the snow. It's not a time to have reveries and think about life and love or have great thoughts. It's a time to empty your head and be the only person in the world and realize what an insignificant part of it you are.

I actually think of the poem during those times. Unlike Frost, I have no little horse to shake his head as if to ask why we were stopping and tell me it's time to move on. Like Frost, I also generally want to remain longer but as it is night and snowing, I want to finish getting home safely. I too usually have obligations. But for a brief moment, I am able to forget about the material world with all its craziness and simply just watch God's woods fill up with snow -- and be mesmerized by it -- and appreciate its indescribable pure beauty. The woods are lovely, dark and deep but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep.

You know the rest.

Dan Graham

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 or John Warriner at jdwarri@me.com; 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

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Readings for this Week: This Week's Ministers:

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a

Psalm: 112: 1-9

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Sandy Seeger

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Ellen Ely

Organist: Mary Ann Dewitt

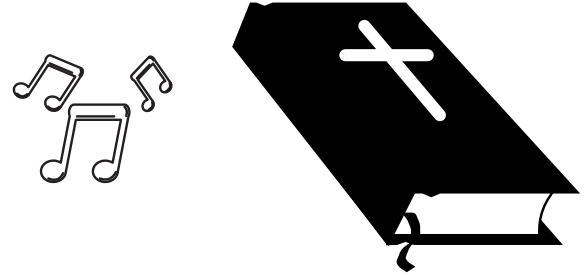
This week's Hymns:

Christ, whose glory fills the skies

O day of God, draw nigh

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

Praise to the living God



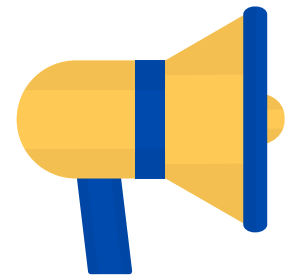
This week's Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Happenings and Announcements



Pancake Supper Planning

Shrove Tuesday, February 21, is coming up quick and the kitchen always needs helpers for bigger events like this! If you need more information or are willing to help, contact Dan or Lynne!

Bible Study

Don't forget about Bible Study on Wednesday, February 8th at 5pm.



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Addie Evans, Carol Marker, Ellen Ely, Rev. Janet Watrous, Edward, Stan Bennett.

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:

John Brunner 2/4, Kristina Kinney 2/24, Carol Lasher 2/27, Nancy Finlon 2/28



This Months Anniversaries:

John & Gaby Warriner: February 4, 1990
Robert & Vera Dunn: February 20, 1971

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.

STOP THE STIGMA

Memory Luncheon

Sunday, February 12th
12:00PM

**St Paul's will be hosting a free lunch in
memory of those lost to substance use
disorder.**

**We welcome Nicole Watson from 'SAFE' as
keynote speaker.**

All are invited to attend!

St Pauls Episcopal Church
276 Church Street
Montrose PA 18801

Last Week's Service and Events

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany – January 29, 2023

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

The January 29th live-streamed 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham did the announcements and Tom Undercoffler read as lector. Joyce Printz was our pianist. The service included three hymns along with the Prelude and Postlude. 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

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.



Pancake Supper Coming Up

The annual pancake supper is coming up this year on Tuesday, February 21st. We serve pancakes, sausage, and eggs. It's been our tradition for as long as anyone can remember. The guys cook but the ladies lately have been helping out. This picture was taken on February 12th, 2013. Always a lot of fun and comradery. Al always had to taste John's first sausage; Jack showed up with new kizmos to make pancakes. Jerry cooked the eggs and Bernie flipped pancakes. It brings back lots of memories. We are always looking for help so if you would be interested let Dan know.



Soup Night

February 1st is the first Wednesday of the month and its soup night here at St. Paul's. A trial program that started during the pandemic has blossomed into a full-fledged ministry. Vegetable Beef and Potato were the soups du jour this month. Pots of soup are donated by volunteers and are cooked and distributed at church. Rolls, a cookie, salad and applesauce are added to the bag and we deliver to the Square across the street. Come and join the fun!



Snow from the Past

Apparently the Borough used to put the snow right in the middle of the street. This picture, apparently from the 1970s shows the aftermath of a big snow.



Rare Light Occurrence

Check out what we had last Friday night -- light columns in the eastern sky. Directly across from our front porch toward Montrose. These are called Light Pillars and are caused by the reflection of light from tiny ice crystals that are suspended in the atmosphere or that comprise high-altitude clouds. Pretty amazing!



END OF JANUARY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“The trumpet of a prophecy! O Wind, If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?” The blues of winter have replaced the oranges of fall and the reds of summer. We got some snow but it’s mushy and freezes at night. Deer and turkey are around on La Rue’s fields and can be seen from the road. It’s typical sunless, Susquehanna winter weather.

