

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

February 26- March 4



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:

As we enter the season of Lent, we have prepared three options for Lenten practice. First, is a traditional Lenten devotional presented by Episcopal Relief and Development entitled, Who is my Neighbor? Second, suggested by a parishioner, is an opportunity to offer acts of kindness daily for our neighbor, throughout the season of Lent to be presented with your offering on Easter. Third, we will have a weekly book study on the book, River Through the Desert. It is a virtual pilgrimage in which participants "visit" relevant sites to Jesus' ministry in the Holy Land. Finally, below are two letters, One from Bishop Kevin, and another from the bishops of Pennsylvania regarding an issue which is devastating our nation.

Blessings for a Holy Lent.

Mother Liz

Ash Wednesday, 2023

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (Ash Wednesday Service BCP)

Dear Beloved of Bethlehem,

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, a season of penitence and fasting. Ashes, symbolizing sorrow, mourning, purification, and rebirth, will be imposed upon the foreheads of clergy, laypeople, and strangers alike. They will be imposed in the warm confines of worship spaces, on street corners, at office parks, bus stations, hospitals, and many other unconventional places.

As our nation continues to suffer from the sin of gun violence, we must repent. At the same time, we must remember the active presence of Jesus in the desert. Gun violence is our desert existence, and it is in our active presence that we must continue to preach the Gospel, speak up, and stand up for the dignity of all humanity.

As we enter into a Holy Lent, I come to you with a shared call to action from my fellow Bishops in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We are united in our fervent hope for justice and peace and an end to the scourge of Gun Violence in our communities.

Please join us in this walk toward peace,

The Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols, Bishop

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

View from the Pulpit:



The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Kevin

The Episcopal Bishops of Pennsylvania
United by Baptism and Speaking with One Voice:
Seeking Peace in our Commonwealth

We, the bishops of the Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania: The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez, XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania; The Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols, IX Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem; The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, VIII Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of NW Pennsylvania and Bishop Provisional of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York; The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, XI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and The Rt. Rev. Ketlen Solak, IX Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, serve as spiritual leaders to nearly 65,000 of God's faithful in our Commonwealth. We offer, together, this statement that forged in prayer calls us to unite in mission and work for change.

Membership in our Christian community of faith calls us to strive for justice and peace, and to love our neighbors as ourselves (1). The Baptismal Covenant that joins us is an invitation to collaborate for the building of God's kingdom.

We recognize that there are many factors that contribute to an average of 1,600 violent gun deaths in our Commonwealth each year (2). The intersectionality of economic hardship, racism, drug trafficking, an overwhelmed mental health system, and the ongoing effects of the pandemic have created a constellation of stressors that has led many to take desperate, grave, and violent measures ending in the death of neighbors, friends, children, and strangers, alike. Gun violence is an epidemic in our Commonwealth. The number of violent gun deaths that we suffer in Pennsylvania is more than twice that of states that we associate with gun ownership: Colorado, Nevada, Wyoming, and New Mexico, as examples; and the number of annual gun deaths in Pennsylvania is reported to be twice that of New York and more than all New England, combined. (3)

We urge our congregations, clergy, and faithful people to persist in working for peace and to hold fast to hope. In scripture we read: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31). It is time for us to press on in hope and with action.

As bishops of The Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania, we offer a united call to address gun violence as a leading source of death in our Commonwealth. Here in Pennsylvania, we suffer from gun violence that includes mass shootings, suicide by gun, the use of firearms in domestic violence, and murder committed with illegal handguns. The leading cause of death for children in our country is by a firearm, and often accidental. (4) All of this is fueled by the sheer volume of guns and assault weapons that are readily available in our State. Through the enactment of sensible and effective legislation, Pennsylvania can take concrete steps to reduce the illegal trafficking of handguns and unsafe use of guns.

We recognize that our Commonwealth is a place where many enjoy the recreational use of firearms through hunting, target shooting and gun clubs. We also recognize the choice of many to own handguns out of a sense of personal safety in their homes. The measures that we advocate do not seek to remove guns from lawful citizens or restrict responsible purchases of firearms. These measures focus on the illegal trafficking of firearms, immediate access to excessive amounts of firearms (often resold illegally) and the elimination of unnecessarily powerful assault weapons.

View from the Pulpit:

We support enactment of the following legislation:

- One Handgun A Month: The one handgun a month restriction would dramatically increase the risk and cost of straw purchasing and illegal handgun trafficking for gun traffickers, which significantly reduces the flow of illegal handguns into streets and neighborhoods, thereby saving lives from gun murder, a proven strategy that has been successfully implemented in other states.

- Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO): Judicial orders for the temporary removal of firearms from persons deemed dangerous to themselves and/or others. Family members, neighbors, friends, and police may seek these orders from a judge.

- Prohibition on sales/possession of assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines: Certain military style semi-automatic firearms are designed and manufactured to enable very powerful and rapid firing and to hold magazines of thirty or more bullets. Mass gun murders are usually committed with these assault weapons, which are too dangerous for civil society.

- Prohibition on sales/possession of ghost guns: Parts of guns and kits of parts are available for purchase in Pennsylvania, enabling the assembly of guns that have no identifying markings or information. These ghost guns are exceedingly difficult to trace, thereby making the solving of gun crimes extremely difficult for law enforcement.

You can join us in this effort by signing up to serve on one of our dioceses' gun violence committees, by supporting our partner organization Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence (<https://www.heedinggodscall.org>) and by attending a gathering at the State Capitol on March 6th where we will address lawmakers on our legislative priorities and pray for an end to gun violence in our Commonwealth.

For more information please contact:

Diocese of Bethlehem – Canon Canon Sandy Milien Sandy@DioBeth.org

Diocese of Central Pennsylvania – The Rev. Jennifer Mattson Jennifer.e.mattson@gmail.com

Diocese of Northwest Pennsylvania – Canon Vanessa Butler vbutler@episcopalpartnership.org

Diocese of Pennsylvania – Ms. Alice Briscoe Brown briscoebrown12@gmail.com

Diocese of Pittsburgh – Ms. Marilyn Mulvihill mimi15143@yahoo.com

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Matthew 5:9

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez, XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

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(1) The Book of Common Prayer pg. 304-5

(2) <https://efsgv.org/state/pennsylvania/>

(3) <https://everystat.org/> - Pennsylvania

(4) <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/child-and-teen-firearm-mortality-in-the-u-s-and-peer-countries/>

View from the Pew:

Growing Older

By Barbara Benjamin, January 23, 2023

Submitted by Teddy Cameron

As my body grows weaker, my sprits soar;
As I'm losing the past, the future is more;
As I'm stepping away from all I have known,
I humbly move closer to God's holy throne.

How precious these last years of life seem to be,
More precious, I think, than some more reverie,
Precious because now I can finally see,
The soul that I am, the true essence of me.

The lure of life's trappings can hold me no more;
I'm headed for heaven and all that's in store;
My children will be there, six angels of God,
They're always with me, a comfort and a rod.

My son who lives on will forgive me my joy,
For he'll understand that nothing's been destroyed,
That when I move on, I will still be right here,
Loving him forever, and nearer than near.

I never feel more happy than when I look back
At a lifetime of adventure without any slack,
Following the lord and growing in His love,
Born again and new again 'till I didn't know myself.

A product of His wisdom, His patience and care,
I was able to do things I thought I couldn't dare;
And now on the threshold of an eternity,
I'm ready for anything that may come to be.

So no matter how long this transition may take,
My heart is at peace and all my senses awake;
For this sleep that is coming will last but one night;
By morning I'll be living in God's cosmic light.

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

Feb
26



Readings for this Week: This Week's Ministers:

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm: 121

The Epistle: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Gospel: John 3:1-17

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Sandy Seeger

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Nancy Dooling

Organist: Joyce Printz

This week's Hymns:

The glory of these forty days

Praise to the Holiest in the height

Eternal Lord of love

A mighty fortress is our God



This week's Gospel according to Matthew:

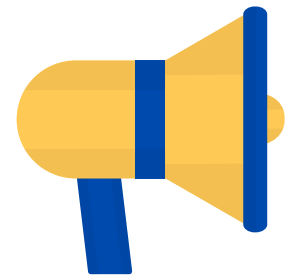
There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Happenings and Announcements



Soup Night

Although we just finished Pancake Supper and are now into the lent season, we still have Soup Night coming up fast! Soups this month are Chili and Butternut Squash. As always, we take preorders and are always in need of helping hands.



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 Rogers 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.

Last Week's Service and Events

Last Sunday After Epiphany – February 19, 2023

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus, out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

The February 19th, 2023 live-streamed 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz. Vickie Calby did the announcements and John Warriner read as lector. Mary Ann DeWitt was our organist. 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 morning gilds the sky,
my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call,
May Jesus Christ be praised!



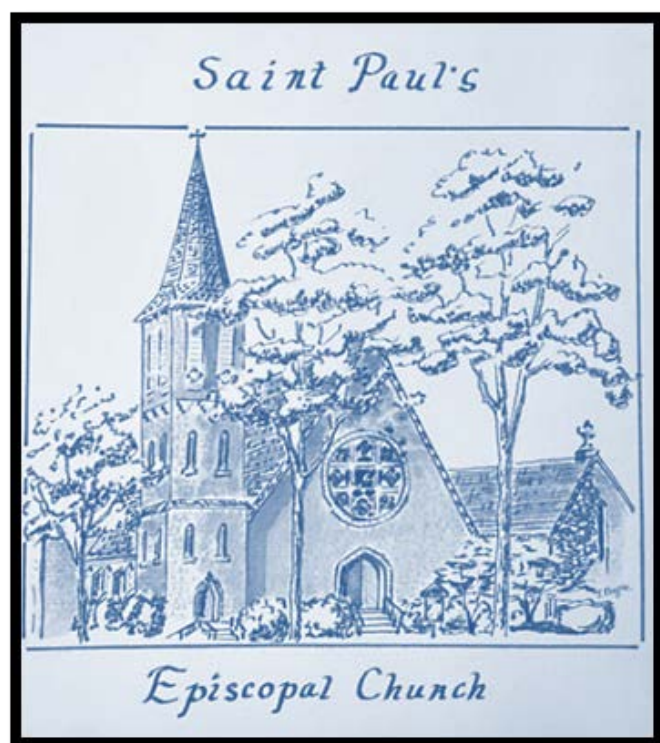


A shout out from Florida

Tom and Barb Undercoffler visited Bob and Vera Dunn at their winter home in Bonnet Springs, Lakeland, Florida this week. They sent a picture of them to say hi to everyone and to show off that they were just basking in the sun!!!

Early St. Paul's Drawing Found

Kate found this early drawing of St. Paul's that was used on the cover of some event long ago and long forgotten. It's a good likeness of the the church.



Ashes to Go

On Wednesday, February 22nd, Ash Wednesday, Mo. Liz stood on Church Street imposing Ashes to Go. It was cold and windy and snowy, and Liz looks a little frozen. This was a necessary and welcome alternative to those unable to make an Ash Wednesday service.

Pancake Supper

On Tuesday, February 21st, St. Paul's hosted its annual Strove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

What a crew! Pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee, orange juice, and a ton of desserts that volunteers brought in. We delivered a bunch of take outs to the Square. Thanks to all the cooks, servers, helpers and bakers. From Kate tasting the first sausage to the clean up, a good time was had by all.

Left to Right:

Mike Davenport, Jack Lasher, John Warriner
John Finlon, Kate Aukema
Lynne Graham, Martha Cobb, Sandy Seeger
Harry Pierce, Nancy Dooling



Photo Creds: Dan Graham



Pancake Supper Cooks of Old

Left to Right:

Dan Graham
John Finlon
Ben Zalewski
David Calby
Jerry Sock
Jack Lasher
Steve Kupcznk





Where does that rope go?

When Martha's granddaughter, Lydia, was helping to ring the bell, she asked where the rope she was pulling goes. Good question. The rope goes up to the bell, 40 foot above. The bell in the tower weighs more than a 1,000 pounds and was first rung Christmas Eve, 1859. Actually, there are two ropes. One that makes the bell swing and one the makes the clangor hit the bell.



February 18th, 2021- February 20th 2021

The winter of 2021, was a hard one and we got more snow than usual. Our biggest storm came that week – it was heavy and there was a lot of it. Here are a couple of pictures.



MID-FEBRUARY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.” We had two separate weeks this week. It was 65 degrees earlier in the week, the red winged blackbirds had arrived and several flocks of geese were heard flying over. The sunsets were spring like and the trees were thinking about budding. And then, it snowed and turned cold on Wednesday. The Ash Wednesday service was canceled and the brown turned to white. LaRue’s cows were trying to figure it out. There is still a lot of winter left in Susquehanna County.

