

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

March 26- April 1



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:

Lord of the winding path of life, we journey with you in this season of Lent. Through sunshine, rain, wind, and storm, we walk where you lead. Help us to keep our eyes on you and our ears listening as you speak to us.

It is so hard for us Lord not to turn and look behind down the long,, winding, dark road that we have traveled. Only natural, I suppose Lord. We try so hard to resist the temptation to look behind. We know only too well how unwise it is, but we do it anyway.

What a waste of time and effort Lord, to see again our mistakes; the path not taken; the wrong turn, and where we stumbled and fell. Was it you that picked us up and put us back on the right path only for us to trip over our stupidity once again? Someone stopped and picked us up. Perhaps it was a friend of yours, or a fellow traveler on the road.

Lord, we cannot help but notice that you never seem to take the easy way. Always the path seems steep, crooked, rocky, and just plain difficult. We struggle to keep up. At first, we longed for a destination, the place where you lead; that place of peace, rest, and harmony. We were never good at reading between the lines that it was not the goal but the journey that was important. For we are not the same as when we first set out.

I do not know. I do not know if given the choice, whether I would walk this path again.--You ask too much. You know it. I know it. Others know it. Friends? I don't have any friends! Not anymore. They are long gone, Lord! Dead, deserted, abandoned, betrayed, and some just strewn along your highway. You ask too much Lord. You know it. I know it and if dead friends could speak, they would tell you that they know it too.

Why, oh why, does your 'way' always have to be the 'way of the cross?' It makes us feel like traveling troubadours with songs to sing but no place or time to sing them. Does this journey never end? Do we find no rest till we find our rest in you? Okay! So this is a complaint and it's not as if you haven't heard complaints before. The prophets gave you plenty, the Psalms give us a long unanswered whine. We have come this far Lord, so we feel entitled! "See how I treat my friends!" Your words, Lord.

In this holy and blessed season of Lent, give us Lord, something to look forward to. Even a letter from a dead friend would be something. A little help. A staff to help us on the long climb! This is our prayer today. And yes, it may indeed sound like a long 'whine', but admit it Lord, this is a long and winding road! Amen.

Fr. Bill

View from the Pew:

In 1990 Harry and I were fortunate enough to accompany my mother, Aunt and Uncle and the Senior Citizens Club from Ocean City, New Jersey on a tour of Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Liechtenstein. The highlight of our trip was attending the Passion Play.

In 1633 the local residents of the Bavarian village of Oberammergau made a vow that if their town was spared obliteration by the plague, they would give thanks every 10 years by reenacting the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God clearly listened and in 1634 the first Oberammergau Passion Play took place on a stage built above the cemetery. It is an incredible experience and a chance to get a sense of the mystery and history of this event. The production involves live animals and over 2,000 people: actors, musicians, stage technicians, etc, all residents of the village, reenacting events as their ancestors have for almost 400 years. It is all in German so we were quick to buy an English translation but found immediately it was not needed—we knew what was happening. It's hard to remain unmoved by the experience.

This Lenten season and every Lenten season for the past 30+ years, we both have walked down memory lane and are moved by the Passion Play experience of Jesus dying on the cross for us. We feel blessed that we had the opportunity and encourage everyone to go if you can—next play is 2030.

-Wanda Peirce

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

March
26



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm: 130

The Epistle: Romans 8:6-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Gaby W. & Barb U.

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Nancy Dooling

Organist: Joyce Printz

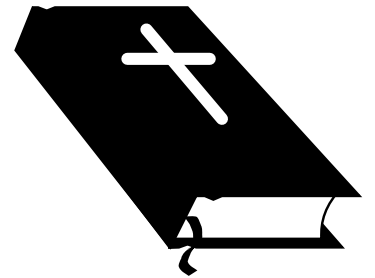
This week's Hymns:

Hail, thou once despised Jesus!

Breathe on me, Breath of God

All my hope on God is founded

I am the bread of life



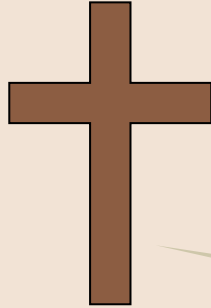
This week's Gospel according to John:

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

This week's Gospel according to John continued:

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

APRIL 2: PALM SUNDAY SERVICE 10AM

APRIL 6: MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 5PM

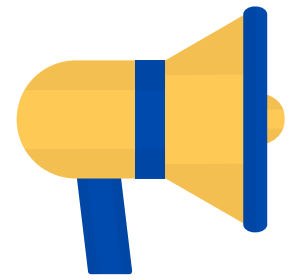
APRIL 7: CROSSWALK 12PM @HOLY NAME OF MARY CHURCH

APRIL 7: GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 5PM

APRIL 8: EASTER VIGIL 7:30PM

APRIL 9: EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE 10AM

Happenings and Announcements



Musician Needed!

As most of you know we have been looking for an organist/pianist to play for us on Sundays. We have an ad in the paper but we figured we would reach out here and see anyone knows of someone that could help us out with filling a couple of the Sundays a month. If you think you can help or know someone that does, give Kate in the office a call or email!



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, Betsy Arnold & Family, Paula Arnold & Family, Willis Barnes, Victor.

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 Finlon 3/6, Elizabeth Smith 3/15, Edgar Warriner 3/20, Elaine Petrzala 3/22, Robert Kuhn 3/24, Tom Undercoffler 3/30



This Months Anniversaries:

There are no anniversaries this month. If you would like to add your birthday or anniversary to the list, call or email Kate in the office!

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.

Vestry Highlights

March 16, 2023

Mother Liz opened the meeting with prayer and we approved the agenda.

The February 16, 2023 minutes were approved.

Mother Liz led the Bible study of John 9:1-41 in which Jesus healed a man blind from birth. The man was interrogated by the Pharisees and was thrown out of the synagogue for standing firm in his belief that Jesus was a man of God. After Jesus found him, he confessed to Jesus that he believed Jesus was the Son of Man.

Mother Liz gave her Priest-in-Charge report. She attended the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and handed out beads to add to the festivities. Mother Liz offered Ashes to Go on the corner of Church and Chestnut on Ash Wednesday. About 15 people received ashes. She reviewed the numbers for the Parochial Report which was sent to the Diocese. She attended the Chrism Mass on March 1, renewed her vows and received holy oil for this year. An Altar of Repose will be set up by the Columbarium on Holy Thursday. This space holds the reserve sacrament and allows anyone wishing to “stay awake for one hour” in prayer to do so. Nine sleeping bags were delivered to Keystone Mission. We were asked to pray for Victor. Mother Liz will be on retreat next week at Holy Cross, NY.

New Business:

Lynne asked that we make every effort to avoid using plastic silverware that ends up in the landfills and the ocean. If we do use it, it can be washed in the dishwasher and re-used.

We will dye eggs for Easter Treats for Meals on Wheels recipients and drivers on Sunday, March 26 after the service. Please bring your hard cooked eggs. We will assemble the treat bags on Thursday, March 30 at 5:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!!

We will wait until the end of the first quarter to see what our DIT (Diocesan Investment Trust) interest will be for 2023. We will decide at that time if we need additional monies from our portion of the trust. Asking for additional money will probably require a conversation with Steve Baker, Canon for Mission Resources and Chief Operating Officer. We accepted the Treasurer’s Report.

Looking Ahead:

Holy Land Presentation March 19th @1 pm

Stop the Stigma meeting March 28th @ 5 pm

Soup Night April 5 @ 3:30

Lenten Book Study continues through April 5th @ 4:30

Maundy Thursday Service April 6th@ 5 pm

Cross Walk beginning at Holy Name Good Friday, April 7th @ noon

Good Friday service April 7th @ 5 pm

Easter Vigil April 8th @ 7:30 pm

Morning Prayer at Meadow View Wednesday, April 19 @ 10

“Gather 23”, May 20 – The Rev. Tricia Lyons, VTS, keynote speaker, Split Rock Lodge

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer.

Our next Vestry meeting will be Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Last Week's Service and Events

Fourth Sunday in Lent– March 19, 2023

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

The March 12th, 2023 live-streamed 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham did the announcements and Tom Undercoffler read as lector. Jeanette Davis 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.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.



Well Done Lady Meteors!!

On Monday Night, March 20th, the Montrose Lady Meteors Varsity basketball team lost their game to a tough team from Homer Center, 47-13 in the semifinals of the PIAA District 2 championship. Dave and Vickie Calby's granddaughter, Haley Pompey is on the team and made 10 of the team's 13 points. It was a good run and the girls should be proud they represented Montrose in the playoffs even if it ended a few days earlier than they hoped.



Presentation on the Holy Land

After a potluck brunch at noon last Sunday, Mother Liz and Mother Rebecca gave a presentation on their trip to the Holy Land. It started at 1pm in the Parish Hall and you also could join on a Zoom meeting to see it. Thank you for sharing your trip with us.





Montrose House

Here's a picture of the Montrose House, which was immediately across the street from St. Paul's on the northeast corner of Church and Cedar St. It's the first thing a parishioner saw coming out of church. It's entrance was on the Cedar St. side. This photograph is taken from Church Street looking west. This is the only picture that I am aware of that was taken from this side. It was torn down and replaced by the Montrose Inn, which is currently a bank, in 1921.

Lenten Book Study

On Wednesday, March 22nd, we had Lenten Book Study. We are studying the book, *River Through the Desert*, by Richard Sewell. Through the landscape of the Holy Land, we make a pilgrimage reimagining what it means to travel with Jesus during his ministry and his final days. A meal is provided after the study. Come and join us for some good discussion and companionship. Our next meeting is the 29th at 4:30.



Valentine's Day Blizzard, 1940

We had our biggest snow last year, 15 inches, on April 18th, the day after Easter. So, we aren't out of the woods yet. Here's an old picture dated February 14, 1940, of the blizzard that year. It was one for the records. I wonder if Esther or Naomi remember it?



Sleeping Bags



**KEEP YOUR FAITH IN ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL,
THE LAST SNOW OF WINTER, THE FIRST CROCUSES OF SPRING.**



EARLY SPRING IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

"Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn." Is the snow done? We hope so. Last Wednesday's snow was beautiful, it clung to the trees and for the day, with sunshine, was stunning, but it soon melted. With the melt, yellow crocuses have appeared in the Memorial Garden. On a sunny afternoon on Rt. 11, some pussy willows, spring's harbingers, were starting to bloom. Came across a Pileated Woodpecker's labors on a cherry tree, the oval shaped holes they peck identified it. The turkeys are flocking up. It's Spring – and the wait was worth it.

