

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

May 21- May 27



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:

Last Tuesday I completed my first year in the Vital and Effective Leadership Institute (VELI) which is run by the Diocese of Bethlehem in conjunction with the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. The program is designed for new clergy and clergy new to the Diocese.

Over the course of the year we covered various topics of ministry, interpersonal relationships, and self-care. These included: Ministry in context and congregational overviews; Stewardship + planned giving; Staff management – letters of agreement, time management, policy, and procedures; Spiritual direction, colleague groups, therapy; Family Systems; Best practices: social media, boundaries, sabbath, time management; and finally the Easter debrief. All of these sessions were on Zoom since we are scattered across half of the state.

Our final meeting for the year was a combined worship/luncheon which occurred in person. This gave us the opportunity to connect in the flesh (as it were) with folks we had shared with online for several months. We worshipped together and celebrated those who were completing their course of program engagement.

The program and the people were a beneficial extension of my educational experiences in seminary. The mentors as well as the program presenters provided valuable information as I continued my first year here with all of you at St. Paul's. It was also good to connect with others in a similar situation throughout the northeastern and central portions of our beautiful state. We learned from one another as we shared our insights as well as our questions. No question was off limits, even if we felt that it was simple or the answer might be obvious, we were free to voice our concerns and the responses were respectful and clear.

I know that zoom was instrumental in our ability to gather over such a great distance, but I wouldn't be being honest if I said that it was just as good to gather online. I wish that there was some way that we could meet in person so that we could create even stronger bonds with our colleagues. One of the most important things we lost during covid was in person contact. I pray that one day we will return more fully to doing so as nothing beats the ability to look into one another's eyes when sharing deep and meaningful conversations.

I am grateful for the time we spent together and hope to have the opportunity to gather in person with colleagues more frequently in the future.

-Mother Liz

View from the Pew:

I don't spend a lot of time on Face Book because I get sucked into the reels about awe-some dogs and adorable babies. But the other night I bumped into a feed that moved me. With all the stories of gun violence and racial hatred, this story, though not recent, warmed my heart and renewed my faith in the goodness of humanity.

During a cross country race, the lead runner, Kenyan Abel Mutai, became confused about the signs and signals towards the very end of the race and stopped short of the finish line thinking he had won. The Spanish runner directly behind him, Ivan Fernandez Anaya, yelled for him to keep running, but Mutai did not understand Spanish. Anaya pushed Mutai forward to cross the finish line and win the race. A reporter asked Ivan, "Why did you do that?" and Ivan replied, "I dream one day we will have some kind of community life in which we push ourselves and others to win." Not satisfied with why Ivan did not take advantage of the situation and win the race, he asked again, "But why did you let the Kenyan win?"

Ivan replied, "I didn't let him win, he won. The race was his. The reporter persisted stating "But you could have won!" Ivan replied, "But what will be the meaning of my victory? What will be the value of this medal? What will my mother think of [the medal]?"

Can you imagine a world in which we all were concerned with the well-being of every other person regardless of where they come from, or how much money they have? That world would allow us to nudge each other forward rather than put others down to raise our standing in our own eyes. I pray that we may all learn to be as unwilling as Ivan to take advantage of the weakness of others.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore encourage **one another** and **build up one another**, just as you also are doing.

- Lynne 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

May
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Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14

Psalm: 68:1-10, 33-36

The Epistle: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Gospel: John 17:1-11

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Mary & Ben Zalewski

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Lynne Graham

Organist:

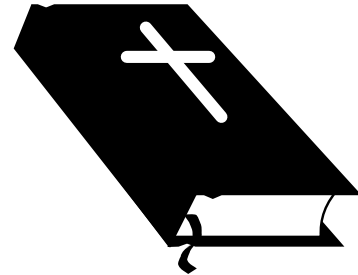
This week's Hymns:

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!

Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray

Crown him with many crowns

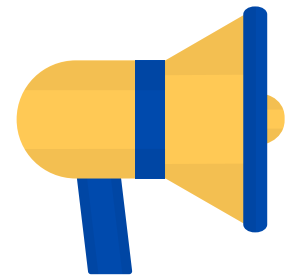


This week's Gospel according to: John

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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, 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:

Mother Liz 5/5, Harry Peirce 5/9, Richard Marker 5/10, Gaby Warriner 5/26, Kate Aukema 5/27, Jerry Sock 5/29



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.

Last Week's Service and Events

LAST WEEK – 6th Sunday in Easter – May 14th, 2023

The live-streamed 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham did the announcements and read as lector. Mary Ann DeWitt was our organist. The service included 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.



Meet Your Vestry

Here's a good picture of St. Paul's vestry. They meet the third Thursday every month.

Tom Undercoffler, Lynne Graham, Senior Warden, Mother Liz, Vickie Calby, Junior Warden, Vera Dunn, Sandy Seeger, Clerk of the Vestry, John Warriner, and John Finlon, Treasurer. It's a tough job but they are the best.



Altar Renovations

Remember when! In May of 2014, we did some major renovations to the altar area. The altar rail was moved forward toward the congregation about 8-feet, the choir pews were moved down, new oak flooring was added and work to the front was done. It's hard to remember that it ever looked different than it does now. Thanks to John Finlon, Rich Marker, Lynne Graham, and all the other folks who helped. Lots of dust everywhere when they were done.



Road Work Ahead

You may have noticed the “Road Work Ahead Sign” that just appeared on Chestnut Street outside the church door.

In fact, they have appeared all up and down Church Street. According to Kenny from the Borough, there is going to be a lot of work on Church Street this summer and they just distributed the signs to get ready for it.



Harold Gary

Joyce Printz sent this photo to Kate. Harold Gary, Montrose’s last World War II veteran, will turn 102 on May 28th. He is shown in the photo as receiving an honorary bachelor’s degree from Drew University. Harold was attending Drew during the war and left to join the Navy. He never finished his degree. Happy Birthday Harold.



The Swallows have Returned

Montrose isn’t Capistrano but the Barn Swallows return every year from their long journey to Susquehanna County. They were a week late this month, but they are a welcome sign that all is right with the world. Waking to their chirping on the telephone line each morning and watching them fly around and eat a zillion flies and mosquitoes is worth the wait. They leave in September but are a part of summer here.



MID MAY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive.” While the month started off wet, it’s been sunny and dry the last week giving us the best week we have had this year. Remember that picture of the dandelions a couple weeks ago, well they all went to seed and are waiting for the wind to plant them. May apples are up in the woods and will be blooming soon. The last of the tulips are up – the late ones reminding us early spring is behind us. Wild columbine is blooming and flowers and veggies, purchased for planting, are waiting until the end of the month when the threat of frost is over. Springtime is the best!

