

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

March 11 - March 16



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.

Our Vestry Members

The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

John Warriner, Sr. Warden

Vickie Calby, Jr. Warden

John Finlon, Treasurer

Wanda Peirce, Clerk

Jack Lasher

Dan Graham

Vera Dunn

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: Father Bill

The Way of the Cross.

Lent 3. The first reading from Exodus 20: 1-17 is perhaps one of the best-known passages of the Old Testament. God, Yahweh, gives the Ten Commandments to Moses and through Moses to the twelve tribes of Israel. Three Commandments immediately apply to God, and seven to mankind and human relations.

So central, so important were these Commandments that every good Jew would have carried them around, hewn out of stone. Just not possible. Instead, the people summarized Exodus 20:1—17 into just a couple of Hebrew sentences. “Remember Israel, the Lord your God is one, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your mind, heart, and soul. And your neighbor as yourself.”

They wrote it on a tiny scroll. They placed the scroll rolled in a two-inch tube. They nailed it to the doorpost of their home. They carried it strung around their neck. They placed it in a one-inch cube box and tied it to their arm or forehead. They called it a *philakalia*. It was a constant reminder of the central tenet of their faith. Live by these words and you were a righteous Jew.

The people called it a ‘*hesed*,’ the *hesed* of God. For every Jew it was a covenant as binding as the bonds of marriage. In many ways Israel thought of this relationship like a marriage. God was the groom and Israel the faithful bride.

We all know that deep relationships bring wisdom. It is the product of love, understanding and patience. All relationships need this. Paul writing to the Corinthians tells them that they are surrounded by foolishness both Jew and Greek, but through their relationship with Christ they have found a new wisdom. Christ has shown them a new way.

Today’s Gospel is difficult. It has one important message. “Jesus has risen as he promised, and he is our salvation. Believe in him.” It is a very central theme for both Paul and St. John. For Christians it spells victory and joy; for the Roman world, plain foolishness. If the ‘*Hesed*’ became so important to every Jew of old, then the ‘Cross’ becomes so important to every Christian. It became more than symbolic. Just as Israel participated in the *Hesed* Covenant, so the Christian is tied to a new binding covenant with Christ, through his cross.

The symbol that Patrick brought to the pagan tribes of Ireland was not the Shamrock. That was a mere teaching tool. The symbol of Ireland was the cross, and the meaning of Jesus dying. Dying he rose to live. It is the meaning of the fire of Easter. It is the wisdom of our faith. We are children of the Resurrection.

View from the Pew: Dan Graham

A Quarter

I had an eye appointment at Northeast Eye near Scarfalotto's last week and since I hadn't had breakfast, I stopped into the VFW to eat. Because it was after the breakfast crowd and before the lunch crowd, the place was empty except for two other guys. They were sitting at the bar on the corner near the door. Since I was by myself and didn't need a table, I sat farther down the bar. Stella asked me what I wanted and I said coffee and a bagel.

While I was drinking the coffee and waiting for the bagel, I overheard the other two men talking, and as often becomes the case, I was involved (although as a silent partner) in their conversation. It became apparent they were discussing the sad state of affairs of the world. Both agreed it had gone to Hades in a hand basket and this was mentioned several times as they were shaking their heads. I assumed that they were talking about the gloomy state of politics, or climate change, or kids just weren't attending church anymore. To my surprise, none of them came up.

It appeared that one of the two was somewhere and had bought a cup of coffee. It cost with tax \$2.09. He handed the young man behind the counter \$3.00. As the teen was ringing him up, he found a quarter in his pocket and handed it to the kid so he didn't get so much change. Having been there, as we probably all have, I knew where this was headed. The proof of the demise of the world began with that quarter. Unfortunately, his coffee was rung up and the cash register told the cashier what change to give for \$3.00. Additional quarters were not part of the equation. The young cashier looked at the quarter in his one hand and the .91 cents in the other and didn't know what to do. Why did he have that quarter? When the man asked for his dollar back, the cashier called for the manager.

It appeared that the manager was the same age as the cashier and, although seemingly understood the issue, it appears that she did not know how to re-ring the order to make it correct. As other customers were getting in line, the manager just gave him his dollar back and said sorry. But, he said he was supposed to get an additional sixteen cents – he was supposed to get \$1.16 back. Now he had mentally lost the manager, who was flustered. She gave him his three dollars back and told him the coffee was free! While he apparently wanted to tell her it really cost .25 since the kid was holding onto the quarter, he decided against it. "What was the use," he said, "They must not teach math in school anymore." At that moment, he had tangible proof that the future of our country was in doubt and he wondered if that generation would ever be able to step up and take our places. The conversation then turned to cursive, and I knew where that was going so I went back to my bagel that had just arrived and tuned out.

I think every generation thinks the one coming behind them won't be able to take the reins and handle things as well as they did. I know the World War II generation had some doubts about my post-war Baby Boomer generation. I must admit, I too have some real doubts about my grandchildren's generation and I don't need a quarter to prove it. But, I guess, history shows all generations do eventually step up. Maybe this generation will find a cure for cancer or something else. I finished my coffee and when I left, the discussion was still going strong. They had moved on to iPad and cell phone addiction. I knew where that was going! I wondered if they would get to telling time on clocks that still had hands?

Sundays Service

March
10



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

The Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Nancy D. & Barb U.

Announcements: Vickie Calby

Lector: Lynne Graham

Hospitality:

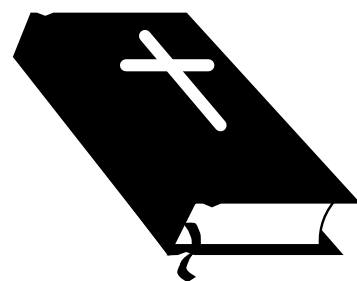
This week's Hymns:

Come, thou fount of every blessing

Jerusalem my happy home

My God, thy table now is spread

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah



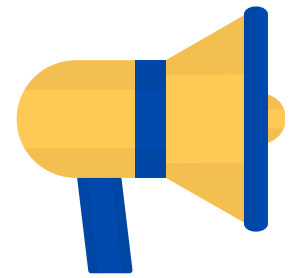
This week's Gospel according to: John

Jesus said, "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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Happenings and Announcements



There will be a Lent Organ Meditation at the Presbyterian Church here in Montrose on March 13 at Noon with a free soup social afterwards. All are welcome!

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.



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, The Rogers Family, 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, Ann Kiefer 3/22, Tom Undercoffler 3/30



This Months Anniversaries:

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 – Third Sunday in Lent, March 3, 2024



Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in Thee;
let the water and the blood,
from Thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure,
cleanse me from its guilt and power.

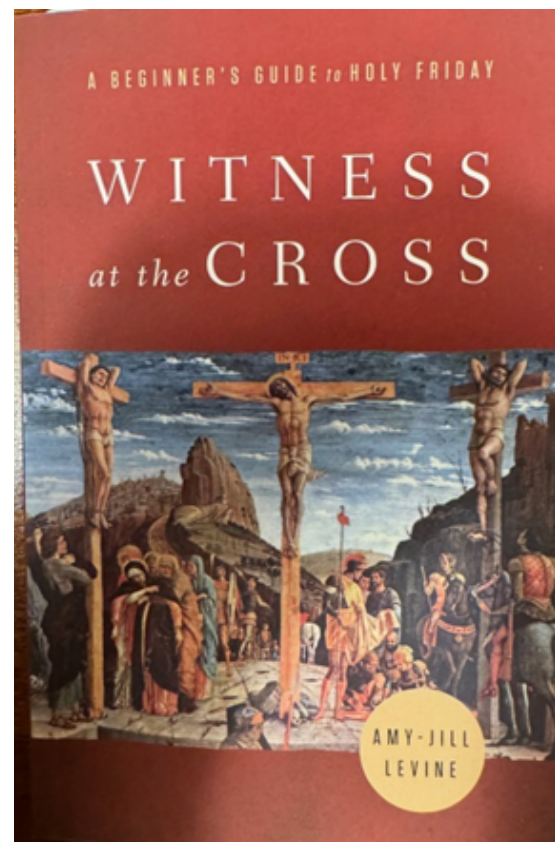


The March 3, 2024, 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was officiated by Mother Liz. John Warriner made the announcements and read as lector, and Lynne Graham served as chalice. Dan and Lynne provided hospitality. Penny Jaggars played a prelude, 4 hymns and a postlude on the piano. Welcome Penny! As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube. Just go to our webpage and hit the red button.



Book Study

Our Lenten book study discusses *Witness at the Cross* by Amy-Jill Levine. Each chapter is independent, so please consider joining our conversation after church on Sunday. You did not have to be at previous sessions to join. How might you relate as a bystander at the foot of the cross?



New Pianist

We were delighted to have Penny Jaggars as our pianist for our service this Sunday. She's from Great Bend. It was great to have live accompaniment for our hymns.



Lake Montrose

Here's a fun picture of Lake Montrose when it was still called Jones Lake taken about 1908. That was before the golf course (of course). It also appears to be before the road to Price Chopper was there. Those were the days.

St. Patrick's Day

It's been said that everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day which is on March 17th. Montrose has at least one person who's going to celebrate. Happy St. Patrick's Day!



St. Paul's Food Pantry

No, the picture on the left is not a coffin, it's St. Paul's Food Pantry in it's early stages. It's roof on the right is getting primed and then the whole thing gets painted to match the parish hall trim on Chestnut St. In our efforts to help anyone who is hungry, it's a new idea we are going to try.



March 10th and April 3, 2022

Old Man Winter may not be done with us yet. The Spring equinox comes on March 19th this year. We have about two more weeks of winter. Here are two pictures from 2022 that showed we got snow into April.



EARLY MARCH IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“In March winter is holding back and Spring is pulling forward. Something holds and something pulls inside of us too.” There’s still a little ice around but it looks like we went into the mud season a little early. Those of us outside of town want the roads to be frozen as long as possible. We had a dusting of snow last Thursday that didn’t stay long but the sunrise on Friday was just beautiful. There was a robin on the sidewalk at church this Monday and I hope not looking for worms. The woods are still brown and claimed by winter but look what’s starting to happen in the flower beds.

