

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

June 2 - June 8



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

“Here I am, Send me.”

“What happens when you die?” Piers Morgan asked the Professor. Back came the immediate reply from the atheist: “When I die, I rot.”

“Don’t you believe that you have a soul, a spirit, that will survive death and give you consciousness?” asked Morgan.

“No, I do not.” Was his final answer. I quote this because it is the direct opposite of the readings for Trinity Sunday, the First Sunday after Pentecost. Here in the Old Testament the prophet Isaiah has a vision. He sees God, and he sees Angels. He has a vision of smoke, and immediately knows he is in a presence, and that presence is one of ‘holiness’.

In this chapter 6, Isaiah is called by God, but in the face of so much holiness, he feels unworthy and unclean. Again, God sends an Angel who touches Isaiah’s lips with burning coals, and he is made clean. So much so, that he comes out with the famously repeated words: “Here I am, send me.”

We will hear those words again, through the Old Testament, most clearly as the words of the young Samuel. The Idea of the Holy is not foreign to us. Our fathers worshipped burning incense, as a symbol of our prayer wafting up to God. It is hard to see the smoke of the thurible without thinking of the Holy Spirit this Trinity Sunday.

Romans 8 is our Second Reading and denies our professor his wish that after death we simply rot. Paul insists that there is a life of the Spirit, hard won for us by Christ himself. It is because we are adopted children of God that we live. United with Christ, we die but also rise with him.

Nicodemus in the Gospel comes to Jesus by night. He is different from our professor, because he has no definitive answers, only questions. Jesus supplies the answers: “be born again in the Holy Spirit and you will live.”—The latest count in the number of perceived Galaxies is now three trillion. The atheist would have us believe that all just happened as if ‘existence’, being, is simply a given. Yet, it is science itself that claims there is always a beginning and an end.

The concept of ‘Trinity’ states that there is a Creator of All, who took physical shape and became human and whose Spirit is eternal. Salvation is about transcendence, about becoming ‘other’ in the same way that God is ‘other’. When a thing of degree becomes perfection, it undergoes a change in kind. We symbolize this at Easter with the Butterfly. We Christians, in following and imitating Jesus, believe we can grow our souls with his saving grace and unite with his Spirit.

Trinity is a celebration of unity, a bond, a love, that forms a perfect state of being. “Who are you that I may tell my people who sent me?” Moses asks God.

“Tell them that ‘I am’ has sent you,” -- comes back the reply. We Christians believe in ‘I am’, he who holds all in being, and brings all to be. Our faith is not based on ‘nothing,’ but rather on something. That something is God, his eternal Spirit, his very being and existence.

Pray this prayer this week: “Here I am, send me!”

Amen.

View from the Pew: Dan Graham

Memorial Day

I'm a veteran. I know this because the clerks at Lowe's give me a half-hearted "thank you for your service" when I use my card to get a 10% veteran's discount. Fifty-three years ago this week, I landed in Korea and arrived on the DMZ there. It seems hard to believe. Where do the years go?

Memorial Day, originally Decoration Day, was established after the Civil War to remember the soldiers who had died. It is celebrated today with parades and the decoration of graves. When I was young, our town had a parade on Memorial Day every year. Not as big as Montrose's July 4th one, it was well attended by most of the people in our town. If you weren't in it, you were watching it. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League teams, church groups, all marched behind the town's two fire trucks. In front of the fire trucks, walking four abreast, were the young vets, WWII guys who were followed in convertibles by the old WWI guys, and even a couple of Spanish American War vets. Leading everyone, was the high school band. Following everybody were bystanders and all the siblings and parents who had kids marching. We marched from the high school through town to the cemetery to the Civil War section where there were prayers from the ministers and speeches from the vets about sacrifices and about their comrades who didn't come home. The young marchers had to sit and listen, but we were really checking out the hot dogs and sodas we got for marching when the speeches were over. Afterward, I would go with my Dad to pull weeds and put flowers on his mother's grave. Good memories.

My parade marching days are, of course, long past and I am now one of the bystanders. As I grew older, I gained an understanding of what those long ago speakers were trying to say and after serving myself, I understood the significance of those young soldiers' sacrifices. America remains free, politically and religiously, because of those sacrifices. While it's a cliché and over used, freedom isn't really free. We should remember those who served and honor those who gave their lives to give it to us. Next Memorial Day, thank a veteran for our freedom. They will appreciate it! (Originally printed in May 2023)

"Did they beat the drum slowly, did they play the Fife lowly, did your comrades walk the death march as they lowered you down?"

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

June
2



Second Sunday after Pentecost

Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Psalm: 81:1-10

The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Gospel: Mark 2:23-3:6

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher

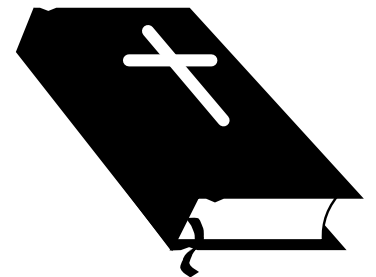
Announcements: John Warriner

Lector: Vickie Calby

Hospitality: Lynne Graham

This week's Hymns:

Christ, whose glory fills the skies
Spread O Spread thou mighty word
I want to walk as a child of light
Blessed Jesus, at thy word

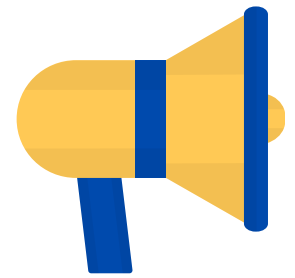


This week's Gospel according to: Mark

One sabbath Jesus and his disciples were going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Happenings and Announcements



Soup Night

Coming up fast again Soup Night is upon us!

There is a list on the fridge in the kitchen with both kinds of soup that you can sign up for. Please don't forget to write your name.



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker,

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:

Bob Kimmel 5/1, 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:

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

First Sunday After Pentecost, May 26, 2024

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

The May 26th, 2024, 10:00 Holy Eucharist, Pentecost Sunday Service was officiated by Mother Liz. John Warriner gave announcements and served as chaliceist. Lynne Graham served as lector. Penny Jaggars played a prelude, 4 hymns and a God Bless America postlude on the piano. 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.



Sleeping Bags

Mother Liz blessed the sleeping bags on Sunday that were finished and ready to be taken to Scranton for distribution.



Happy Birthday Gaby

Yup, the birthday girl this week was Gaby Warriner. We all got to sing happy birthday to her at coffee hour and she was still able to blow out all the candles. Happy Birthday Gaby, hope that you have many more.



Memorial Day Parade

While not as big as the July 4th one, Montrose's Memorial Day parade was lots of fun. St. Paul's still has the best seat in the house to watch parades.



Turtle Crossing

When you're driving this month, be careful that you don't run over a turtle. The females are laying their eggs now and seem to need to cross a road to do it. This is a young female eastern painted turtle that we relocated to a pond on Sunday after trying not to hit it on 706 on the way home.



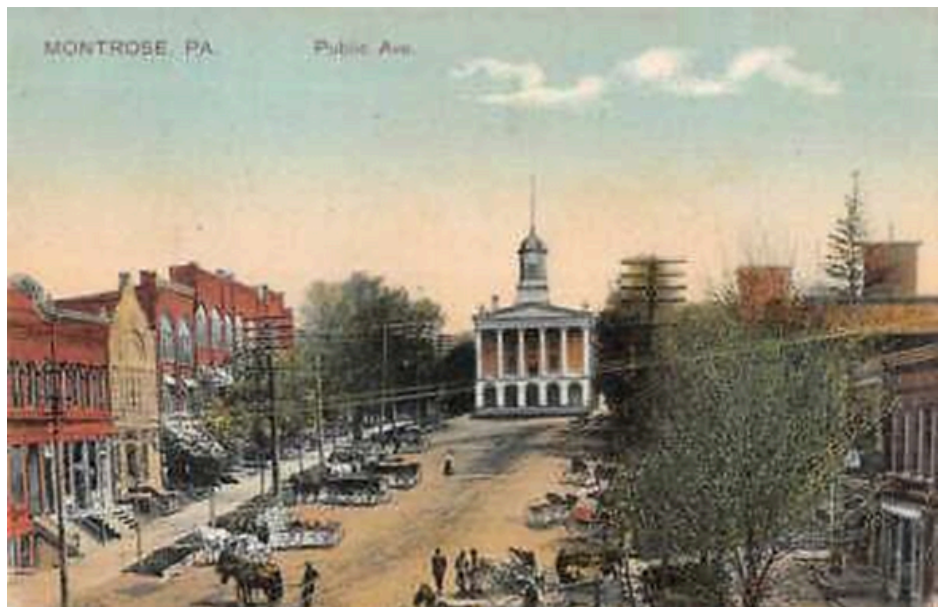
Memorial Tree

Last fall we planted a flowering crabapple tree in the Memorial Garden in memory of Matthew Kinney, Martha Cobb's grandson. The tree blossomed this spring and Mother Liz will be blessing it soon.



Old Postcard of Public Ave.

Here's a cool old 1906 postcard of Public Ave going up to the court house. While a familiar view, and an actual photograph, this one was colored by a German firm.



LATE-MAY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“Every spring is the only spring, a perpetual astonishment.” Well, the babies are coming. The first fawn sighting was this week. Here two Canadian geese families were taking the young ones for a walk. Irises and Clematis are blooming in the gardens now. Gertie the white deer survived the winter but she didn't have a fawn with her this week. Perhaps she still has it hiding. A bullfrog visited but jumped about three feet when the dogs sniffed it. Things are popping out all over. It's almost summer!

