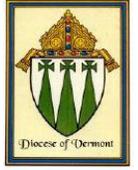


St. Paul's Epistle



AUGUST 2020

A Meditation for August

Belovéd

Be Loved

Be Love Duh!

Vacation Plans August 3-16, 2020

- Sherry will be away Monday, Aug. 3- Sunday, Aug. 16.
- Lucy will provide pastoral support in case of need or emergency. 802-453-2610 or lcbpellegrini48@gmail.com
- Rebecca will pause from St. Paul's responsibilities.

Sunday Fellowship Café Paused - Aug 9 & 16

Zoom Worship with Our Episcopal Neighbors and Bring Back Ideas!

Those in attendance at our July 26th Fellowship Café agreed to offer Rebecca and Lucy a Zoom pause while Sherry is away.

OUR PLAN: Pray with our neighbors and bring back ideas for our St. Paul's Zoom services.

1. CHOOSE A PARISH TO VISIT: from the links provided or one of your own choosing. Perhaps visit a different service each week.
2. PREPARE: Prior to Sunday morning, consider reviewing the variety of service bulletins of the various churches. Most bulletins are posted to church websites by Friday or Saturday. Be sure to print out the service bulletin or use a second device to view bulletin. Some parishes do not "share" it on screen during the service as we do.
3. PRACTICE: Prior to Sunday, try out the Zoom link. Be not afraid! If it works, the Zoom screen will pop up but without a live event, you will not join a "meeting".
4. CALL A FRIEND AND "GO TOGETHER": so you can share your experience afterwards.
5. MUTE, PRAY & REJOICE! Enjoy a new experience; consider joining coffee hour to bring our greetings from St. Paul's, Vergennes.
6. REFLECT ON THE EXPERIENCE: What surprised you? What moved you? What did you not enjoy? Make notes so you remember once we gather together on Zoom to learn from one another.
7. YOU'RE EXPECTED! Sherry has let the clergy know of your possible visitation. All look forward to welcoming you for virtual worship and coffee hour if you choose.
8. SUGGESTED CHURCH SERVICES: Of course, these are only suggestions based on the variety of styles, similar size to St Paul's and respected leadership.

Church of our Saviour, Killington, VT - <https://www.missionfarmvt.org> - 9:30 a.m.

The Rev. Lisa Ransom; Zoom link on home page.

Church of the Good Shepherd, Barre, VT - <https://www.goodshepherdbarrevt.org/events.html>
- 10:00 a.m.

The Rev. Earl Kooperkamp, Rector; The Rev. Beth Ann Maier, Regional Deacon

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, VT - <https://www.stpaulscathedralvt.org> - 10:00 a.m.

The Rev. Greta Getlein, Dean and Rector; The Rev. Stan Baker, Deacon.

St. Martin's, Fairlee, VT - <https://stmartinsvt.wordpress.com> - 10:00 a.m.

The Rev. Mark Preece, Rector

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Wells, VT - The Rev. Bill Davidson, Rector - Same link for both:

- Virtual Children's Community Check-in - 9:00 AM
- Virtual Community Worship - 10:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/415225793?pwd=a0kzZ29SSCt6bElzTHNaMmRLcWcyZz09>

Meeting ID: 415 225 793

Password: 888760

Call-In Phone Number: 1 646 558 8656

August Fellowship Café Schedule

Sunday, Aug. 2 - Fellowship Café at St. Paul's, Vergennes - 9:30 a.m. ZOOM - The Rev. Lucy Pellegrini preaching.

Sunday, Aug. 9 - Visit other ZOOM worship services

Sunday, Aug. 16 - Visit other ZOOM worship services

Sunday, Aug. 23 - Fellowship Café at St. Paul's, Vergennes - 9:30 a.m. ZOOM - The Rev. Sherry Osborn preaching.

Sunday, Aug. 30 - Fellowship Café at St. Paul's, Vergennes - 9:30 a.m. ZOOM - The Rev. Sherry Osborn preaching

Morning Prayer Leaders Needed

Do you pray? Would like to help others pray?

Are you willing to be trained, supported, and mentored over the next few months to lead us in prayer?

Are you willing to try it on... consider that you might be good at it or... learning that it's not your thing?

Please be in touch with The Rev. Lucy Pellegrini with interest and questions: lcbpellegrini48@gmail.com or 802-453-2610

Your vestry has identified the great need for St. Paul's to make strides to become a Leader-Full congregation. What does this mean? It means all hands on deck for Jesus! Seriously, it does mean a willingness for you to consider leading in ways you may not have imagined or comfortable with...and yet your willingness to "try it on". It means an orientation toward shared leadership, adaptability, and a culture of trust.

Thank you to Beth for your years of dedication!

Let us all give thanks to Beth McAllister for her many years of service as the sexton of St. Paul's church! Beth is resigning as our sexton due to scheduling conflicts. Virtual hugs to you and THANK YOU BETH!

Restart at St. Paul's

Our Phase 2 plan for restart received approval from the diocese, this means our restart team can now begin to work on Phase 3 of reopening. Phase 2 allows for restricted use of church buildings by clergy, wardens, staff, and a few others. Phase 3 will be the start of socially distanced outdoor non-eucharistic services. Our online Zoom services would still continue during Phase 3 for those who cannot or choose not to attend any outdoor services that may be offered. Thank you so much Laurie Earle, Lenore Morse, and Lucy Pellegrini - our hard-working restart team!

Why St. Paul's has a Black Lives Matter sign?

The simple answer is that following the murder of Mr. George Floyd, a number of members were moved to make handmade signs which then led to two additional mass produced signs: "Black Lives Matter" and "Love your neighbor who doesn't look like you, think like you, love like you, speak like you pray like you, vote like you. Love your neighbor. No Exceptions."

We recognize that some members of St. Paul's may be uncomfortable, frustrated or even angered by these public statements. We also recognized that others are supportive of this action.

May the signs that have popped up throughout Vergennes lead us to deeper conversations with neighbors and not simple lines drawn in the proverbial sand. Your willingness to express how you feel is vitally important to the health and life of this congregation of St. Paul's. Please reach out to any member of the vestry, your deacon or interim pastor.

A more thorough response comes from our United Church of Christ neighbors.

Our faith's teachings tell us that each person is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and therefore has intrinsic worth and value. So why when Jesus proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the jailed, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed (Luke 4:16-19) did he not mention the rich, the prison-owners, the sighted and the oppressors? What conclusion are we to draw from this? Doesn't Jesus care about all lives?

Black lives matter. This is an obvious truth in light of God's love for all God's children. But this has not been the experience for many in the U.S. [In recent years, young black males were 21 times more likely to be shot dead by police than their white counterparts.](#) Black women in crisis are often [met with deadly force.](#) Transgender people of color face greatly elevated negative outcomes in every area of life.

When Black lives are systemically devalued by society, our outrage justifiably insists that attention be focused on Black lives.

When a church claims boldly "Black Lives Matter" at this moment, it chooses to show up intentionally against all given societal values of supremacy and superiority or common-sense complacency. By insisting on the intrinsic worth of all human beings, Jesus models for us how God loves justly, and how his disciples can love publicly in a world of inequality. We live out the

love of God justly by publicly saying #BlackLivesMatter.

https://www.ucc.org/justice/racism/black_lives_matter

Further reading: <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/first-person/what-happened-after-my-mostly-white-church-put-black-lives-matter-sign>

Sower of Seeds,
come to us.
Are you sleeping?
Do you not see
what is being sown among us?
Division and discord,
prejudice and pain,
grief and tribulation
and sorrow.
Why do you allow
such seed to take root in us?
Why do you even allow it to be sown at all?

Son of Man,
come to us.
Bring the light
that shines in the darkness.
Help us to see
where we are blinded.
Help us to understand
that which you have tried to teach us.

Prince of Peace,
inspire us to be
peacemakers
in a world that is sown with strife.

Grant that we may be patient and compassionate,
kind and caring,
as we look beyond the actions of those who dwell in fear
to the fear itself
and bring a healing balm of comfort
to a world that is sorely in need.

Send your angel armies, we pray,
for reinforcement
and for strength,

for we are not strong enough
to accomplish alone what you have called us here to do.

We need you,
and we need your messengers of hope
to defeat the evil that threatens to overtake us.

Hear our prayers, O God.
O Lord, in your infinite mercy,
hear our prayers. Amen.

Julie Gvillo is Commissioned Pastor (PCUSA), Founder and Creative Executive Director of

A Place of Grace.

Julie shares liturgy written on RCL passages each week on her blog, Point of Contact: Where Life and Worship Intersect.

Want to be part of an exciting ministry at St. Paul's?

Consider the role of vestry clerk! The vestry meets once a month, and the responsibility would be to keep the minutes of the monthly meeting and maintain these files. This is a great opportunity to be part of a dynamic group at St. Paul's.

Please contact Rebecca if you'd like to discuss further. rebeccahchauvin@gmail.com

We are also in search of a part time sexton. Please contact Rebecca if you have recommendations or suggestions as we begin the search! rebeccahchauvin@gmail.com

Book Group News

On July 22, a wonderful group from St. Paul's met on Zoom for a first book discussion on racism. Our next meeting will be August 26 at 7:00. p.m., again on Zoom, to discuss Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. If you're interested in joining us, please let me know and I'll forward information regarding how to "join" Zoom and the meeting ID and password. My email is lmorse@anwsd.org and phone 870-7020

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



3rd Brett Woods
4th Beth McAllister
5th Kinsley Seymour
14th Mary Cassidy
14th Marlaine Tierney
15th Ben Bristow
18th Martha Orvis

19th Aubrey Coffey
24th Chris Cassidy
26th Lisa Jennings
28th Clarinda McAllister
29th Benjamin Mangini
31st Judi Honeywood

Interim Pastor: Rev. Sherry Osborn
revsherryo@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev. Lucy Pellegrini

Sr. Warden: Rebecca Chauvin 578-7312

Jr. Warden: Chris Hale 877-1059

Clerk of the Vestry: TBD

VESTRY MEMBERS:

Class of 2021:

Rebecca Chauvin 877-1370

Nan Guilmette 453-8515

Kim Hatgen 877-6947

Class of 2022:

David Merrill 475-2160

Bo Price 877-2031

Class of 2023:

Chris Hale 877-1059

Jeff Mangini 453-2144

Church Committee Chairs:

Outreach: Mary Gordon 877-3291
romargordon@yahoo.com

Education:

John Stroup 870-3291
stroujit0@gmail.com

Stewardship:

Bo Price 877-2031
boltonprice@comcast.net

Bob Laidman 877-3566
blaidman@gmail.com

Liturgy: