

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



Welcomes all!

St. Paul's is a loving, affirming congregation that welcomes and seeks to serve Christ in every person!

St. Paul's Weekly Epistle
1st Sunday of Lent
Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 10:30am

Serving this coming Sunday

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Karen Joy Kelly
<i>Acolyte</i>	Ella Westerbeek
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Rebekah Westerbeek & Jean Lindenfeld
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Dan & Sharon Reed
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Anne Odden & Bill Davidson
<i>Eucharistic Visitors</i>	Diane Davidson & Sharon Reed
<i>Greet/Usher</i>	
<i>Lector</i>	Bob Cheek
<i>Nursery</i>	Rebekah Westerbeek & Sue Pribula
<i>Organist</i>	Paul Hochstetler

Preparing for the Lent 1

In order to be prepared to hear the Scripture on Sunday, we will be offering introductions to the lessons. (Perhaps this preparation will allow for Bible Study following Coffee hour in January 2023!)

Scripture

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, God placed a prohibition on the tree “of the knowledge of good and evil” (2:17), which represents the wisdom of conscience that comes not intellectually but by experience. Adam and Eve sought independence, the freedom to define for themselves what was good and what was evil apart from God’s wisdom. Chapter 3 recounts the rebellion against God’s prohibition. The temptation progresses from doubt about what God has said, through suspicion of God’s motive, to awareness of the possibility of independence. The primary sin here is disobedience, which leads to the disordering of all relationships- with one’s own body, with God, with one another, with nature, within families, and within societies.

Psalms 32, Psalm 32 is a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s forgiveness. It divides naturally into six sections tracing the pattern of reconciliation: verses 1-2 are an introduction; verses 3-4 express the weight of guilt; verse 5 is a confession of sin; verses 6-7 offer sound advice; in verses 8-9, God speaks; in verses 10-11, the psalmist rejoices in his changed status before God.

Romans 5:12-19, In this rather complicated passage, Paul deals with the universal human condition of sin and death and its relationship to the gift of grace. The free gift of righteousness, a right relationship, does not merely undo sin and death and return humanity to Eden, but offers incomparable grace and life. The role of the law was to point out the measureless mercy of God by measuring sinfulness.

Matthew 4:1-11, Matthew's account of Jesus' temptation works out the implications of the voice present at Jesus' baptism, declaring him to be the Son of God. For Mathew, sonship is manifested in perfect obedience to God's will. The mountain and the ministry of angles also point to Jesus as Messiah. Jesus has manifested the perfect obedience that he teaches his disciples and has shown the Church how to respond to temptations concerning the power entrusted to the Church.

Hymns (Please come early and join us for a run through of Sunday's hymns: 10 a.m.)

S-67 The Great Litany, H-445 Praise to the Holiest in the height, H-150 Forty days and forty nights, S-124 Holy, holy, holy Lord, S-156 Christ our Passover, S-147 Now let us all with one accord, H-142 Lord, who throughout these forty days

Calendar

Book Club every Tuesday, 10 a.m. at church

Ladies' Lunch Bunch 1st Thursday RSVP (269) 983-4761 by Wednesday at noon.

Every Sunday before church at 10 a.m. Come practice hymns with Paul..

February

26 Sunday, Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.

March

- 01 Wednesday *Becoming Beloved Community (Turn)* Lenten Soup Supper & Compline 6 p.m. St. Augustine's**
- 04 Vestry Retreat 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Church of the Mediator in Harbert**
- 05 Sunday, Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.**
- 08 Wednesday *Becoming Beloved Community (Learn)* Lenten Soup Supper & Compline 6 p.m. St. Augustine's**
- 11 New Vestry Member orientation 1 p.m. St. Paul's**
- 12 Sunday, Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.**
- 15 Wednesday *Becoming Beloved Community (Pray)* Lenten Soup Supper & Compline 6 p.m. St. Augustine's**
- 19 Sunday, Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.
Vestry Meeting following the service.**
- 22 Wednesday *Becoming Beloved Community (Worship)* Lenten Soup Supper & Compline 6 p.m. St. Augustine's**
- 26 Sunday, Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.**

29 Wednesday *Becoming Beloved Community (Bless)* Lenten Soup Supper & Compline 6 p.m. St. Augustine's

April

02 Palm Sunday Procession of Palms, Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.

05 Wednesday *Becoming Beloved Community (Go & Rest)*

06 Maundy Thursday Foot Washing and Holy Eucharist, 7 p.m. at St. Paul's

07 Good Friday 7 p.m. at St. Augustine's

09 Easter Sunday, Sung Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.

Prayers

Amber and Daniel and their family, Beth, Kate, Betsy Trescher, Jeri Spitzer, Kitty, Ibrahim Parlak and his family, along with all those suffering from earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, Judy Moran, Sarah Woolcock, Mary Fedison, Kim Fedison, Pat McKee, Ethan, Karen B., Cecile, Tim, Jean, Paul, Amy, Ed, Greg, Carl and all in St. Paul's and St. Augustine's who are in need of healing of any kind.

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From your Interim Rector

“Before God, with the people of God, I confess to turning away from God in the ways I wound myself, the lives of others and the life of the world”. This is the prayer of confession I use daily when I join with others around the world in praying with the Iona Community. A powerful introduction to self-examination, allowing me for a time each day to reconsider how my behaviors (words and actions) impact those within my environment and beyond.

It becomes particularly poignant at a time such as this when we begin our journey into the Lenten Season of 2023. Lent for us is like Ramadan for our Muslim brothers and sisters. It is a period (a gift given to us) of 40 days in which we have an opportunity to look even more closely to our behaviors and our impact on the world. (I continue to think upon and being amazed that the fluttering of a butterfly can have an effect somewhere else in the world.)

Lent is more than simply giving up chocolates. It is about fasting and meditating but the fasting may be from the evils that distract us in our behaviors. It is about the first step in our learning how to walk the way of love as we intentionally disciple (discipline) ourselves to become the Beloved Community. It is about *turning*. Turning away from sin .. away from those things that keep us away from a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and listening even more deeply for the messages of the Holy Spirit.

It is a time to breathe in the Spirit and let the Spirit have space in our lives to change.

This Lent, we join with our brothers and sisters of St. Augustine of Canterbury in sharing a time of fellowship and of Christian Formation, intended to bring us to life again with a whole new holy skill set. Please join us, either in person or by ZOOM as we explore together and walk together with Jesus to the cross and beyond.

Know that I pray with you as you find your own path through the coming weeks. I hope to see you each Wednesday evening at St. A's for a soup supper and then for our understanding of the steps.

Turn. Learn. Pray. Worship. Bless. Go. Rest.

Blessings,
Karen+



The Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen @ the Salvation Army February 25!

Time to volunteer! The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. Thank you!

Fund Raiser for the Soupe Kitchen! ... You can help! Sunday, March 26!

The 2023 Gillespie Soup Bowl will be held Sunday, March 26th at Striker's Bowl in Saint Joseph. \$120.00 will qualify your foursome (or fivesome) to win prizes and enjoy all the Silver Beach Pizza you'd like. Bid on auction items, win door prizes, and enjoy an afternoon of fun. Doors open at Noon, bowling starts at 1:00. Come early to scope out the auction items! Contact kcgast@yahoo.com for more info.

We guarantee you will have a great time at the Gillespie Soup Bowl, even if you can't bowl – just come for the FUN! Register here: <https://igfn.us/form/jDgR4w>



Have you signed up yet?

Haven't done it before? No problem ... an orientation to familiarize yourself to the kitchen and how to make the coffee will be offered! Just sign up and ask for help!

Ministry opportunity: welcoming the stranger

Matthew 25: 31-40 “I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

Welcome Corps is a new program that enables small organizations, or groups of 5 people or more, to sponsor a refugee from certain countries. The Berrien Immigrant Solidarity Network, a group of local citizens, is looking into sponsoring a refugee or refugee family through Welcome Corps. They are asking some churches, including St. Paul’s, to partner with them.

After discussion at the February vestry meeting, it was decided that St. Paul’s will offer to help with tangible needs as they are made know to us. For example, we will help with clothing, food, transportation, etc. as we are able. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to welcome a stranger to our community and country.

Imagine leaving a refugee camp and arriving in a new land, a land of hope, possibly not knowing a word of English. It would be exhilarating and terrifying at the same time. Let’s welcome them with open arms.

If you are interested and willing to participate in this amazing ministry, please contact Diane Davidson for further information.

Around and About the Community

Emergency Shelter Services

From the Herald Palladium, Thursday, February 16 ...BENTON HARBOR — Emergency Shelter Services is looking for more community love as it continues to update its shelter in Benton Harbor. Reshella Hawkins, executive director of ESS, said they are running their second annual Love Your Shelter fundraiser through the end of February with the hopes of raising \$100,000.

The money raised last year was used to repair the foundation and leaks in the basement, to update the plumbing, to remodel the shelter’s five bathrooms and nine bedrooms, and to replace the carpeting. The shelter’s building was built in the 1870s and was donated to ESS in 1978. Hawkins said very little remodeling has been done over the decades ESS has operated the shelter.

“A lot of people have come through here and there’s been a lot of wear and tear on the building,” she said. This year, Hawkins said they want to replace the windows and update the kitchen, along with replacing the furnace and buying two generators.

She said updating the shelter is about more than just making the house pretty.

“When we replace the windows, it will help with the heating cost for the shelter,” she said. “And in our kitchen, it just needs to be remodeled. The cabinets, the countertops. A couple of our stoves need to be replaced. The ventilation system needs to be updated.”

The remodeling also gives the guests hope until they can find stable housing, Hawkins said. “I always tell my staff, or whoever I come in contact with, that just because you’re homeless doesn’t mean you don’t want to sleep somewhere where it’s safe and nice,” she said.

Hawkins said the structure at the shelter shows the clients what is possible so when they get their own home, they can replicate it. Up to 200 people spend time at the shelter every year.

To find more information about the shelter or to learn how to donate, go to www.essberrien.org.

Lakeshore Collaboration

The Church of the Mediator Schedule for Lent & Holy Week as an option

Lenten Book Study

Tuesday, February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28 & April 4

10:00 am Holy Eucharist in Chapel

10:30 am Book Study in the Parish Hall

noon Light Lunch

Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5

7:00 pm on ZOOM <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2694696794>

Maundy Thursday with Foot washing & Stripping of the Altar April 6 @ 5:30 pm

Garden of Repose in the Chapel - vigil following the service

Good Friday with Reserved Sacrament April 7 @ 5:30 pm

Diocesan Update

Interfaith institutions release joint statement on the horrific shooting at Michigan State University

We were horrified by the news out of East Lansing earlier this week. The deaths of Arielle Anderson, Brian Fraser, and Alexandria Verner have a left gaping hole in our hearts that cannot even begin to be filled by thoughts or prayers. Their deaths must be followed by actions that prevent similar heinous crimes in the future and protect our communities.

Politics aside – we can all agree the status quo is not working. Something must change. Working with Michigan policymakers, this interfaith group of partners is advocating tirelessly on ways to implement gun violence prevention measures while protecting Americans' right to possess a firearm. These two ideas are not mutually exclusive.

This nationwide epidemic of mass shootings has yet again reached our own backyard. We call on the Michigan Legislature to pass legislation that protects our right to live peacefully, without the epidemic of gun violence that is plaguing our state and our nation.

Jewish Community Relations Council/ AJC
Michigan Muslim Community Council
Hindu Community Relations Council
Coalition for Black and Jewish Unity
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan
Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan
Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan
Interfaith Action of SW Michigan
Bishop David A. Bard, Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church
Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion
Southeast Michigan Synod
InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit

2023 Lenten Series
St. Augustine of Canterbury & St. Paul's Episcopal Churches
Sharing in Christian Formation



The Way of Love: Creating Beloved Community

GOAL: As we continue our journey to becoming The Beloved Community it is recommended that we first follow the steps of “The Way of Love”, a program created by our Presiding Bishop Michael B Curry. It is through these steps, intentional steps of placing ourselves in the hands of the Holy Spirit, that we learn how participating each intention will bring us closer to being members of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement.

Each of our presenters will lead by example, using their own lives to elaborate on just what this step has meant in their own lives leading us to a time of reflection to discern, through Lent 2023, how we might apply and change our own lives to become the people of and the churches of those who seek to find where God is active and how we can join God in that place (personally, through the church and out into the communities of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph).

The added bonus is that we get to meet and know our neighbors in each of the parishes!

Additional Resources

www.episcopalchurch.org search “The Way of Love”

AND/OR Click the button below for new and updated resources for individuals, small groups, and congregations, including the following:

- “Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent” – adult forum sessions with videos

[Resources](#)

Available from Amazon or Church Publishing Company

The Way of Love Turn, A Little Book 2018 Book #1 in the series

The Way of Love Learn, A Little Book 2018

The Way of Love Pray, A Little Book 2018

The Way of Love Worship, A Little Book 2018

The Way of Love Go, A Little Book 2018

The Way of Love Bless, A Little Book 2018

The Way of Love Rest, A Little Book 2018

Living the Way of Love by Mary Bea Sullivan 2019

Following the Way of Jesus by Michael B. Curry, and others 2017

Evening Format

6:00 Gather for Soup Supper and fellowship

6:45 Program begins with

Hymn

Scripture

Prayer

Presentation

7:45 A time for reflection (feel free to engage in “art” or meditate in the sanctuary)

8:00 Sharing “aha” moments

8:15 Compline

Facilitators (Tentative)

March

1 Turn Rev. Karen Joy Kelly

8 Learn

15 Pray J Barrett Lee

22 Worship Catherine Thomas

29 Bless Rev. Diane Pike

April

5 Go & Rest Cara Gillespie

ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84945547877?pwd=eTNmb3JqU3lWQVZTdFFtSldYVU5Ldz09>

Meeting ID: 849 4554 7877

Passcode: 068130

Know your Vestry

Please contact a vestry member if you have questions or concerns;

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Situated on the land once inhabited by the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi Tribe/Nation.

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Please feel free to call to make sure someone is there.

Sara Lawrick, Administrative Assistant

The Reverend Karen Joy Kelly, Interim Rector

(434) 221-4860 karenjoykelly@live.com

Available by appointment Sunday through Wednesday