

May 2020  
Volume  
LXI

# THE EPISTLE

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# Rector's Corner

*And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. -Romans 5:3-5*

I've been watching a lot of documentaries, reading articles and doing research on life on the home front during the war years. I'm a history buff but I'm also attracted to stories of people who endure hardship and come through the other side. Obviously, this is a topic on all our minds today as we go through the privations, worries and frustrations of these times during Covid-19. I am reminded that we are rich in every way compared to what Americans gave up during the world wars and the depression in between. I am in awe of their grit, fellowship and faithfulness and pray I have the same each day.

You'll be reading this letter a bit late as we are waiting for a letter from our three Episcopal Bishops in Michigan regarding plans for opening our parish buildings again. This is a phased plan. Much like our national and state governments are rolling our phased openings of business and public spaces, we will need to turn the dial slowly as we regain full steam again. Viruses are sneaky and deadly things that come back with a vengeance if we're not properly prepared. Your Vestry and I will meet to discuss the details of the letter and form a plan for how we might re-open. What we do not have and will not have for some time is a date of when we'll open. That will come later. The Bishops promise to give us 10-day notice of when our first public worship services can begin so we have time to prepare our spaces and guide members through new guidelines on how we can inhabit our sanctuary safely.

Our Treasurer, Marco, successfully navigated the process of application for the government's PPP forgivable loan program which supports our budget as we continue to pay our bills and especially keep our staff on payroll. Each staff member is incredibly grateful for this support from your Vestry and to Marco, especially, for his diligence in preparing this application. Our "forgivable loan" amount is just over \$18,000 and covers our time out of our building. Thanks be to God! He is also creating an online giving button for our website so folks can use this service to make their pledge or a one time gift as they feel led.

Finally, we are working with a community group who have created a temporary homeless shelter at Calvary UMC in Jackson. This shelter is needed since the Jackson Interfaith Shelter was quarantined due to three Covid-19 cases in their building. Chef Jeremiah Hephzibah, our kitchen manager, will be providing dinners to their population using our kitchen. We are lending them some of our kitchen equipment and organizing their weekly shopping lists. I'm so grateful we can help our community in this way and hope it gives us a vision for how we can feed our community in the future.

My prayer for you is that you find things each day to be grateful for, that your hope is kindled each day and that you feel the love of God and neighbor in powerful new ways each and every day. God bless and keep you all.

Faithfully,

Sarah+

## St. Paul's History with Pastor Sarah...

I have continued my sojourn of reading through the carefully preserved first editions of the earliest St. Paul's newsletter "The Parish Messenger" begun by Mr. Poole the beloved rector at the time of WWI and the Flu Pandemic. Nothing, absolutely nothing is written or said in saved sermons from that time about the pandemic. What I have gleaned is from ancillary information such as a month in which eight burials are recorded and six weeks where the church did not meet due to state mandated closing of churches, schools and theaters. Mr. Poole's sermons are very patriotic as are all the hymns sung during that time. He updates the congregation regularly on the troops he ministers to as a chaplain at Camp Custer. The closest he came to mentioning the pandemic is when he notes on one Sunday that he preached to 600+ men instead of the normal 1,000+ who attended weekly services. He notes that over 300 men were in the camp hospital at the time. In September he left with a group from Camp Custer to serve as a chaplain to these men he had become so close to. Shortly after they arrived the war ended after peace was negotiated but Mr. Poole stayed on with the YMCA to minister to our troops as they were mustered home and help with relief efforts in France. I will have more on what he would have witnessed and experienced in another article. What follows now was printed in the June 8th, 1919 edition of The Parish Messenger. I believe it comes from the journal of the Reconstruction Administration which was a combined effort of England, France and the United States to aid countries in rebuilding after the war's end. The Rector, Mr. Poole, is still in France and many substitute clergy come to preach, preside and teach at St. Paul's in his absence.

"It is not that society is shattered, but that the war has revealed it was never properly organized. The problems of the readjustments of manpower and industry, of transportation and communication and of political relationships are all important and difficult; but the real tasks of reconstruction go much deeper; not alone in Germany but with ourselves and in our own hearts fundamental changes in attitudes and ways of thinking are needed. The democracy of tomorrow is not so much a matter of social and political arrangement as it is a matter of ways of thinking, of ideas of life's values and of the rights of others. It calls for new motives in living, new standards of conduct, and a new ethics. In a word, the changes that must come in reconstruction are changes in the wills, ideals and motives of men and women. We have all had a share in willing, or permitting a world that went wrong. We must prepare our hearts and those of our children to will a world that shall go right." – *Journal of the R.E.A. December, 1918*

These words resonate deeply with me today and they are my prayer for all of us as we hope and plan for rebuilding our own lives, relationships and economy. God's blessings to us all.



# From our Sr. Warden...

Yep, still tired. Still weary. It has been a very long 4 weeks. When I think about what I am struggling with the most, it is being able to take time...Taking time to walk the aisles of the grocery store and pick out my own fresh fruits and vegetables, taking time to look at the various dog treats and pick a special one out for my pups, taking time to look at all of the pretty colors of paint and deciding which one I want for my next project, taking time to dine with friends after bells every Thursday, taking time to set up for cardio drumming, taking time to kneel in our beautiful sanctuary before Sunday service to center myself with God...taking time.

Doing without haste  
Languidly  
Lazily  
At one's convenience  
At one's leisure  
Calmly  
Lingeringly  
Slowly

\*\*\*sigh\*\*\*



A week ago, I decided to go outside, taking my time to pick up sticks and clean up my yard in preparation for mowing. Taking my time to enjoy the sun, the warmer weather, the exercise and the fresh air, I came across two baby squirrels. Taking my time, I sat down beside the little one. To my surprise, he didn't run. Taking my time, I reached down to pet him. He let me. Taking my time, I picked him up and we became fast friends. Taking my time, his sister soon came to trust me as well. *All in good time.* I realized this just might be a message...that the time we take matters and that all in good time, we can and will find meaning in all of this.

Make a list of all the things that you want to take time to do this week. For me, I'm going to take time pray, take time to make connections with friends, take time to write a check to St. Paul's, take time to listen to music, take time to breath fresh air, take time to journal, take time to sit in the grass and take time to rest. What will you take time to do?

I am looking forward to getting back into a more familiar routine, but until that time we continue to find new ways to connect. Zoom, facetime, messenger calls (with great filters) and so much more. Know that in this month of April, I find comfort in hearing your voices and seeing your faces...even if it is at a social distance. We are not alone...but in this all together.

**Shalom,**  
Michelle







## From our Jr. Warden...

I have to say that I am not fond of heavy snow falls in mid-April, but this last one was beautiful. God laid a fresh layer of white fluffy snow on the ground and in the trees for all of us to enjoy. Since we are all house bound, it was nice to look out the window and see the fresh layer of snow. It was so pure and white, and most of us did not have to be out in it. And the best part was that it was gone the next day. Just a brief beautiful portrait for us to enjoy. Thank you for giving us a moment of beauty in this dark time.

The pandemic has caused us to tighten our boundaries and limit our scope. Families that are normally busy and find little time together are now spending lots of time together. Family time is important, but it can also be very stressful. Having the little ones home all day, teaching them the lessons our underappreciated teachers normally take care of for us, keeping them busy when they cannot see their friends or engage in outside activities can add some stress to the equation. I have great respect especially for the single Moms who may be working a full-time job at home and trying to teach their 3-4 children all their lessons while maintaining the home and cooking the meals. They deserve a lot of praise from all of us for tackling this crucial job during this difficult time.

Easter week was wonderful and thank you to Sarah for keeping the faith with us and providing a time for us to all reflect during Holy Week. The Easter reading from all the ministers in Jackson was very moving and made me tear up thinking how we all came together during this pandemic to spread the word of God. We were all very moved by the beautiful Easter service from the Cathedral, but I did miss seeing and hearing Sarah. The recent zoom service was inspiring and allows us to feel we are part of the service. Seeing and hearing the other parishioners was wonderful. And the "coffee hour" after the service allowed us to chat a little with our church family. Thank you, Sarah, for getting this started. You are a blessing to us all.

Better times will come, and we need to look toward the future. Be safe, stay home when you can and wash your hands.

*-Debbie*



Photo credit: Valerie Rowley

# Mission & Outreach

On behalf of the Mission and Outreach Committee and SOAR Cafe and Farms, we wish to thank the diocese for their generous grant of \$2500 to benefit SOAR.

We plan to use it to sponsor a room at the SOAR House, purchasing furnishings for at least one bedroom. It will be a lasting gift from the diocese and St. Paul's as our women renew and heal their lives through the SOAR residence program at 300 S. Brown St.

During these uncertain times, more than ever we must continue our good works in our community. St. Paul's and our Episcopal Diocese are doing just that.

Thank you very, very much.

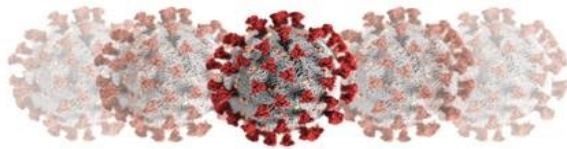
Yours in Christ,  
Barbara Markowski M&O Co-Chair



LEND A HELPING HAND WITH

# JCAN

JACKSON COVID-19 ACTION NETWORK



To **DONATE FUNDS** visit the  
United Way website:  
**[uwjackson.org](http://uwjackson.org)**

For **MORE INFORMATION**  
about JCAN visit:

**[cityofjackson.org/  
coronavirus](http://cityofjackson.org/coronavirus)**

## DONATE SUPPLIES

Baby formula  
Baby wipes  
Diapers & pull-ups  
Tampons & pads  
Hand sanitizer  
Toilet paper  
Sanitizer wipes  
Toiletries  
Over the counter meds  
Laundry soap  
Bleach

## DONATION SITES

### YMCA

127 W. Wesley St.  
Assisted drop off  
east side of building:  
Mon-Fri 11 am-1 pm  
Unassisted drop off  
west side of building:  
Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm

### BOOS CENTER

210 Gilbert St.  
Mon-Fri 12 pm - 7 pm  
Sat 10 am - 12 pm

If you or someone you  
know needs help:

**CALL 2-1-1**

If you'd like to  
volunteer with JCAN:

**CALL 2-1-1**



The Sunday 10:30am Eucharist can be experienced over your phone like a conference call. Call this number each Sunday at 10:20 am 1-929-205-6099, when asked for the meeting ID# enter 991 7158 6189 and if asked for a password# enter 328769.

You can also view the service later on Facebook.

Follow the link: <https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi/>

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO VIEW OUR VIDEOS!



I am grateful that I can be of service to our church family by continuing prayer requests while we are apart. Feel free to send me your prayer requests by email at [finnikki96@aol.com](mailto:finnikki96@aol.com) or you can call me at **517-250-9729**. Generally, I place the name(s) under one of four categories, SICK, MEMORIALS, SPECIAL CONCERNS, or THANKSGIVING. Usually, people just use the first names of those to be held up in prayer. If you prefer, you may give your requests to parish secretary Alice Mulhearn by email or phone.

To those who have shared their worry, grief, or joy with me, please know that your faith in prayer strengthens mine. Faced with the magnitude of harm already caused by the pandemic, and fearful of what is yet to come, I take comfort in the words Melissa used in last Sunday's sermon, "God is reaching out a hand to draw us in. To encourage us to come closer. One thing we can do while we are isolated is accept the invitation God is giving us, like God gave Thomas so long ago. God is reaching out a hand, summoning us closer to grab on." Thanks be to God!

May the peace of the Lord be with you,

*Diana Sinclair*

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NRSV)*





## *“Everyday Minister”*

*With*

*Melissa our Seminarian*

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### *Being an Everyday Minister During a Pandemic-*

This month I would like to highlight Heidi Hosler-Lathrop as the Everyday Minister. As a reminder, an everyday minister means taking our Christian ministry out into the world, by putting into practice what we learn about through St. Paul’s. Heidi works as a social worker at Henry Ford Allegiance Hospital. As part of her work she volunteers on the Ethics Committee.

The Ethics Committee works to ensure the best medical treatment is offered to the patient. At Henry Ford Allegiance Hospital, the Ethics Committee works hard to consider all sides of a case, particularly when there is a disconnect between the medical team’s recommendations and the wishes of the patient or family. The team then advocates for the more or most ethical path forward in a difficult situation. Heidi said the Ethics Committee members approach this work with “an almost spiritual reverence” and describes it “a blessing” to be on the team.



Heidi said spirituality often plays a role in the cases she reviews for the Ethics Committee. She said that if she gets a sense that a patient has a spiritual connection, she reaches out to the hospital chaplain or a clergyperson to help. And, while she is a social worker by trade, she often prays for her patients!

One Christian value Heidi tries to remember is that each person is made in God’s image and is a person for whom Christ died, that no one should be forgotten or discounted. Recently the cases she has reviewed have been challenging, especially with the effects of COVID-19. With the pandemic having in some cases lethal impacts, recommendations from the Ethics Committee are literally involving life and death decisions. Some of these cases also involve the local prison population, and she says it’s important from an ethical standpoint to ensure everyone gets the same access and consideration when it comes to medical care. With the increased impact and severity of illness due to COVID-19, she said she hopes to remember to pray for her patients more often.

When I asked Heidi if she had a “go to” scripture passage she said without pause, “The Lord bless and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26). She said this verse helps her to be centered. I see Heidi reflecting that grace and peace to others through her work as an Everyday Minister at Henry Ford Allegiance Hospital.

Heidi and her husband Joe also volunteer for the food pantry at Compassionate Ministries of Jackson where they are greeters and staff resource tables and pray with people. The next time you see Heidi or Joe, be sure to ask them about this neat ministry!



## "Everyday Minister" continued...

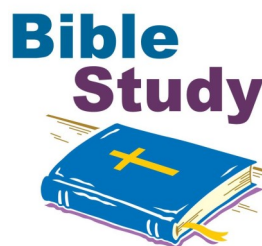
When I think about Heidi and her everyday ministry working to remember and value each person, and working toward equal opportunity to health care for all, this prayer comes to mind: "Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen" (*Book of Common Prayer* 826).

Thank you, Heidi for being an Everyday Minister!

## A Prayer in Time of Pandemic

*By the Rev. Dr. Kate Sonderegger*

This hour we turn to you, O Lord, in full knowledge of our frailty, our vulnerability, and our great need as your mortal creatures. We cry to you, as one human family, unsure of the path ahead, unequal to the unseen forces around us, frightened by the sickness and death that seem all too real to us now. Stir up your strength and visit us, O Lord; be our shield and rock and hiding place! Guide our leaders, our scientists, our nurses and doctors. Give them wisdom and fill their hearts with courage and determination. Make even this hour, O Lord, a season of blessing for us, that in fear we find you mighty to save, and in illness or death, we find the cross to be none other than the way of life. All this we ask in the name of the One who bore all our infirmities, even Jesus Christ our Risen and Victorious Lord. *Amen.*



Pastor Sarah's Weekly Zoom Bible Study  
Wednesdays at 10am

If you would like to join, please call or email Pastor Sarah for the Zoom link and password.

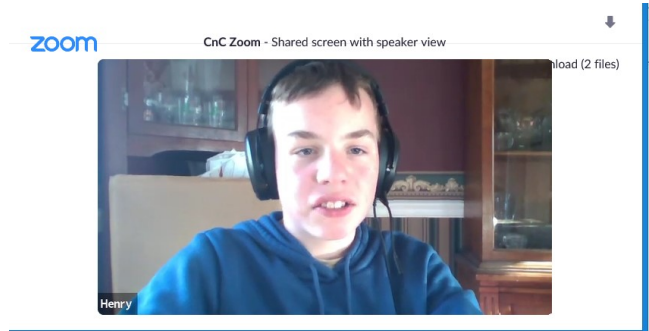
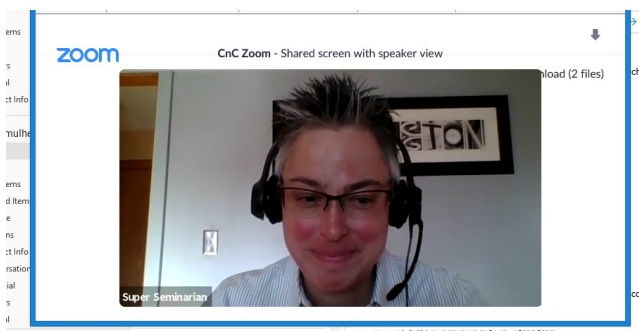


# Youth Group News

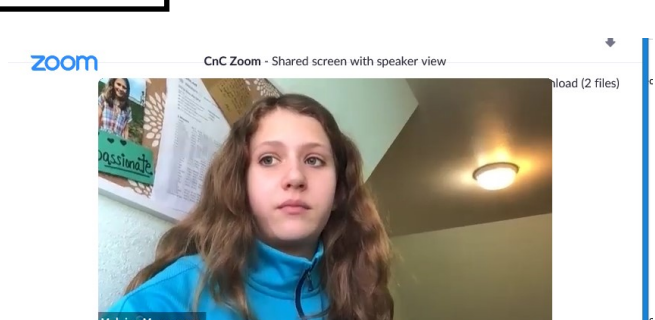
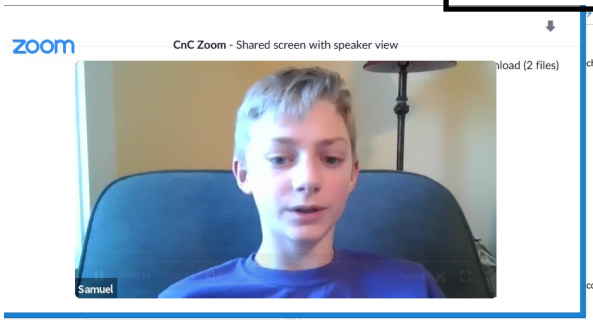


As usual, the St. Paul's youth group will not be kept down by the isolation of COVID-19! The group has been meeting via Zoom on Sunday evenings. Right now they are working on a service project to benefit our parish community. That project is sending cards, letters, or messages of any sort to those in our community who are more isolated. Since the pandemic has started, the group has been very passionate about remembering those who may be forgotten or have less technology available to stay in contact with fellow parishioners, friends, or loved ones. The goal is to spread faith, hope, and love as far and as wide as possible.

If you would like to help with this project by making and sending some cheerful messages, please contact Seminarian Melissa Congleton at [conklet2@msu.edu](mailto:conklet2@msu.edu).



This is what Zoom youth group looks like!



*How well the seasons speak to our hearts,  
like a sacred gospel of the good earth,  
telling us to believe in a hope-full God  
who raised an entombed son from the dead.*

*In those moments when goodbyes cut deep  
and old wounds rise up to hurt us,  
when we get bent bearing others' burdens  
or life seems destructive and unfair,  
in these moments we need to look inward  
to where the Easter vision warms us forever.*

*This is how we shall carry our sorrows,  
this is how we shall bear our woundedness,  
up against the great joy of the springtime  
while standing strong in an empty tomb's truth.*

**-by Joyce Rupp**

**From her book "Praying Our Goodbyes"**

**"Dedicated to those who have lost loved ones from the virus or other cause...A reminder of the joy of spring and the opening of the tomb." -Valerie Rowley**





# The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church ECW

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In terms of the lock down this past month has seemed like a year! In terms of writing an article for the May epistle it is an eye blink! But here we are again with the year marching fast forward. We hope this finds you all healthy and safe at home. We pray that those who must go out are able to do so in a responsible and safe manner.

Our “fun” April meeting was cancelled due to the virus, and May’s meeting is also cancelled. Depending on how the curve continues, we are hopeful for some sort of June meeting but that might change. Our biggest priority is everyone’s health and safety and we will be guided by the rules set forth by our leaders and scientists. We will also be led by the comfort level of the women of ECW. Perhaps many of you might not be ready to mix in groups however many or few those groups contain. Some of our missed opportunities can be re-visited next year when things are safer, so we are not really missing out just postponing.

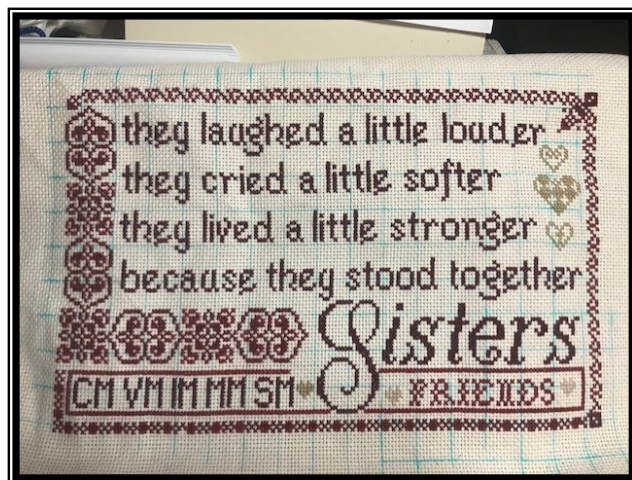
I continue to cross stitch which has been a life saver for me. I’m sure you all have some go-to activity that has helped you maintain some level of sanity. Puzzles seem to be a big one with a lot of people and exercise another. What about contact with family? Grandchildren? Here are a few things to do with children using Face Time, Zoom or the method of your choice. Ask them some revealing questions. If you could paint your room what color would you choose? Of the books you’ve read, what was your favorite? Why? What was your best vacation? Were you ever left out of something on purpose? Was it bullying or some other reason? Would you rather go to school or to Hogwarts? If you let them answer you can see how wide open these conversations could become and how much you could learn about them. Apart from questions, you could research things to teach them like the Statue of Liberty, Abe Lincoln, climate change and the state of our planet. Questions and lessons could be modified to be age appropriate. Many, many ways to stay connected to the kiddos during this time of separation.

Stay in touch with each other. Think of one person who is alone and write them a note. Send a note to a child you know or a grandchild. Kids love getting “real” mail and older, vulnerable people who are alone want to know they are not forgotten. At this week’s bible study Rev. Sarah talked about being encouraging to others and said Barnabas was an encourager and his name means “son of encouragement”. It also means “son of comfort”. Be encouraging to one person this week and be a comfort to them.

We are all strong women and can get through this. Let us move forward with hope. Stay home. Stay safe. Stay health. Flatten the curve. Break the chain. Keep your distance. Wash your hands. God bless.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Rowley, Vice President, ECW







|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Sally McKinnon    | May 1  |
| Debbie Batchelder | May 3  |
| Joanne Johnston   | May 8  |
| Evelyn Lagow      | May 11 |
| Susan Howe        | May 22 |
| Joette Rabaskas   | May 27 |
| Elaine Hale       | May 30 |

Did we miss you or a family members birthday or anniversary? We may not know it! Please call or e-mail Alice at the church office so we can put it on our list for next time!



|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Chris & Diane Scheele   | May 4  |
| Bob & Marianne Fowler   | May 19 |
| Barney & Rhonda Rudolph | May 23 |
| Thomas & Sandra Kilian  | May 25 |



Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful Mothers of St. Paul's!

Join us for online worship on Mother's Day Sunday, May 10, 2020



We at St Paul's have a Golf Fellowship that meets each Thursday at about 9:00 AM at Ella Sharp Golf Course for nine holes of golf. At the present we are not permitted to use the carts so we must walk the course. We have not met this year yet, but we expect to try to meet this Thursday (5/7) weather permitting. Bob Duke generally sends out an email to all of the guys on Tuesday or Wednesday before with weather predictions and reminders.

If you are so inclined to join our fellowship please contact Bob and you will be added to our fellowship. Bob's email is : [radserv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:radserv@sbcglobal.net) and his cell phone # is **517-262-2658**.

# Thank you for sharing your Palm Sunday, Easter, and Quarantine at home news and photos again!

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**Jo & John Alipit:** "We watched many online Church services here in the USA as well as in the Philippines. Jo and I have been watching also the complete Sunday Services at the Cathedral of the Resurrection or the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Luke in the Philippines where our Nephew is the Priest. He also does the Morning and Evening Services everyday. Manila Time is 12 hours ahead of our time so that it is convenient for us to watch their services there, and in the morning here while it is night time in the Philippines already. Our prayers for everyone shall not cease. We miss our corporate services but hope that this crisis will soon come to pass! God Bless!



Jo did this make shift Easter altar for us to continue our prayers during these isolation days due to COVID-19. We pray that everyone celebrated Easter in our hearts."



**Barb Markowski:** "During this quarantine time, I have been staying very busy. To date I have made and donated 99 masks. My supplies are nearly depleted (with the exception of fabric, of course!) and I would like to thank all of the recipients of my masks, whom, at my request and in lieu of paying me, have donated money to SOAR Cafe and Farms!! Thank you for paying it forward!



I painted my pantry (a job I have been putting off for 25 years! True story!!) I also have been working on UFO (unfinished objects) quilting

projects! Hooray!! I fear our quarantine needs to last until 2022 for me to get them all done! Mulligan and I have taken nearly daily our 3+ mile walk/ runs at the Cascades. We have met some very nice people and their fur babies, most of whom Mulligan has tried to bully. We are working on that, as well, but so far, he seems to be extorting me for treats! "



## Easter with the Randalls!





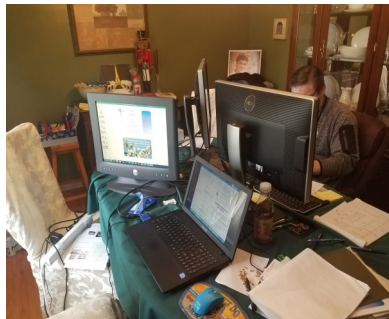
This is what Koinonia looks like in the age of COVID-19! "Zoom-onia" as coined by Eric Magnusson!



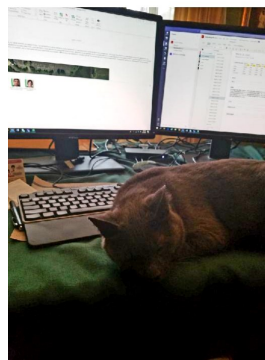
Palm Sunday 'stay at home' palms stand in! - Janet Wesch



### Palm Sunday and Easter with the Magnussons!



This is secretary Alice's work at home set-up, complete with loud hubby on conference call and cats on keyboards!



**Suzi Howe:** "It was just Bob, me and the cat for Easter LOL. I 'went' to several services on Easter including the National Cathedral. I have been doing the online church so that is appreciated. When the weather permits I have enjoyed being outside on our property conversing rather loudly at a distance with my neighbors. I shocked my children by signing up for online banking and getting an older, cheaper smartphone. We have the wildlife, mostly deer and turkeys, travelling through for a variety of entertainment. Miss everyone...Keep well."



Proud Grandma Janet Hughes sent in this funny quarantine pic of Granddaughter Madisyn.





Our bishop has, along with the other Michigan Episcopal bishops, issued a new directive on the re-opening of our worship spaces for public worship. We have NO date yet for this re-opening and are given this directive to prepare ourselves. When you read the document outlining the phases you may feel overwhelmed by how our worship practices will need to change for a time. I understand and commiserate with your feelings. Nevertheless, your Vestry and I will be getting a plan together for St. Paul's and be ready to safely open when we are given the go-ahead. We will maintain safety as our highest goal and communicate with you regularly as we update our policies and ready our buildings. I join you in praying for all our churches as we persevere and in asking God to give us the courage to explore ever more ways to reach out to our community with the love of God and faith in Jesus Christ. God's blessings!

*-Pastor Sarah*



May 1, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

As people of faith, we follow the commandment Jesus gave us - to "love our neighbors as ourselves." Loving our neighbors these days in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, means setting limits. This is how we love our neighbors - by working to slow the spread of this extremely contagious, life-threatening virus. We know that coming together, even for the best of reasons, can spread this disease.

On March 17th, we issued a directive that put all of our 203 congregations on hiatus from in-person gathering until May 10th. Today, we extend that directive and offer a plan for how we might engage re-entry when it is advisable to do so. We know that if we resume gatherings prematurely, we will force our most vulnerable members to make the choice between keeping themselves safe and participating in congregational life.

The linked "[Plan for Re-Entry for Great Lakes Episcopalians](#)" articulates three phases for re-entry into our new normal. Currently, we are in Phase I and will remain in Phase I until further notice, pending further recommendations from public health experts and the State. When we are able to progress into Phase II, we will communicate the return date at least ten days ahead of the change.

Furthermore, as we continue to respond to this pandemic in the way we gather for worship, formation, and fellowship, we must consider how to respond more fully to the injustices being revealed by this pandemic - food insecurity, racial bias, access to healthcare, a living wage, housing, and education. As a people of faith who believe in the power of resurrection and new life, we are committed to naming and addressing these injustices so that the kingdom of God may come nearer. We must be asking - how might our faith communities use this crisis as a catalyst for re-imagining our ministries and priorities to come alongside a world in grief? What tangible steps will we take to address these issues?

And, as we continue to follow recommended guidelines for safety, please remember to embody hope as we pray. Pray for the ill and recovering, for the grieving, and for the lonely. Pray for researchers, medical professionals, health policy experts, front line workers, and for those who clean and stock and ship. Pray for our clergy and our staffs. And pray for each other - that we may be filled with God's courage and compassion in the midst of fear and unknown.

Peace be with you,

**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie Perry**  
Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

**The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr.**  
Bishop, The Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan

**The Rt. Rev. Rayford Ray**  
Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan

Go to the EDOMI website to read the whole directive and plan:  
<https://www.edomi.org/>