No Matter Who You Are, Or Where You Have Been, There Is A Place For You At St. Paul’s

www.stpaulsyr.org
As we move deeper into this time of the pandemic, it’s important to take a step back every few weeks and look at our needs and what is working and what is missing. This is true for us as individuals and families, and for us as a church. Our livestream worship service, ‘broadcast’ from St. Paul’s, has made it possible for us to include good quality organ music and a singer leading the hymns. There has been one vital element of worship which has been conspicuously absent from our 10 a.m. livestream worship service: the participation of all of our members.

So, on Sunday the 13th, we’ll be trying something new: A Zoom worship service with lots of participation from our members. Since we are in an unprecedented time, we will be stretching the normal rules and patterns of worship to incorporate leadership from at least 20 of our members. You should expect:

1. Members will join the meeting via St. Paul’s website between 9:50 - 10 a.m. If you want to join via Zoom, choose the link that says “10 A.M. Worship Zoom”. The password is **fayette**. If you want to join via the live stream, choose the link that says “10 A.M. Worship Live Stream”.
2. If you join via Zoom, your microphone will be muted when you join. Please turn your video camera on so everyone can see you as you enter the meeting.
3. At about 9:55 one of our members will play a prelude to help us quiet down and prepare for worship.
4. A pair of singers will lead us in our opening hymn at 10 a.m.
5. A lay leader will welcome us into worship, get us oriented in the Prayer Book and lead us in the confession.
6. Other lay leaders will take turns leading us in scripture readings, canticles and hymns.
7. After the reading of the Gospel, I will begin the sermon period with a brief meditation about the main theme of the day: *Life in the Christian Community*.
8. I will invite you to choose a breakout room for a deeper discussion of a topic related to the main theme, such as ‘The Power of Forgiveness’ or ‘The Non-Judgmental Community’. Each breakout session will be structured and led by one of our leaders. One breakout session is intended especially for children.
9. After the breakout sessions lay leaders will take turns leading the Apostles’ Creed, Prayers, Announcements and Closing Hymn.
10. I will give the Blessing and Dismissal, then encourage everyone to stay for fellowship during coffee hour.

Though this might sound complicated, it’s really just about getting organized to take turns. Look for the full service outline on page 15. Our goal is to have more of our members engaged in worship. Many churches have been holding services like this for months. We will give this a try and see whether we want to try it again.

If you are new to Zoom and want to learn more about how it works, join me for a Zoom tutorial session earlier on Sunday at 9:15. From St. Paul’s website click on the Zoom tutorial link and enter the password: *fayette*.

There have been many challenges and changes for us during the past six months. Thank you for trying one more new thing with us at St. Paul’s.

*Fr. Philip*
For over 5 months now we have been going to church by staying at home. While different, and perhaps strange, it is good to see Fr. Philip sitting in the church for a streaming service. It is good to see our friends in a zoom box over coffee. We are not physically together but it feels like we are; knowing that as we are participating from our home at the same time others are doing the same, gives us some sense of being connected. It may be a virtual service, but it is live. And while not the best and while we may be tired of attending church this way, we have become comfortable with it. Some of us are literally very comfortable, wearing pajamas, lounging on the sofa with coffee during church services.

Our comfort with attending church virtually from home is related to our comfort level about being anywhere with other people for prolonged periods of time, particularly inside. We have been conditioned, for good reasons, to be careful. I have been (and continue to be) very careful about what I do and where I go. My trips to the grocery store are very brief, infrequent and focused. Unless I am alone on the street or in the woods on a hike I wear a mask. I only visit with friends outside, physically distanced. No one has been in our apartment since March and no one has ridden in our car. Before we vacationed with our immediate family we all had COVID tests.

In the past few weeks St. Paul’s has offered the opportunity for in-person services. It was not an easy decision for me to attend an in-person service. Attending outside was an easier choice for me. But I have tried both of the options we have available to us on Sunday and I am glad that I did. As I prepared to go to an 8 a.m. service two weeks ago, it felt good (and normal) to look for a nicer pair of capri pants and some cute sandals in my closet so I could “dress up” a bit! It felt good (and normal) to enter the sanctuary and see a small group of friends gathered (behind masks and physically distanced.) You could see the smiles and joy behind the masks as we worshipped in person and received communion for the first time in months.

Last week I attended the Mass on the Grass at Fr. Philip’s house. It was a lovely afternoon and being with another group of friends for a very
casual communion service was wonderful and no one dressed up! We were a diverse group that included our very youngest members giving us hugs around our knees. And while wearing masks and being physically distanced in our lawn chairs, we could see the smiles and feel some joy at being physically together again.

We may be comfortable with virtual worship from our homes; but it isn’t what we really want. We really want to be together and see each other. I want to assure you that, when you decide the time is right for you, St. Paul’s is following the rules to keep us safe during in-person worship. Stay strong my friends. I look forward to seeing you in church.

---

**Women’s Retreat is Canceled**
—By Laurie Sanderson

We have decided to cancel the retreat for this year, there is still too much up in the air about Covid. Our leader, The Rev. Kathy Major has said yes to next year. We will wait until next year to reserve time and space. We will keep you posted.

---

**Downtown YMCA Update**
—By Doug Mouncey and Debbie Bogan

During this time of social distancing, it has been important to find ways to maintain our relationships with members of the YMCA senior apartments who have participated in St. Paul's activities during the past few years. On September 1, Christine and Kathy joined Doug and Debbie for an evening ice cream treat and a chance to catch up on how everyone is doing. They do miss things like the First Friday dinners and the summer picnic. To date, no one at the Y apartments has contracted the virus.

Debbie received an email from Harlan Dunn, YMCA Residence Director, requesting donations of cleaning supplies, in particular, brooms, dust pans, spray bottles, and cleaning rags for the men residents. This is part of their life skills initiative to teach guys basic self care and keeping their spaces clean and sanitary. If you would like to make a donation to help this cause, please call Debbie Bogan at 315-492-3472.
Leadership Retreat: Sustenance in the Wilderness
—By Father Philip

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:28-29

Each fall for the past four years we have held a leadership retreat with our team leaders and vestry members. This year is different. Our needs are different. So this year I am inviting all of our members to join me and our vestry for a different kind of leadership retreat. Here are the basics:

* The retreat will be held via video conference, so you can participate from the comfort of your home.

* The retreat will be divided into two sessions, held on two successive Saturdays, October 24th and 31st, from 10-12.

* Feel free to sign up for Oct. 24th, or Oct. 31st, or for both sessions.

* The first session is Finding Sustenance in the Wilderness.

* The second session is Supporting your Team (or your Family) in the Wilderness.

* Each two-hour session will be divided into four smaller segments, and will include time for one on one conversations, time for you to work individually, and short group sessions.

* Participants will receive a package of retreat materials in their mailbox prior to the retreat, including a short piece of ‘homework’ to be completed prior to the session.

* Each participant will end the session with a beautiful and useful final product, suitable for framing…or at least suitable for posting on your refrigerator!

Every member of the congregation is invited to participate this year. If you are interested in participating, please write to me at: revmajor@stpaulsysr.org. The deadline for registration is October 13th.
**The Feast Goes Hybrid**  
—By Tiffany Miner

For the first time since the coronavirus pandemic, the Feast is going hybrid! At the September Feast, there will be limited availability to meet in person in the Brewster Room at St Paul's (masks and social distancing required)! You are also welcome to join us via Zoom! The Feast this month will be held on Friday, September 25th from 6:30-8:00 PM and will be hosted by Tiffany Miner & Vivian Tompkins. To RSVP in person or via Zoom (always good to get a head count), please email stpaulsyracusefeast@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

---

**Prayer List**

Below is our prayer list. Please contact Laurie Sanderson at 315-420-1518 or lascsw3@aol.com if you have names to add or change. In compliance with HIPPA regulations we cannot list whole names, but God knows who we are praying for. Thank you!

**Acute Need/Immediate**
Marie, known as Ann, Pamela, Sue, David, Sherry, Jim, Denise, Dannette, Kate, Patrick

**Continued Prayers**
Valerie, Beverly, Edna, Kathy, Bunny, Annie, Elizabeth, Anne, Laurie, Ali, Hal & Jean, June, The Reverend Barbara Allen, Edith, Tom, Tahiana, Brad, Mary, Hugh, All Those Living Alone or in Nursing Facilities.
September Anniversaries:
Liz & Richard Handler 9/3,
Kathy Hum & Peter Scott Earle 9/3,
Hal & Ruth Brown 9/10, Sandy & Newt Wiley 9/10,
Barry & Mary Pickard 9/15, Doug & Perry Mouncey 9/16,
Tiffany Miner and Tim Simmons 9/30

September Birthdays: Walter Rogers 9/1, Rachael Thomas 9/2,
Sandy Wiley 9/2, James McCloskey 9/5, Barry Pickard 9/6, Helen Reed
Ferguson 9/12, Barbara Bell 9/15, Julia Fine 9/18, Wendy Hoblyn Jones
9/19, Betsy Barker 9/25, *Ellie Major 9/26, Kim Vorchheimer 9/26,
Timothy Cassavaw 9/27, Kerstin Johnson 9/28, Chris Maros 9/29,
Judith Williamson 9/30

Becky Griswold, Caroline, Julianna, Mike and Gabriella
Elsas, Tony Caruso at the baptism of Gabriella Elsas,
August 23, 2020
Upcoming Services

September 13th, 2020  Proper 19A  Morning Prayer
The First Lesson: Exodus 14:19-31
The Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12
The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 - Proper 20A
Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 Proper 21A
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Remembering Nancy Ridings
The Ridings family thanks all members of Saint Paul’s Church for the tremendous outpouring of prayers, cards, tribute, and support in memory of Nancy as she departed from us to God’s place for her. We give thanks for the love Nancy shared with us and the love that continues to pour out from all of you.

—David Ridings
SPC Readers: Exploring Our Biblical, Christian Foundation  
—By Dick Pilgrim, Formation Team Convener

Please consider joining us for the next session of SPC Readers, starting Wednesday, Sept. 30 (7:30-8:30 PM) and ending Wednesday, Nov. 18. I will be hosting this particular series, and the focus of our discussions will be James Carroll’s book “Christ Actually: Reimagining Faith in the Modern Age”. We will work our way through the book one or two chapters at a time.

Carroll’s book reflects an award-winning author (“Constantine’s Sword”) who combines a Christian commitment with excellent insights, literary skills, and a judicious use of some of the best of current scholarship in Christian history, biblical studies, and contemporary theology. Much of the book searches out the biblical and Christian foundations for developing ideas of Jesus as the Christ, but also addresses deeper concerns, such as anti-Semitism. Subsequent sections focus on reimagining the Christ figure as a Jesus Way of “service not self-aggrandizement; of suffering (for others), not power (over others)”. Due to the limitations of video conferencing, participation will be limited to eight people. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at rbpilgri@syr.edu or 315-446-5733 by Wednesday, Sept. 23.

Judy McAdoo-Pelton, St. Paul’s Business Manager will be on vacation Monday September 14th through Friday September 18th. And Father Philip will be away the following week, September 21st through 25th.
St. Paul’s Calendar September 13th through 30th

Sunday, September 13, 8:00 a.m. In Person Service—RSVP by email to Mary Hastings
Sunday, September 13, 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship—Live Stream
Sunday, September 13, 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour—Zoom
Sunday, September 13, 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers—Zoom
Sunday, September 13, 4:00 p.m. Mass on the Grass—257 Robineau Rd. Syracuse

Tuesday, September 15, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study—Zoom
Tuesday, September 15, 4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer—Zoom RSVP w/ Sue Wright
Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 p.m. Feminist Theology—Zoom
Tuesday, September 15, 7:30 p.m. Closer to Zero Waste—Zoom
Thursday, September 17th 2:00 p.m. Open Doors Meeting—Zoom

Sunday, September 20, 8:00 a.m. In Person Service—RSVP by email to Mary Hastings
Sunday, September 20, 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour—Zoom
Sunday, September 20, 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer w/Sue Wright—Live Stream
Sunday, September 20, 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour—Zoom
Sunday, September 20, 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers—Zoom
Sunday, September 20, 4:00 p.m. Mass on the Grass—257 Robineau Rd. Syracuse

Tuesday, September 22, 4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer—Zoom RSVP w/ Sue Wright
Wednesday, September 23, 7:00 p.m. Gardener’s Group—Zoom RSVP w/Jessica King

Sunday, September 27, 8:00 a.m. In Person Service—RSVP by email to Mary Hastings
Sunday, September 27, 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour—Zoom
Sunday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship—Live Stream
Sunday, September 27, 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour—Zoom
Sunday, September 27, 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers—Zoom
Sunday, September 27, 4:00 p.m. Mass on the Grass—257 Robineau Rd. Syracuse

Tuesday, September 29, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study—Zoom
Tuesday, September 29, 4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer—Zoom RSVP w/ Sue Wright
Tuesday, September 29, 7:30 p.m. Closer to Zero Waste—Zoom
Wednesday, September 30, 7:30 p.m. SPC Readers—Zoom
**Sponsoring a Meal at the Samaritan Center Oct 11**

—By Betsy Elkins

Under previous normal times we would be looking for people to volunteer to help prepare and serve a meal at the Samaritan Center on Sunday October 11, a date we committed to last year! At this time the rules and needs are different but we still want to do what we can to help on October 11. Here is what you can do to help if you are comfortable doing do:

- Volunteer for Meal Prep 9am - 12pm (5 people are needed)
- Volunteer for a take-out Meal Service 12 pm- 3pm (8 people are needed)
- Donate money to cover the cost of the meal—send a check to St. Paul’s with note: Samaritan Center Meal October 11

If you are willing/able to volunteer you must meet this criteria:
1. Must be 18 years or older
2. Able to stand for up to 3 hours at a time and be able to assist with mopping and cleaning duties too.
3. Willing and able to wear a face mask at all times
4. Have no COVID-19 symptoms or temperature or have close contact with suspected or positive COVID-19 situation/individual in the previous 14 days.
5. Have not recently (within 14 days) traveled to any states that require a 14 day quarantine on return to NYS
6. Not under quarantine or self-isolation directive

If volunteers are able to meet the above criteria, they will need to complete an individual application and identify their group (St. Paul’s) in the comment section. [https://secure.rotundasoftware.com/28/vsp/enrollment/SamaritanCenter?user=SamaritanCenter&use_username=stpaulschurch](https://secure.rotundasoftware.com/28/vsp/enrollment/SamaritanCenter?user=SamaritanCenter&use_username=stpaulschurch)

While we may not be able to secure the full complement of volunteers needed, any volunteers we can supply will be appreciated. I have continued to help with food prep each week and can assure you that social distancing and other measures are taken to keep volunteers safe. If you have any questions please contact me.

Betsy Elkins (315-949-1222 or eaelkins@esf.edu)
Since The Open Pantry went into operation on August 13, 2020, the response from our Downtown neighbors has been strong and steady. Our Downtown neighbors are dealing with their hunger and food insecurity with the non-perishable food items available in The Open Pantry.

And the need for The Open Pantry has been greater than expected. Oftentimes, the full contents of The Open Pantry are needed on a daily basis. This means that sometimes The Open Pantry must be replenished almost daily. Up to now, a few members of St. Paul’s have been donating the non-perishable foods to support The Open Pantry. WE NEED YOU! We are asking more members of St. Paul’s to contribute non-perishable food items.

If you wish to share non-perishable food items, here’s how you can help. On Sundays, there will be a cart inside the Fayette St doorway marked “The Open Pantry.” AND, on Tuesdays, there will be another cart labeled The Open Pantry inside the Montgomery St entrance. Whatever you can share will be used by our Downtown neighbors in need.

The photograph below shows The Open Pantry. As a reminder, it is located outside the church building located at 220 East Fayette Street, just to the left (east) of the current main church entrance door. The Open Pantry is open to passers-by on a 24/7 basis.

A final note, a member of St. Paul’s observed a car pulling up to The Open Pantry. The passenger in this car then went up to The Open Pantry and… donated some of their own items by placing them on the shelves. So, The Open Pantry is also an effective form of Evangelism – sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Serving Christ in the neighbor with you,
Jim Doyle and other folks participating in The Open Pantry and The Caring Place
Dear friends,

I recently received a letter from Dr. Annie Laver, Professor of Organ at Syracuse University. She expressed her thanks for the use of our organ for a virtual organ concert, hosted by SU. We are bearing witness to our church's mission and strengthening our historic relationship with our community and Syracuse University. - Jim Potts

Dear Jim,

I want to thank you for all your assistance with the Composing for the Organ recording project these last couple of months. It was our original hope to offer a live organ concert at St. Paul's on September 12, but we realized in late spring that it just wouldn't be possible. Thank you for working with us to offer a virtual event instead! I can honestly say that we never would have been able to pull off the virtual concert without your support. Thank you for being so generous with the instrument, and for allowing us to rehearse and record in the space. Thank you for assisting at the recording session and for being a calm and reassuring presence at all times! I so appreciate having you as a colleague and I am extremely grateful that you are so good at cultivating a relationship between St. Paul's and SU. It is a huge benefit to our students. Augustine LOVED the organ at St. Paul's. I'm so happy that this project gave him the chance to work with a living composer and participate in a professional recording session.

I hope you'll tell St. Paul's parishioners about the concert! I haven't seen the video yet, but the audio sounds great! It will be premiered on September 12 at 7:30pm on this website: http://cc.syr.edu/organ_2020

Thanks again for everything. Stay well!

Annie
Morning Prayer for September 13th, 2020

The Prelude: Jessica King
Hymn 648 *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land*: Jane and John Woodman

Invitation to Prayer, Confession and Absolution, pp. 78-79: David Morgan
The Invitatory and Venite, pp. 80 and 82: DJ Iglesrud

Psalm 114, p. 756: Tiffany Miner

*Old Testament: Exodus 14:19-31*: Doug Mouncey
Canticle 8, p. 85: Timothy Simmons

The Epistle: Romans 14:1-12: Jenifer Breyer
Canticle 10, p. 86: Adrienne Atterbury

Hymn (sung twice) *To you all hearts are open, to you all desires known, to you there are no secrets, almighty God we come to you.*


The Sermon: Fr. Philip, followed by breakout discussions about life in the Christian community

The Prayers of the People, Form II, p. 385: Laurie Sanderson
The Apostle's Creed, p. 96: David Webb
The Lord's Prayer, p. 97: Lee Fledderjohann
Suffrages A, p. 97: Kira Dirghalli
The Collects: Jim Doyle

Announcements and Birthday Prayers: Betsy Elkins
A Prayer of St. Chrysostom, p. 102: Mary Hastings
Hymn 690 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah:*
Dick and Neva Pilgrim

The Blessing and Dismissal: Fr. Philip
Deadlines for Upcoming Issues of The Epistle

The deadline for the September 15th Epistle, will be Sunday, September 6th.

The September 15th Epistle Deadline is Sunday, September 6th.