



JUNE TIDINGS

Volume 4 Issue 6

June 2022

A Reflection from your Priest-in-Charge

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord . . .
Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove*

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As we prepare to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost on June 5th I've been listening to this hymn, one of my favorites. I will never forget when a friend played it on the saxophone during my ordination liturgy. The sax perfectly captures the hymn's poignancy—the joy and trust it expresses in the midst of the world's unrelenting harshness. It is a plea and a promise.

The Holy Spirit is with us.

God is not silent.

We will live lives filled with God's love.

The Holy Spirit opens our hearts to share our suffering and hope.

The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to endure heart-shattering experiences.

The Holy Spirit awakens us to the infinite possibilities hidden around us.

The love brought by the Holy Spirit is neither bland nor sentimental. Its "sweetness" is neither naïve nor self-indulgent. It is a love that looks with horror at the damage we are capable of incurring *and* with wonder at the good we are capable of bringing about.

We pray:

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us. May the gentleness of your Spirit lead us. May the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength now and always. Amen

Judith+

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. [Isaiah 43:19]



Vestry Highlights: May 11, 2022

At our retreat on May 11th, the Vestry considered our priorities in four areas of ministry: Worship, Faith Formation, Pastoral Care/Fellowship, and Outreach/Community Partnerships.

Worship

- Increase membership in Altar Guild (especially with the departure of Bill and Peg Nelson)
- Take leadership in planning an ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
- Continue increasing the cultural and ethnic diversity in our worship music

Faith Formation

- Develop an adult program based on a set curriculum on the Episcopal church or an Episcopal curriculum on theology or scripture.
- Restructure youth and children's curriculum:
 - a program that will prepare teens for confirmation at the next bishop's visitation in the fall of 2023
 - a program for children (ages 4-12) that supports parents who lead the program

Pastoral Care/Fellowship

- Reinstate the Pastoral Care Team to meet with Mother Judith quarterly
- Include pastoral check-ins on the monthly Vestry agenda
- Organize 2 off-site parish events or outings: One this summer and one in the winter (January/February)
- Reinstate the International Dinner to be held in November

Outreach/Community Partnerships

- Continue current projects: Winter Coat Closet, Ukraine fundraising, Liberian collection, Cooking for Life program in partnership with St. Luke's Guesthouse
- Rebuild our ecumenical partnerships to identify new projects for 2023



June BIRTHDAYS

- 4— Teddy Demings
- 14 – Joe Pieczynski
- 22 – Trisha O'Brien Briere
- 23 – Joe DiSalvatore

SUMMER MUSIC

Summer is here with the birds, the flowers, the joy of nature for all of us to enjoy.

"Now is the time for singing." If you are interested in doing a solo duet, or trio, instrumental or vocal, we would love to have you join us on Sunday mornings.

Please contact the church office or the organist at anniebouv@gmail.com if interested.

Please consider this joyful, spiritual gift to our church family.

Anne Bouvier-Monroe, Organist



Family Worship Updates June 2022

The Faith Formation Steering Committee met on May 25th to plan programs for the coming year. More details will be coming, but here are the programs we will be developing:

Adult Formation: We will have 3 programs:

A year-long program, beginning this summer, following a curriculum developed by the Forward Movement on the beliefs and practices of the Episcopal Church. The central text for this program is *Walk in Love*, by Scott Gunn & Melody Wilson Shobe (Forward Movement Press, 2018). The book is available on Amazon and Church Publishing. Please contact Cat Reith-Lowery to see about purchasing books with a group discount. More information about this program can be found at <https://www.forwardmovement.org/>. The Group will meet on 2 Thursdays each month at 7pm, once on Zoom and once in person. Dates TBA

We will form a private Facebook Reading Group that will share insights and reflections on a monthly text.

Bible Study – Beginning this summer we will begin a series of in-person Bible Study meetings, each lasting 4-6 weeks. We may partner with Bethlehem Lutheran.

Children and Youth

VBS will be held in August, inviting children from the community.

For the 2022-2023 program year we will have two programs, details TBA:

A pre-confirmation curriculum for youth ages 13 and up

A Family Worship curriculum for children ages 4-12

Our youth will continue to lead the service on one Sunday each month.

We thank everyone for their support as we provide a safe and holy place where our children will grow in their faith.



Mission Plate for May & June

The Mission Plate funds for the months of May and June is going to "Baby 2 Baby." "Baby 2 Baby" is a mega-diaper bank and national non-profit organization which provides essential items to children in need across the United States. In the last ten years, Baby 2 Baby has distributed over 200 million items to children living in homeless shelters, domestic violence programs, foster care, hospitals and underserved schools, as well as children who have lost everything in the wake of disasters, such as fires, floods, and hurricanes. Baby 2 Baby networks with local agencies to distribute essential items throughout the United States. The effects of the pandemic have further exacerbated the needs of low-income families with children living across our country. For these families, diapers are often one of the largest expenses, preceded by food, rent and utilities. Through Baby 2 Baby's Covid-19 relief work, the organization has distributed 50 million critical items including diapers, formula, clothing, cribs, soap, shampoo, school supplies, hand sanitizer, masks, food and more to one million children in over 100 cities across the country.

Sincerely,
Susan L. Grant
Mission and Outreach Committee Chairperson

Daughters Of the King: Update on the Liberian Project

Blessings to all! We recently received word that our last shipment of supplies arrived in Liberia. We have been told that these supplies have been joyfully received and are being put to good use. The critical donations we send for these children and young mothers help support living in the boarding schools run by the local churches. These churches provide shelter, food, education and protection for these children and young mothers. Young girls are often exploited and sold as “teenage brides” currently in Liberia. Our contact person in Liberia is Julia Duncan-Cassell. She is president of the Sons and Daughters of the King of the Episcopal Church in Buchanan Liberia. Julia has told us that the following supplies are critically needed: feminine hygiene pads, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, Vaseline (petroleum jelly), and cocoa butter cream. “Depend” type disposables are in need for the elderly in the community. Also, P.P.E. supplies are critically needed including: face masks, hand sanitizer, “low splash” bleach and disposable gloves. We are hoping to send out a new shipment of supplies (donations) fairly soon. Please, donate what you can. All shipping costs are being paid for by a grant. Donations can be dropped off in the foyer before and after our church services or during office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Thank you so much for your continuing support of this important ministry.

For His Sake,
Susan L. Grant
President of the Mary and Martha Chapter of the Daughters of the King

The Fitzpatrick Fund Scholarship

The Fitzpatrick Fund is a memorial to Royce Fitzpatrick Jr. and his mother, Loretta P. Fitzpatrick.

Scholarships are given to a worthy young person who is a member of Holy Trinity Church to be used toward the purchase of textbooks and/or learning materials, including electronic devices, and used in an institution of academic or vocational learning after secondary school.

Criteria for this award are church membership, need, good character and the desire to better oneself and begin anew, not necessarily previous standards of scholarship.

The Fitzpatrick family wishes the recipient perseverance, faith and the joy of learning in any goal of learning after secondary school.

To apply, send a letter addressing the above criteria, the school you will be attending and school year. Send to the Priest and wardens:

The Rev. Judith Lee: jlee.holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com

Lynn Garland, Sr. Warden: lynn24gar@gmail.com

Susan Howland, Jr. Warden: howlands@charter.net

or Holy Trinity Church, 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550





Fundraising for Ukraine

Thank you to all who donated and helped sort and transport the bottles and cans collected for Ukrainian Relief. A total of \$120.00 was collected. Special thanks to Robin Yates and Dave Monroe for their efforts. The next collection will be on June 4th.

In June, July & August Lemonade in quarts will be available to purchase with donations being sent to organizations providing food for Ukrainian refugees. Available on Sundays or during the week by arrangement with Tamsin Lucey 774-200-4279.

We Celebrate our Graduates

On June 5th we will celebrate these milestones in the lives of our children and youth:

David DeMings	Graduating from Preschool to Kindergarten
Addelyn Palato	Graduating from Kindergarten to First Grade
Colleen DeMings,	Graduating from Eighth Grade to High School:
Anna Burns,	Graduating from Eighth Grade to High School
Isabella Neslusan	Graduating from Eighth Grade to High School
Sam Pieczynski	Graduating from Eight Grade to High School
Joe Pieczynski	Graduating from High School

Phoebe Reith-Lowry Graduating from Eighth Grade to High School

*Loving God, we thank you for all who graduate this year.
You have blessed them with mentors, friends, and skills.
Give them faith and a sense of purpose in their next steps.
Show them how to serve others in effective ways.
And may they be always be aware in everything they do that they will find
meaning in fulfilling your purpose, that you will be with them always, and
that you will bring to completion the good work you have begun in them.
Amen.*



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(trinity)

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Service

9:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee

Priest-in-Charge



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