

APRIL TIDINGS

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A Reflection from Your Priest-in-Charge

from I Praise You for This Resurrection Madness by Ted Loder

*Lord of such amazing surprises
as put a catch in my breath,
and wings on my heart,
I praise you for this joy,
too great for words . . .
for this mercy
that blots out my betrayals
and bids me begin again . . .
to hop-skip-and-jump on,
to mend what is broken in and around me,
and to forgive the breakers;
for this YES
to life and laughter,
to love and lovers,
and to my unwinding self . . .
to making peace,
to dreaming dreams,
to being glad of heart.
for this resurrection madness
which is wiser than I
and in which I see
how great you are,
how full of grace.
Alleluia!*

*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 waste-
land.*

[Isaiah 43:19]



Mampong Babies Home in Kumasi, Ghana News

In 2023 we started monthly sponsorships for the Mampong Babies Home in Kumasi, Ghana. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the church and 4 months are still available:

The sponsorship money along with whatever is put in the “Big Bottle” will go to Change the Babies ministry/Mampong Babies Home.

A little history...

Our diocese has had a companion relationship with the diocese of Kumasi, Ghana since 2008. In 2014 The Rev. Betsy Fisher started the “Change the Babies” ministry to support the Mampong Babies Home. Lana was at the diocesan convention that year and brought the idea back to Holy Trinity and we have been collecting money in the “BIG Bottle” ever since. The diocese has collected well over \$10,000 through the “Change the Babies” ministry to support the Mampong Babies Home

Mampong Babies Home cares for about 50 children and specializes in taking in infants whose mothers have died in childbirth or shortly after. They are able to provide good care for the babies who otherwise would often not survive. They maintain communication with the families of origin and try to reunite the babies with relatives as soon as it is practical and safe. They also take abandoned children.

Blessings, Susan Howland



Praying Hands Ministry Update



Our Praying Hands Ministry makes prayer shawls and lap blankets for anyone in need of prayer and comfort. Our prayers are “woven” into the shawl/blanket.

There is a basket with blessed prayer shawls at the back of the church. Shawls can be taken for anyone in need of prayer, love, and comfort. A card is attached to write in the person’s name. Our Praying Hands Ministry started in June 2022. We have now blessed 42 shawls and most have been given out. In April

we will have a new basket of smaller shawls for children.

Introducing Robin Yates wearing a shawl she made. We now have 3 people making shawls: Sue Smith, Robin Yates and Susan Howland. A few more people are working on shawls.

Have you considered learning to crochet a prayer shawl? Contact Susan Howland to learn more howlands@charter.net 508.612.3198

Susan Howland, coordinator, March 21, 2023



What shall I give to the Food Pantry?

Look in your pantry if you're stumped about what to donate. Families struggling with hunger often can't afford the

staples that we normally have stocked at home. So check your pantry and go from there. Even specialty foods like olive oil, dressings, or marinades can be helpful if they don't need to be refrigerated. Mainly I find myself asking, "What would someone wish they could afford, especially for Easter and the spring holidays?"

Rose Reith

According to Feedingamerica.org, food banks often need these items:

- Peanut butter
- Canned soup
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned stew
- Canned fish
- Canned beans
- Pasta (most prefer whole grain)
- Rice (most prefer brown rice)

Donations for April:

**Canned fruits
or
vegetables**



BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Karen Ballou
- 1 – Anna Burns
- 6 – David DeMings
- 18—Susan Howland
- 20 – John Dirlam
- 20 —Madisynn Segarra

Are you on MassHealth?

MassHealth members will soon need to renew their health coverage.

Due to continuous coverage requirements that started during the COVID-19 emergency, MassHealth has been maintaining members' coverage and benefits, but will soon return to normal renewal operations.

All MassHealth members will have to renew their coverage. If you receive a blue envelope, you must be sure to open it and follow the instructions provided by MassHealth. Make sure MassHealth has your current address, phone number, and email so you don't miss important information and notices from MassHealth.

More information is available online at mass.gov/masshealthrenew, or by calling the **MassHealth Customer Service Center at 1-800-841-2900**

Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter at Holy Trinity

April 2nd Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

- 9:30 am Holy Eucharist with a dramatic reading of the Gospel by our children & youth
10:45 am Making palm crosses in the Parish Hall

April 4th Tuesday of Holy Week

- 10:30am Holy Eucharist at Overlook

April 5th Wednesday of Holy Week

- 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Teens Workshop: Making Hangings for the Chapel

April 6th Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Footwashing
8:00 pm—11:45 am Friday Overnight Vigil in the church

April 7th Good Friday

- 10:00am Family Worship Outdoor Stations of the Cross at St. Ann & St. Patrick's
7:00pm Tenebrae

April 8th Holy Saturday

- 7:00pm Easter Vigil at Bethlehem Lutheran

April 9 Easter Day: Sunday of the Resurrection

- 6:00 am Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Old Sturbridge Village
9:30 am Festival Holy Eucharist

Eastertide

April 16 Second Sunday of Easter [Mother Judith will be away]

- 9:30 am Morning Prayer with an Easter Hymn Sing

April 19th 11am—2 pm Teens outing with lunch and workshop on hangings

April 23th Third Sunday in Easter: Celebration of Earth Day

April 30th Fourth Sunday in Easter

May 7th Fifth Sunday in Easter: Family Worship

May 14th Sixth Sunday in Easter: Bishop's Visitation

- Confirmation, Reception, Blessing of the Madonna sculpture, new vestments, and chapel hangings

May 21st Seventh Sunday in Easter: Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord [transferred]

May 28th Day of Pentecost [Whitsunday]

Family Worship Happenings



What comes to my mind when our schedules are crazy and the kids have a ton of activities? Gratitude. We are all so grateful that kids are able to do the activities they love to do. These activities are essential for their growth and development, as well as their mental and spiritual health. Good luck to all the kids doing performances, competitions, tournaments, service projects, or simply being able to have time with friends!

Here's what we've been up to at church:

- The teens and children have been involved in a variety of activities this past month, with more to come this spring!
- Ash Wednesday brought the teens together for a community service project collecting cereal for the food pantry, followed by an Ash Wednesday service and lunch. Thanks to all who organized and participated!
- Children's Chapel continues to be a meaningful time for reflection and learning. Please note, we will NOT have CC on Easter Sunday.
- Our families have participated in the Lenten Program in partnership with Bethlehem Lutheran. Families gathered for dinner, a project, and Compline at Bethlehem Lutheran on March 8th and March 22nd.

Upcoming!

Teens and confirmation group: We will continue to meet to work on collages and artwork for the redecoration of the Chapel. Please see Cat for more details:

Wednesday, April 5th: 4:00-7:00 Cat will be there whole time.

Wednesday April 12th: 4:00-7:00 Cat will be there whole time.

Each day we will work on a different part of the Trinity. You are welcome to come for the amount of time they can. Cat will have all the materials for you. We will start with Jesus, then God, and finally the Holy Spirit. You can pick up materials, see what others are doing and work on your parts. It does not need to be a painting or a drawing. It could be a 3D design, multimedia style image or even a written poem or story. Once everyone has their pieces complete we will hope to put it all together into collages that will be framed for the chapel wall. We can complete collages at or before/after the hike on April 18th. This expresses what you feel each Person of the Trinity represents to you. There is no wrong answer or image.

Teens will meet for an outing and lunch on Wednesday April 19.

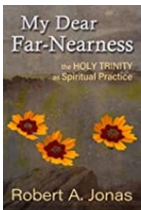


CONFIRMATION VIGIL Saturday May 13

CONFIRMATION SERVICE Sunday May 14

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2 : Children of all ages will do a dramatic reading of the Passion. This is sure to be a meaningful experience.

Adult Faith Formation



Holy Trinity Reading Group

In-Person Discussion: Thursday April 13th @ 5pm at the church

We will not designate a book for April. We will meet in April to propose books for May through August.

The final 2 discussions for *Practicing Our Faith: Walk in Love* will be scheduled at a later date.

Faith Formation Steering Committee: Eileen DeMings (Chair), Heather Bousquet, Lorraine Brumskine, John Grant, Susan Grant, Cat Reith-Lowery, Rose Reith, and Robin Yates

Daughters of the King: Liberian Project Update

I am happy to report great joyous news. After over thirty-three years, Lorraine Brumskine has returned to Liberia to visit her family and homeland. Lorraine is visiting her oldest son and three grandchildren, whom she has never seen in person. She will return at the end of April.

During her stay in Liberia, Lorraine is also visiting the Sons and Daughters of the King of the Episcopal Church in Buchanan. Upon her return, Lorraine will give us an update on how our shipments of supplies are being utilized there.

Lorraine has recently informed us that the schools, run by the churches, are in critical need of supplies. The schools need children's textbooks in math, science, social studies, and language arts. There are not enough books to provide for their learning. If anyone has access to textbooks (yes, even older ones) they would be more than happy to receive them. Also, we are actively seeking donations of all kinds of children's reading books (trade books), and workbooks, and school supplies such as writing paper, notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, scissors, glue, etc. Every donation helps keep the schools running and the children getting the precious gift of an education. We hope to send out our next shipment of supplies in late Spring. Please, give what you can.

For His Sake,
Susan Grant

Easter Sunrise Service at OSV

The Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the Meetinghouse in Old Sturbridge Village on Sunday, April 9th at 6:00 AM. This beautiful setting and joyous service is a wonderful way to celebrate the Risen Christ! A Free Will offering will be taken to benefit a local organization. The Easter Sunrise Service is an ecumenical service, sponsored by area churches. Please enter through the main gate and proceed to the rear of the parking lot near the security office. All are welcome!



March & April "Lent" Mission Plate



The Mission Plate funds for April will be going to Episcopal Relief & Development. E.R.D. is working with Action by Churches Together Alliance (ACT Alliance) in response to the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Turkey and Syria that has killed over 43,000 people. Of the 4.2 million people living in Syria alone more than half of them have been displaced by the earthquake. The devastation in both countries is unimaginable.

Donations to the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response Fund will help Episcopal Relief & Development provide supplies such as blankets, food, medical support, and other emergency support to the victims.

Susan L. Grant
Member of the Mission and Outreach Committee

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**The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher



Sunday Services
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Judith Lee
Priest in Charge



Website



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Tithely-Giving
