



JULY TIDINGS

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July 2023



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The Rev. Judith Lee— Priest in
Charge
Lynn Garland—Sr. Warden

A Reflection from your Priest-in-Charge

I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery.
[Colossians 2:2]

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In this passage, Paul expresses what I think is the deepest hope of every Christian community. He focuses on the rich diversity that our faith frees us to enjoy. He does not call us to conform, but to cherish the different strands of our shared life in Christ. He does not call us to battle the forces of darkness or to political struggle, but to trust in the divine mystery that we will never be able to understand or explain. If we allow ourselves to be “woven into a tapestry of love” we will recognize that we are inherently unfinished, and God’s purpose is ever unfolding. That insight will free us to face injustice with hope rather than anger. . That trust will free us to be patient with ourselves and fearless in our plans.

This is helpful to keep in mind as we begin the summer, a season of coming and going, of rest and adventure, of exploration and renewal. It is a time to “let go and let God.” Let God weave together the different pieces of our lives. Let God bring together our scattered friends and family. Let God make us whole.

As you begin preparations for new ministry, let the rich complexity of Holy Trinity’s history and aspirations be woven together in an unfolding pattern. We often say that God has a plan, but every weaver knows that the finished piece is always different from the image that was its starting point. Let us be both humbled and emboldened by our faith, *our minds confident and at rest.*

Mother Judith





Spiritual Formation

Children and Youth

1st Sundays: Family Worship will continue through the summer

July 2nd August 6th September 3rd

Teens will meet downstairs after the service.

Children's Chapel 9:15-9:30am on other Sundays: **July 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th**

This is a brief child-centered service of prayer and singing.

There will be no classes on Sundays during the summer.

The Family Worship Team is exploring the possibility of a VBS Day in August.



Intergenerational Formation

Praying With Beads Workshop and Pot-Luck Supper

Wednesday, July 19th 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Modeled after our successful Lenten Family Evenings, we will begin with a summer pot-luck supper at 5:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity in the parish hall.

After supper we will break into age groups to learn about different traditions of praying with beads:

- the Anglican Rosary
- the Catholic Rosary
- the Mala
- other traditions/practices

Supplies will be available to make your own set of prayer beads

We will re-gather to close with Compline and blessing the prayer beads by 8 pm



For the **summer potluck supper** please bring something to share:

- Green salad
- Light sandwich fillings such as egg, tuna, or chicken salad, etc.
- Bread
- Dessert

Cold beverages will be provided. (Iced Tea/Lemonade/Water)

All are welcome!

Please consider bringing friends – the more the merrier!

If you can join us for this occasion, just reply to this email by **Monday, July 17th** with:

- Your name(s)
- Number of people and ages of children
- Best email
- Best phone

We will need to know how many people plan to attend for food set up and to be sure to have plenty of beading supplies on hand.

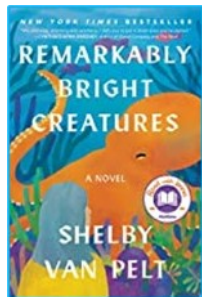
Prayer Partners

Over the summer, we invite everyone to sign up for a

PRAYER PARTNER.

We all want to stay connected through prayer in the form of letters, emails and/phone calls. If you would like to participate, please sign up on the clipboard at the back of the sanctuary or make a phone call/email to the church office.

We will match prayer partners from the list. The hope is to connect generations of the parish through prayer. [All parents of youth will be on the list with their children to ensure safe practices.]



HTEC Reading Group: July, 2023

Shelby Van Pelt, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* [Ecco Press, 2022]

Discussion: Thursday, July 27, @ 7pm

For July we have chosen a novel that is both entertaining and thought-provoking. Part mystery story, part family saga, part meditation on loneliness and friendship, this novel teaches us to see the world and all creatures differently.

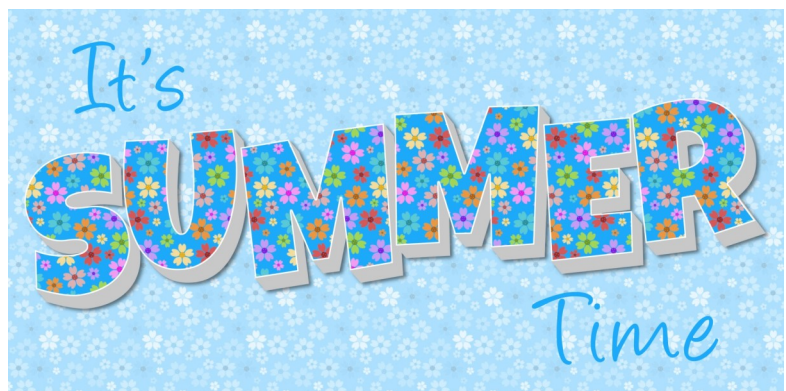
"*Remarkably Bright Creatures* is a beautiful examination of how loneliness can be transformed, cracked open, with the slightest touch from another living thing."

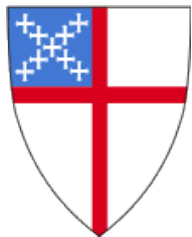
- Kevin Wilson, author of *Nothing to See Here*

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.



- 1—Sam Pieczynski
- 2—Peter Lucey
- 15—Paul Aloia
- 29—Norma Kennedy
- 29—Ryan Bousquet





Vestry Highlights: June 14, 2023

Discussion:

- Updated and reviewed the work of 3 subcommittees for transition: CAT review, exploring alternative models for ministry, and evaluating building use (costs and investment).
- What have we done well? Teens' preparations for confirmation and work in the chapel; Bishop's visitation, liturgy and reception
- What could we have done better? Organized gathering for teens on First Sundays.
- Resolved: to have no Vestry meeting in July. Instead, subcommittees will work and report by email before the end of July.

Mampong Babies Home in Kumasi, Ghana News

In 2023 we started monthly sponsorships for the Mampong Babies Home in Kumasi, Ghana. I am thrilled to say that all 12 sponsorship months have been "claimed". Thank you all!

That means by the end of December 2023 \$420, along with whatever is put in the "Big Bottle" will go to Change the Babies ministry helping to care for the children at the Mampong Babies Home.



Blessings, Susan Howland

July and August Mission Plate

The Mission Plate funds for the months of July and August will be going to New Hope Inc. New Hope serves 41 communities throughout South Central and Southeastern Massachusetts with those affected by domestic and sexual violence. They operate a full spectrum of services and programs which combine crisis intervention, violence prevention, life transition, and self-sufficiency opportunities for their clients. New Hope's emergency shelters for women and their children offer a safe haven with additional protections and support services for these survivors of domestic violence. New Hope has local offices in Southbridge and Worcester.

Domestic violence is a huge yet largely silent problem in our communities. Please support this vital mission by donating to the Mission Plate. Thank you.

Susan Grant

Member of the Mission and Outreach Committee

Praying Hands Ministry July 2023 Report

Susan Howland, coordinator

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 for adults and children 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.

The Praying Hands Ministry was started during June 2022 and the first prayer shawls were blessed in July. Since then 66 shawls were blessed and most have been given away.

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

Sundays in July

July 2 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Family Worship

July 9 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 - Children's Chapel

9:30 - Holy Eucharist

July 16 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 - Children's Chapel

9:30 - Holy Eucharist

July 23 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 - Children's Chapel

9:30 - Holy Eucharist

July 30 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: Gospel Hymns

9:15 - Children's Chapel

9:30 - Holy Eucharist

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**The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Service
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist



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Tithely-Giving