

**Holy Trinity Church**  
**446 Hamilton Street**  
**Southbridge, MA 01550**  
**508-765-9559**

[holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com)  
[www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org)

**The Rev. Judith Lee-**  
**Priest- in-Charge**  
**Lynn Garland-Senior Warden**  
**(508-801-4638)**

### Inside this issue:

Priests' Reflection	1
Mission Plate	2
Family Worship/VBS	2
Backpack Blessings	2
August Birthdays	2
Spiritual Formation	3
HTEC Reading Group	3
Fellowship w/Bethlehem	3
Praying Hands Ministry	4
Sundays in August	4



**August**

# August Tidings

Volume 5, Issue 8

August 2023

## A Reflection from your Priest-in-Charge

*'Arise, my love, my fair one, / and come away;  
for now the winter is past, / the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth; / the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtle-dove / is heard in our land. [Song of Songs, 2:12 ]*

This passage from the Song of Songs expresses, for me, the wonder of summer. All too rarely do we allow ourselves to feel this joy. How can we teach our children to bask in this sense of possibility? How can we give ourselves permission to be surprised by the beauty of ordinary days? What will it take for us to relish the freedom that is offered by sunshine and long days?

Caryll Houselander has put it very well: "Too many anxious Christians today think that their efforts to . . . enter into outward activities can do more to save the world than the surrender of their souls to God, to become Christ-bearers." She is describing Sabbath, which is one of the most ancient spiritual practices in every spiritual tradition. Sabbath is not time "taken:" for ourselves. It is time we accept as a precious gift, when we put aside our assumptions about what we know and allow ourselves to be humbled by the mystery of what we cannot know.

Mary Oliver reflects on this in her poem "A Little Summer Poem touching on the Subject of Faith":

*Every summer,  
I listen and look  
under the sun's brass and even  
in the moonlight, but I can't hear  
anything, I can't see anything—  
not the pale roots digging down, nor the green stalks muscling up,  
nor the leaves  
deepening their damp pleats,  
nor the tassels making,  
nor the shucks, nor the coos.  
And still,  
every day,  
The leafy fields  
grow taller and thicker—  
green gowns lofting up in the night,  
showered with silk.*

In these final weeks of summer, may each of us accept an invitation to *come away* and pay attention to what we cannot see or hear.

May each of us set aside some time to *surrender our souls to God*.

*Mother Judith*

## The Mission Plate For August New Hope Inc.

The Mission Plate funds for the month of 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 that 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



## Vacation Bible School

Family Worship invites EVERYONE to gather for a VBS evening on **Wednesday August 23rd at 5:30.**

5:30-6 Pizza and fellowship  
6-6:45 worship/songs/lesson  
6:45-7:15 VBS craft  
7:15 -7:45 VBS-themed dessert and closing songs

Kids who are in the dramatic reading of the Gospel on August 27th will stay to do a final read-through.

RSVP to Eileen DeMings 617-429-1798/ [eksullivan99@dpcv.org](mailto:eksullivan99@dpcv.org)



**Blessing of the Backpacks**  
**August 27th**  
**9:30 am**



3—Jace Reith-Lowery  
8—Robin Yates  
11—Emilyynn Bousquet  
11—Linda Spooner  
14—Jared Burns  
17—Suzanne Sharp  
17—David Monroe  
20—Colleen DeMings  
20—Lucy Burns  
25—Braden Bullard



## Spiritual Formation

### Children and Youth

**Family Worship: August 6<sup>th</sup> & August 27<sup>th</sup>**

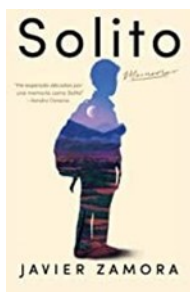
**Children's Chapel 9:15-9:30am August 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

**VBS Wednesday August 23rd, 5:30 -8 pm**

**Mark your calendars:**

**Backpack Blessing: August 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30**



## **HTEC Reading Group**

**Javier Zamora, *Solito* [Hogarth Press, 2022]**

**Discussion: Thursday, August 24 @ 7pm**

When he was nine years old, Javier Zamora began a three-thousand-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border. He left behind his beloved aunt and grandparents to reunite with a mother, who left when he was five, and a father he barely remembers. Traveling alone with a group of strangers and a “coyote” hired to lead them to safety, Javier expects his trip to last two short weeks. All he could imagine was rushing into his parents’ arms. He could not foresee the perilous boat trips, relentless desert treks, pointed guns, arrests and deceptions that awaited him. A memoir as gripping as it is moving, *Solito* provides an intimate account not only of a treacherous journey, but also of the miraculous kindness and love delivered at unexpected moments. *Solito* is Javier Zamora’s story, but it’s also the story of millions of others who had no choice but to leave home.

**Javier Zamora** was born in El Salvador in 1990. Both parents' migrations were caused by the U.S.-funded Salvadoran civil war. When he was nine, Javier migrated through Guatemala, Mexico, and the Sonoran Desert. His debut poetry collection, *Unaccompanied*, explores the impact of the war and immigration on his family. Zamora has been a Stegner Fellow at Stanford and a Radcliffe Fellow at Harvard and holds fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation.

## **Fellowship with Bethlehem Lutheran: Friday Night Fires—S’mores & More**



Bethlehem Lutheran invites us to join them for fellowship on Friday, August 18th. They have a fire pit in their side yard, playground equipment, and room for yard games. Our children can play while we chat.

**Beginning at 6 pm**

## Praying Hands Ministry

### August 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 are baskets 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 that July. Since then 66 shawls have been blessed and most have been given away.

Have you considered learning to crochet a prayer shawl? There will be a informal “learn to crochet” opportunity:

**Tuesday, August 1 at 10:45 am**

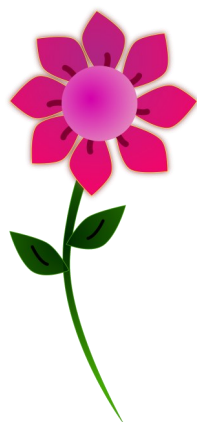
Contact Susan Howland to learn more:

[howlands@charter.net](mailto:howlands@charter.net) 508.612.3198



## Sundays in August

- August 6<sup>th</sup>**    Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord  
**9:30**    Family Worship: Morning Prayer  
 Mother Judith will be away.
- August 13<sup>th</sup>**    11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
**9:15 am**    Children’s Chapel  
**9:30 am**    Holy Eucharist
- August 20<sup>th</sup>**    12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:  
 Ann will be on vacation  
**9:15 am**    Children’s Chapel  
**9:30 am**    Celtic Eucharist with prayers for peace
- August 27<sup>th</sup>**    13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
 Ann will be on vacation  
**9:30 am**    Family Worship  
               Songs from children’s Chapel  
               A dramatic reading of the Gospel  
               Backpack Blessing



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**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

446 Hamilton Street

Southbridge, MA 01550

**Office Phone:** (508) 765-9559

**E-mail:** [holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com)

**Web site:** [holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://holytrinitysouthbridge.org)  
(trinity)

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

\*unless otherwise noted\*

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western  
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

**Sunday Service**

9:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

**The Rev. Judith Lee**  
**Priest-in-Charge**



Website



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Tithely—Giving