

# Cluster Chronicle

*“A community of Episcopal congregations sharing the love and power of the Risen Christ in our communities through worship, evangelization and apostolic service.”*

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

This is my last note to all of you as your long-term supply priest. Our companionship on this very short portion of our faith journeys was dramatically altered by the Pandemic. So far, you all are safe and well, and I pray that that will continue.

We have all been stretched and re-formed during this time. You have been flexible in shifting to “gathering on line” for sermons via Facebook Live and Wednesday Night “coffee hour” via Zoom. Our shifting worship to Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati and the National Cathedral has given us a greater sense of connection to both the needs of the world and our place in healing them. Never forget: you are a strong branch of the family tree of a great cloud of witnesses, past, present, and yet to come, who can, with and through God’s help, replace fear and death with hope and life.

You folks are terrific at taking care of the folks in your community. Keep on doing that! Some will feel safe gathering, others will not—do not leave those who cannot gather out of community life. You could expand, as you wish, to have Bible study, a prayer group, etc. on line. You could make a call list. You have the tenacity, faith, and technology to continue to make community Christian life a deeper and more inclusive reality for all.

As you have been given safety and wellness, give that to others. The pandemics of racism and poverty, inequality and loneliness will still be alive and well long after we have a vaccine for COVID-19. But if our hearts have been opened during this season, then we can begin to heal these diseases as well, starting in our own communities.

Finally, beloveds, I leave you with these words from Paul: “...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8: 37-39).

Be well, be healing, be Christ,



*Rev. Elizabeth Hoster*

## *Summertime and the eatin's al fresco*

Summer wasn't cancelled or postponed even though most warm weather events have been since Covid19 is still a threat. However, by observing guidelines from national health experts, Our Saviour has been able to continue, with a few changes, the monthly meals offered to the public.

Guests no longer eat in the church dining room, but may pick up a boxed, ready-to-eat meal from an outside buffet staffed by servers for whom masks and gloves are haute couture. Most guests are also practicing these precautions.

June is the jewel of summer and Amy Boeck, event coordinator, notes that 67 individuals and families accepted the invitation to share a meal on a recent June evening.

The menu featured juicy, pulled pork sandwiches, Cole slaw, potato chips, fruit, cookies and Kay Keller's freshly-baked chocolate brownies. Yum!

The pork was courtesy of Bill Miller. He and Kay Keller are some of the team's MVPs, most valuable providers! Kay and son Tom enjoyed the food and fellowship in this period of limited socializing.

Other stellar members of the team, Vicki Rammel and Greg Kimball, joined Emily Rozmus, Todd and Amy Boeck In preparing food, arranging the buffet, greeting and serving guests. Kim Miller Drexler and daughter, Ainsley, came early and helped box the food. Such a pleasant evening with more to come. See you in July!



*Above, Todd Boeck and Emily Rozmus staff the outdoor table. Below, Kim Drexler and her daughter, Ainsley, left, join the Wolf family, Andrew, Christa and daughters, for a picnic.*



## *Community partners*

With our country's law enforcement in the spotlight, it is appropriate to express our gratitude to Urbana and Mechanicsburg police departments for their generous participation in the outreach programs of Our Saviour and Epiphany.

You may remember that several times each year representatives of the police departments in Urbana and Mechanicsburg not only provide food for the free monthly meals offered to the public at Our Saviour and Epiphany, but come to serve it.

In Urbana, Sgt. Chris Snyder, recently retired, Chief Matt Lingrell and other officers have brought spaghetti made by Mary Kay Snyder, Chris's wife.

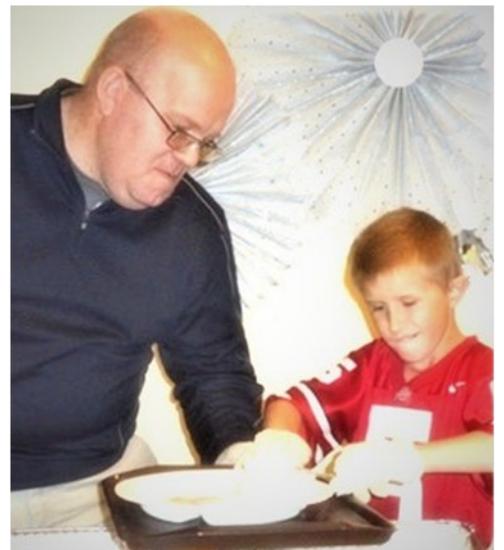
At Our Saviour several meals, including a Thanksgiving turkey dinner were served to Community Meal diners by Mechanicsburg Police Chief John Alexander, Officers Chris Roberts, Heather Wright and Josh Emery and victim advocate Karen Salerno. Chris Roberts' young son, Joe, came to help and deftly served mashed potatoes to each guest.

Local law enforcement exemplifies the best of the profession. Scripture tells us that Jesus honored the law but came to broaden and deepen its significance.

How grateful we are that our partners in the police departments continue to add depth and breadth to our Christian presence.



*Top from left: Urbana Chief Matt Lingrell; Mechanicsburg Officer Chris Roberts and son Joe; Urbana's Sgt. Chris Snyder; Mechanicsburg Victim Advocate Karen Salerno. Bottom, left, Community Meal coordinator Amy Boeck with Mechanicsburg Chief John Alexander and Officer Heather Wright; right, Mechanicsburg Officer Josh Emery and Joe Roberts.*



## *Staying safe as we worship together*

Cluster Council decided that beginning July 5 congregations can again meet on Sundays at the usual hours of 9:15 a.m. at Our Saviour and 11 a.m. at Epiphany, for Morning Prayer only and under very stringent conditions. Covid19 is still considered a worldwide Pandemic and every precaution must be taken. According to an email from Cluster Administrator Amy Boeck, the goal of the Council concerning resumption of services is to reduce as much as possible physical contact with anyone or any object which might be infected. To this end, Council has outlined “two scenarios for restarting services” on July 5.

**SERVICES OUTSIDE:** weather permitting, Our Saviour will meet in the church/library backyard and Epiphany in the church parking lot. Congregants should bring their own chairs and sit in family groups at a safe distance from other worshipers.



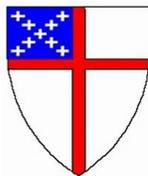
**SERVICES INSIDE:** In case of inclement weather, services will be held in the churches. Each church will indicate which doors are to be used exclusively for entrance and exit to reduce the chance of contamination and need for cleaning. Some pews should be roped off to insure social distancing. Families should sit together at a safe distance from others. Full worship bulletins will be provided each Sunday and hymnals and prayer books should be removed from pews so they are not inadvertently touched.

## *These directives apply for all services*

1. Full worship bulletins will be provided so you won't need hymnals or prayer books.
2. Face coverings should be worn not just for your protection, but also that of fellow worshippers. If you don't feel well or are in any way health-compromised, please protect yourself by remaining at home.
3. There will be no Holy Eucharist. Bishop Breidenthal is adamant in his directive that Holy Communion is a “public health concern (as well as) a spiritual concern,” and makes this Diocesan decision to protect the safety of all concerned.

4. There will be no physical exchanging of the peace. Congregants can hold up the peace sign, use the sign language we learned in March or bow or extend some other no-contact form of acknowledgment.
5. The offering plate will not be passed. Plates may be placed where congregants can deposit offerings. Pledges and offerings may also be mailed to the church or to the church treasurers---Susie Westfall at Our Saviour and Shary Stadler at Epiphany.
6. There will be no congregational singing as the risk is great. Singing is known to quickly spread any virus present. Instrumental music is permitted, but familiar tunes should be avoided to reduce the likelihood of worshippers singing along.
7. It is highly recommended that no coffee hour or fellowship follow the service.

While important parts of the service have been removed, we will be achieving the first step, that of worshiping together in person, toward our goal of resuming full services in our churches. This will be a gradual process, directed by our Bishop whose decisions are guided by health experts in contagious diseases and the best interests of every congregant in every parish. Thanks to Bishop Breidenthal, Rev. Elizabeth and to each of you for the patience, cooperation and prayer which maintain health and hope at this time of prolonged distress.



### *Will says masks are socially correct*

Facemasks are not only recommended by national health officials and required in many public places, but Will Boeck of Our Saviour says if you are really smart, you will not only wear a facemask, you'll have several. An original design for every occasion. Will is pictured wearing the Episcopal model which he says would be suitable for Vestry and Cluster Council meetings, Sunday Parish and Cluster services. Masks in a variety of fabrics, colors and styles: plain, pleated or ruched, cotton or synthetic blend, single or double, offer endless options for originality. Let's follow Will's lead and be safe and stylish!



## *Communities of memory*



Community is much sought after in America. Definitions include everything from fellowship, common attitudes, interests and goals to a group of people with a common characteristic, living in the same place, sometimes a place of common ownership.

Community is an aspect of American life discussed a book, *Habits of the Heart*, in which the authors attempt to reveal how Americans see themselves as a people and as a nation. It explores the traditions Americans use to make sense of themselves, their society, practices of commitment and communities of memory which bind them to others. The stark illumination of the ongoing injustice, pain and death inflicted on one community of memory has recently shattered Americans complacent self-

understanding. We are witnessing the collective memory of the people of color in America, the wounds of centuries of shared suffering in the gaping crevasse between American ideals and reality.

“If a community is honest, it will remember the suffering it inflicted. Dangerous memories for they call a community to admit and correct those ancient evils.” We are also witnessing Americans of diverse races flowing together down the streets of major American cities, towns and villages. Rivers of humanity with determined tributaries feeding the flow to its destination in an ocean of anger, sorrow, compassion and hope.

“An honest community of memory ties us to the past but can also turn us to the future.” Pain and poverty brand with an identity far deeper than success and achievement. We must call these historic habits of the heart what they are--unjust, cruel, inhumane, shameful--and from this moment on, do all in our power to redeem the scarred history and heal the still open wounds of this racial community of memory. We can, with God’s help.

### *Back to the land o’ Goshen*

The shelter house on the hill at Goshen Memorial Park in Mechanicsburg has been the site of Cluster worship services and picnics for the past several years.

It will once again welcome congregants from Our Saviour and Epiphany for the first combined service since the Pandemic closed our church doors.

Cluster Council has set Sunday, July 26, as the tentative date for this Cluster gathering, keeping the tradition of worshipping together on the fifth Sunday of the month.

These are uncertain times so this wonderful plan can’t yet be confirmed, but if all goes well we will meet again in Goshen to refresh faith and fellowship.

### *A Franciscan benediction*

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for economic justice for all people.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, hunger, homelessness and rejection, so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in the world so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

*People continue to protest racial injustice and inequality. Rev. Elizabeth's homily answered the query, what can we do? by retelling the story of slave Addison White and how the people of Mechanicsburg came together and purchased his freedom. How wonderful, Rev. Elizabeth said. You did this; remember who you are, and you will know what to do. Austin Ferrar's homily, Pentecostal Fire, says the Spirit asks nothing of us but to be ourselves. I am you, the Holy Spirit says, and through you come the wonderful works of God! Remember who you are.*



## *Pentecostal fire*

“What happened on the first Christian Pentecost? Something invisible...and something visible. The invisible was a moving of the divine life; the Apostles who had been watching and waiting for God began to be moved and used by God. That was what no eye could see. Yet there was something perfectly visible, which many eyes in Jerusalem saw, many critical and laughing eyes; a roomful of sober, earnest-minded citizens bundling out into the street, and shouting as if they were drunk.

“According to St. Luke, they were ‘speaking with tongues.’ It means they were shouting and chanting incoherently, because it came out of them so hot and fast, they could neither hold it in nor wait to discover what they wanted to say...both the ecstatics and their audience were inspired with the gift of interpretation. The Apostles were presently able to expound what the uncontrollable flood of utterance had meant: it had meant the advent of salvation.

“And even while the strange noise poured forth, a motly crowd of pilgrims from all over the known world, being caught by a breath of the common inspiration, divined something of the sense. It came home to them---not in official Greek, but in the mother-tongues to which they each were born, their hearts interpreted the Apostles’ ecstasy as thanksgiving for the wonderful works of God.

“Well, I dare say, but what a party! thought the citizens of Jerusalem. The heart of Pentecost is spontaneity. Truth springing from the heart, not entering through the ear. And, when the day of Pentecost was fully come...a rushing wind sang in their ears, the fire ran out in tongues, sound broke out as by a power not their own. Here was spontaneity, here was life.

“And now where are we, having had our Pentecost? Who is it that knocks on the heart? No, we say, you are too dangerous. If I let you out, where would you take me? But, says the voice of the Spirit, I am you, I am the ground of your heart, the fountain of your true desire, I ask nothing of you but to be yourself. Here is our Pentecost, the spring of spontaneity. What wonders the spirit can perform!

“What rocks of obstinacy and obsession melt away, what good it sees in other men, how naturally it cares about them, like those on whom the Spirit first came down---the wonderful works of God!”

*Austin Farrer was an English Anglican philosopher, theologian and biblical scholar, whom many consider one of the greatest figures of 20<sup>th</sup> century Anglicanism. Pentecostal Fire is a sermon from Said or Sung, a volume of homily and verse, by Rev. Ferrar, published in 1960.*



### *Many happy returns, Kay and Dorothy*

On her June birthday, Kay Keller, left, of Our Saviour received a high-tech gift. Son Tom arranged for family members from all over the country to converge via Zoom on Kay's birthday. She is holding a photo montage of participants. Dorothy Headlee, right, of Epiphany will pass the century mark by two years July 20. She will celebrate her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday at Vancrest where she is getting some treatment. Cards and notes would brighten her special day. Send mail to Room 112, Vancrest of Urbana, 2380 S. Route 68, Urbana.

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**Our lives begin to end the day  
we become silent about  
things that matter.**

*Martin Luther King Jr*