

Sharing God's Love in Our Community Through Prayer, Study and Action

St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Afton, NY
(Member of the Chenango District)

The Parish News

www.stannsaftonny.org

The Newsletter of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Afton, NY

Clergy: The Reverend Fr. David A. Hanselman Cell: 761-4601 Office: 656-9502

If you desire Father David to visit you or give you a call, please contact him at one of the numbers above.

In an emergency and Fr. David can't be reached, please contact one of the wardens.

Wardens: Dan Vail: 607-240-9264 Tracey Tallmadge: 607-343-1301



Hey folks! Along with many others in our diocese over Lent, I took the time to read *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving and participate in the Diocesan discussion group about the book. It was fascinating and informative to talk to so many other people about their experiences of race. Living in Chenango County it is easy to wonder what importance discussing race could have to us.

Our county is almost entirely white. According to one website I found, our county is 94.8% white (datausa.io/profile/geo/chenango-county-ny#demographics). So, you might reasonably wonder, what do race relations have to do with us? Well, to put it bluntly, the whole reason our county is 94.8% white is precisely because of systemic racism. In a free country where people can live wherever they want, and with the beauty and resources of our county, it is astonishing that in a nation in which blacks make up 12.2% of the population, here in Chenango County they only constitute 0.887% of the population. And that is only looking at black folks. Our nation is composed of many different ethnicities and our county is 94.8% white. Chenango County is, quite literally, segregated from the rest of the country and the realities our nation is faced with. On the other hand, Chenango County does accurately mirror the reality of where economic and political power are in this country – in the hands of almost entirely white folks. Now, it has been my experience that almost everyone is basically good and decent. Almost no one I have ever met rejoices at one person or group getting an unfair advantage over others. One of many important points made in *Waking Up White* is that on its own, simply wanting there to be racial justice is not enough. “Just because I want my neighbor in the hospital to heal from cancer doesn't mean I get to go in there and operate on him.” If we do not take on the task of educating ourselves about how to dismantle racism, we can do more harm than good.” (p. 183) I have found *Waking Up White* to be an easily accessible book in which Irving tells her personal story. It is filled with the basic facts of systemic racism in the US and its effects on both whites and people of color. Irving is honest, sometimes painfully so, about her journey of educating herself. I highly commend it to you. Blessings to you all!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

The SERVICE SCHEDULE is not available due to the COVID-19 and absence of parishioners to fill it in. Once regular services begin again, Lay Readers in attendance will be asked to read the lessons for that particular Sunday. The readings for each Sunday in March are listed below. Please take the time to read the lessons and Gospel for each Sunday.

The corona virus is causing more than its share of problems but it hasn't stopped us from having a Sunday worship service. Holding a service via the "zoom" software is a little strange but seems to be working okay. If you have not tried tuning in for a "zoom" service, why not try it next Sunday. Everyone who has their E-mail address on file should be receiving a forward of Fr. David's instruction letter for each service. If you have not been receiving that letter, please advise Tom Vail of your E-mail address and you will be added to the parish listing. Bettom415@aol.com Yes, the "zoom" service is different, but change is what life is all about. Services are also available through the Diocese via their website.

Service Schedule						
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
	Please	See	Further	Below		
Lectionary (Year B)						
		Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel	
Apr 1	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1, 10-17	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	
Apr 2	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1-19:42	
Apr 4	Easter	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18	
Apr 11		Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31	
Apr 18		Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48	
Apr 25		Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18	
May 2		Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:24-30	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8	



Altar Duty for the month of April is Betty Vail 639-1201. If you are giving flowers in memory of a loved one, please notify Tracey Tallmadge 343-1301. No later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that she can include a notice in the bulletin.





Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Services

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at noon and 7pm both days by invitation on Zoom as well as shown on Facebook livestream on Fr David's personal Facebook page.

For an invitation to the Zoom meetings, make sure we have your email address.

If you have not been getting the Zoom invites, then please call Tracey at 343-1301 or Betty at 639-1201 and give us your email address to be invited to Zoom meetings. They are not the same as in person, but they are very meaningful just the same.

Easter Sunrise Service

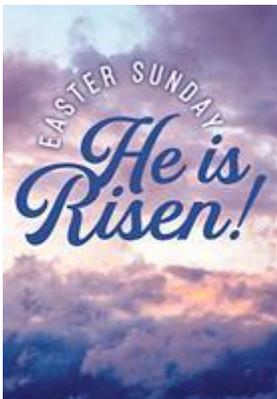


Will be held at **St. Ann's** on **April 4th** at **7:00am**.

Weather permitting, the service will be held in the parking lot so dress accordingly. There will be **NO** breakfast after the service due to COVID restrictions.

Easter Sunday

8:00am Fr Geoff will be in person at **Zion**



After the sunrise service,

9:15am - In person at **St. Ann's** Fr. David
Holy Communion (Wafer only)

11:00am in person at **St Paul's**

Alleluia!

St. Ann's Prayer List for April 2021

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. A current listing follows. The names listed are not necessarily members of the parish and may include individuals or other requests for which we have been asked to pray. The clergy persons of the Chenango District are included. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. *"We are trying to be sure that our prayer list is as updated as possible and don't want to remove someone that should be on it."* Send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 639-1201. Please note: Long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names for two/three months unless updated.

SHORT TERM

Raevin
Thomas
George
Eileen
Anne
Anonymous
Riley
Nancy
Jerry Matthews
Jason
Pat
Dakota
Message Ministries

LONG TERM

Fr. David Hanselman
Fr. Steven White
Deacon Kay
Pastor Becky
Rev. Elizabeth Gillett
Fr. Geoff Doolittle
Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe
Bishop Michael Curry
The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph
Emmanuel Church
Epiphany Church
Zion Church
St. Paul's Church
St. Andrew's Church
St. Matthews Church
St. Peter's Church
Carol
Peter
Joyce
Mya
Holly
Clifford
Richard
Nate
Marion
Rachel
Burdette
Bill
Bonnie Hailey Katy



The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Learning Communities Initiative of the Diocese. The following prayer is from the Evening Prayer service in the Book of Common Prayer: *Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

Birthdays

4/9 Jane Seacat
 4/25 Maxwell Harding
 Kerri Vail

*Anniversaries*

4/23 Mado & Carol Cimini
 Denise & Amy Weiber

*Please let me know if I am missing a Birthday or Anniversary.
 Call 607-343-1301 or email cttallmadg@aol.com*

**Brass Cleaning:**

On Sunday, March 7, five women helped with this ministry and it was completed within an hour. So nice to have this done especially for the Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services.

**Forward Through the Years:**

1 Corinthians 15:2—23. ***Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.***

Is Jesus alive today? This question is much more vital than “Did he survive the cross?” The answer to this question brings the Easter triumph into the present moment!

How did the disciples know Jesus to be alive on the first Easter Day? Some saw him with their own eyes and recognized him. Some met those who had seen him and believed their words. Others did not have the conviction that he was actually alive until he “showed himself” to them. Is Jesus alive today? You can answer it for yourself and say with St. Paul, “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me” (Galatians 2:20.—1943)





CHURCH TERMS: HOLY WEEK – The week before Easter. On Palm Sunday Christ made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Monday and Tuesday, He taught in the Temple. On Wednesday He rested at Bethany. Thursday, He returned to Jerusalem, ate the Last Supper with His Disciples, and was betrayed by Judas. Friday He was crucified. Saturday His body lay in the tomb.

SEEING DEATH

“Remember how short my time is— For what vanity you have created all mortals!!

“Who can live and never see death? Who can escape the power of Sheol?”

Psalm 89:47-48



Vestry Hi-lites for March 2021

1. Outreach for March was designated to a Downs Syndrome organization, GiGi's Playhouse in Vestal, NY.
2. Voted to give the Easter Offering $\frac{1}{2}$ to Berkley Yale and $\frac{1}{2}$ to Diocese of Jerusalem.
3. Due to COVID concerns, it was decided to Zoom the Palm Sunday service at 9:00am from Zion.
4. Convention delegates will be needed once a decision is made from the Diocese.
5. Financial report shows that we are solvent.
6. Vestry approved request for \$2500 grant from the diocese for purchase of live streaming equipment to continue ZOOM without using Fr. David's personal equipment. (Approved by the Diocese on March 16)

The Food Pantry is not getting any interest on Wednesday nights. The people in charge have decided to extend hours on Fridays from 10:00am to 2:00pm. This will be a trial run for the next three months (end of June). If there is not much interest after three months, the plan is to cut back to the 10:00am to 12:00pm time. St. Ann's is responsible for the second full week of each month to staff the pantry. We will need two people to cover the first two hours (10-Noon) and two people to cover from Noon to 2:00pm. **NO one stays for four hours!**



April 16th is the next day that St. Ann's will be staffing the pantry. If you desire to continue to do this outreach for the community, please let me know what shift you would like: 10:00am-Noon or Noon to 2:00pm. Give me a call, 639-1201. Thanks loads. I was also told that people can start coming into the pantry to get food **IF** they have a mask and gloves on. Gloves are on the desk at the pantry. Betty

SEEING DEATH:

In the mid-1600's, the "Black Death" or "Black Plague" as it was called wiped out nearly one third the population of Europe and the British Isles. There was great speculation about what caused the plague. One theory was the thick blankets of soot and ash which filled the London skyline.

People began to carry flower petals in their pockets thinking that might ward off the disease and groups of victims who were able to stand, were taken outside treatment centers and while holding hands, they would walk in circles around rose gardens, breathing deeply the freshness of blooming flowers.

We all know the little verse that went with this practice,

Ring around the roses,

A pocket full of posies.

Ashes, ashes, we all fall down.

But of course, they were wrong, and people continued to "fall down" until the real cause of the sickness was determined—flea bites from diseased rats.

Death is a hard thing to ponder...it is a good thing to ponder. It is not unique to our age that people try to prolong death—or avoid death. Charlatans have been selling life-lengthening tonic water almost as soon as bottles could be crafted, and Desoto was not the first to seek the mythical "fountain of youth."

All that has been dressed up a bit now. One only has to turn on late night television and be reminded there are new pills, herbs, formulas, weight loss programs, and exercise machines that claim to take the years away. Plastic surgery in the western world has grown into a veritable industry. But if we think any of these offers or procedures will protect us from death, it is no different than placing posies in your pocket as a superstitious attempt to escape death's clutches. The truth is – we all fall down.

"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return," are the most familiar words spoken during the "Ash Wednesday" services in several Christian traditions. The words are a reminder that we are not just born of the dust of the earth, (Genesis 2:7) but we will return to that dust as well.

Could be a bit depressing if...if it all ended there. But the gift of death is a reminder—of the gift of life itself, of the need to make the most of life while one lives it, of the need to live life as it should be lived.

We are all, all of us, 'terminally ill.' No one gets out alive (see Psalm above.). None of us can escape the power of what the Psalmist calls "Sheol," or the grave." If that is true; if we know there is a 'finish line' toward which we are all running (whether we like it or not), then should it not drive us to make the very most of our lives? And the very best of our lives?

By "most," should we not learn to feed ourselves with those that will bless us in every way—physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually? By "best," should we not seek to live moral lives? Ethical lives? Lives of peace and harmony with God, with our neighbor, with ourselves?

Many see death as an enemy to be avoided, but perhaps it can be a companion along life's journey to remind us to make this "most" and this "best." Well?

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen



The Final Word

Abilities: Romans 12:6– *“God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.....”*

Wise are those who discover their God-given gifts and make the best of them. Foolish is the person who wants those gifts that God hasn't given and spends his or her life in idle dreams of what could have been. Set your mind on discovering those gifts and abilities that God specifically had in mind when he made you.

NLT-GEZ

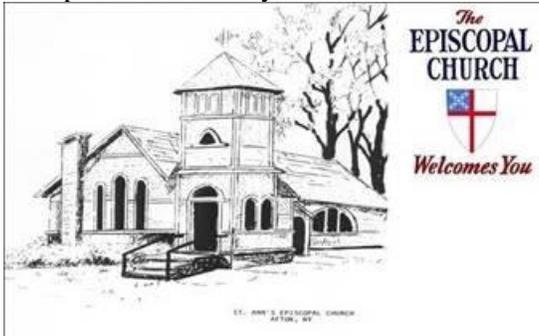
**St. Ann's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 22
Afton, New York 13730**

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY
AND ACTION**

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am

Address Label Here



APRIL