

November  
2020  
Volume  
LXVII

# THE EPISTLE



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# Rector's Corner

*After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you*

**-John 13:12-15**

Friends,

The example set for us in Christ Jesus our Lord is one of servant leadership. We are given gifts to use to care for our neighbors as well as ourselves. Loving service is our goal. My hope is that you see this month as an opportunity not only to give thanks to God for your life and the lives of those you love. My hope is that all of us recognize Jesus in this community and find ways to serve Him here in Jackson. Each day God gives us opportunities for loving service, yet we have to love ourselves through God's eyes and ask for guidance for our priorities and actions.

The election that has so preoccupied us these many months is nearly over and afterward the real work starts for our leaders to make decisions for sound government and for us to look to our relationships and presence in the world as Christians. All our relationships have been pushed to the limit during this time of political strife and global health crisis. Let us mourn the relationships we've lost, take stock of the ones we have and pray for God's love and healing to pour into us and through us to others. If we have hurt others let us ask forgiveness and if we have been hurt let us forgive. Let us rest in God's love for us and have our spirit renewed by the Holy Spirit.

I am so very proud of our Vestry and Lay leaders who are safely guiding us each Sunday to worship safely! I'm grateful to each of you who are coming in person and worshipping online as well. Our expanding reach to our community is a blessing to all and the Gospel is being preached to many who have not heard it or contemplated it in a long time. Thank you for your part in helping us! We hope you'll get your pledge into us by Thanksgiving either in person or through the mail. You should receive your card this week and I thank you for your prayerful generosity. Being a pledging member is a blessing and helps anchor us in this community and the work of St. Paul's in Jackson. My thanks go to Melissa, Miss Kim and Mr. Tom who are leading three classes for our children and youth each Sunday. Each week our kids learn and grow in God's love for them and they grow deep roots in this community. Please pray for their work and help us support this growing ministry with your pledge!

As we approach Advent I hope you'll consider keeping it as a time of introspection and prayer in preparation for the Incarnation of Our Lord. Let's not engage in division, judgement and blame especially over silly things like decorations and carols. Let us instead turn our focus inward and ask God's guidance for our servanthood. This Advent could truly be a time of renewal and rebirth after such a time of division and death. That is my prayer for all of us this month and I give thanks to be praying among you each week.

Faithfully,  
Sarah+

# Curate's Report



*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.*

**-1 Thessalonians 5.11.**

Dear Friends in Christ,

With the strangeness, abnormalities and difficulties living through a pandemic is bringing I find it a good reminder to encourage each other and build each other up. When Paul is telling this to the Thessalonians he is helping them to not lose sight that our salvation lies in the future and we do, indeed, have a lot to keep our sights on. Yet we can't lose sight of where we are today amidst the struggles. We are called to build up the body of Christ.

Pastor Sarah has tasked me with getting Christian education up and running for our children and youth. We have partnered with First Presbyterian to offer Thursday evening educational sessions and hope to continue that partnership in some way. Sunday Christian education at St. Paul's starts on November 1st on Zoom. The following is what it looks to be shaping up as:

- Grades 1-2: Lectionary based curriculum led by Kim Perlos
- Grades 4-5: Book study on *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award Winning Stamped from the Beginning* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi, led by Tom Holsinger-Friesen
- Grades 6+: Confirm Not Conform Confirmation based curriculum, led by Melissa & Pastor Sarah

And none of us are too old to learn. If you are intrigued to know more you may want to read *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive Beginning of Racist Ideals in America* by Ibram X. Kendi. This is the book that led to the remix version our fourth and fifth graders will be studying.

What's more is that encouragement also must include some fun in addition to all the learning! We've got a family trip to Meckley's planned for the afternoon of Halloween. This is also open for the First Presbyterian families to join. Many of the children and youth have expressed interest in doing these types of activities and we have found one that can be COVID-19 safe.

Lastly, I have also been doing a lot of learning. Sarah has been teaching me the ins and outs of the liturgy. Sarah makes it look easy and I am learning more each week which will in turn help me to be a better teacher for our children and youth.

Faithfully,

Melissa



# From our Sr. Warden...

It has been a nice change to be able to see people in church. Thanks go out to several people who have helped prepare the church for the return of in person worship. Kyle King, Harry Strait, Wayne and Romelle Frey, Dana Burkey, Chuck Sinclair met one evening to tape the floors, hang signs and prepare the route for the safe entry into our church. As we “usher” in this new way of worship, you may have noticed that the ushers have some different duties. While there is no wine and no passing of the plates for offertory, we have someone at the back door, restrooms, sign in table as well as in the sanctuary to help direct our parishioners and promote social distancing. From entering the church to the dismissal, the ushers are there to help make your worship experience as safe as possible.



Our Tech Committee continues to do an incredible job making sure that we can continue to feed those who are not able to join us yet for in person worship. Ongoing thanks and gratitude for all the work you do behind the scenes.

Some of the church musicians met to discuss plans for Advent and Epiphany. Julie is helping to organize a plan specifically for Advent that will highlight some of the musical talent in the congregation. We are discussing ways in which we can be creative while honoring some of our traditions...more to come.

Under usual circumstances, we would be getting ready to partner for Trunk or Treat with the YMCA. So many of the programs we are a part of are looking for ways to continue serving the community. St. Paul's continues to partner with various community groups to help those in and around our church. Much of this is possible through grants and donations as well as pledges from our own congregation. Your pledge helps support not only the daily expenses but also all the many ministries of our church. As we enter the stewardship season, I ask that you consider all that your pledge does and can continue to do within and outside of the St. Paul's walls.

Shalom,  
Michelle



# From our Jr. Warden...

What a joyous feeling to be back in our beautiful Sanctuary for Sunday services! The Zoom services (and now the Facebook services) have been wonderful, and it is a blessing that we were still able to gather together over the past 8 months online. It was not always easy for Sarah and the tech committee, but I send my heartfelt blessings to all of you for helping make the services a reality while we were under COVID restrictions.

Being back in church has been very meaningful and moving. Since I normally sit in the choir pews up front, it is a different perspective for me. I sit in awe and wonder at all the wonderful prayerful moments spent in this same space for so many generations before us. The church has gone through tragedies in the past, but we, as a church and a congregation, have always survived and been stronger after each adversity. It is the same today.

We are restricted in the number of parishioners we can have at any one time, but so far, we have had room for all that feel safe in attending. It is a blessing to all of us that we have options for continuing to worship. Many of you are not comfortable in large gatherings yet, and inclement weather will become a factor as winter approaches. If the weather is bad, or you are not feeling up to attending in person, the option is available to join us from home. And if you are home, you get to stay in your nice warm jammies.

Please join us in person or online. We will feel your presence both ways. All of you are important to us and we hope to have you join us this week, and every week.

-Debbie Batchelder, Jr Warden





Pastor Sarah has asked Sharon Sunday, parishioner and local artist, to use her tremendous talents to paint thematic scenes on our front windows for Thanksgiving through Christmas. We have 6 windows on Jackson St. in front of our offices, and beginning on Sat. Nov. 21st, Sharon will paint one each week to help us mark the season. It will be a blessing to us and for us to share with the Jackson community.

Please invite your friends to have a peek at the loving creations on the front of our building each week and thank Sharon Sunday when you see her. I'm so grateful for the talents God gave her and how they brighten our days!

## Building & Grounds

We have moved into the heating season and all systems are “go”. The boiler control for the under church was replaced at a cost of \$2,800.00. The original one had been in service for 14 years. We have a good supply of ice melt to start this winter. There is some concern about the sidewalk at the corner of Wesley & S. Jackson streets, with the recent installation of under ground pipe, which has left sections of the sidewalk torn up. I am waiting on a return call from DPW in Jackson as to their intentions to replace the sidewalk. Susan Smar has done another wonderful job preparing the Memorial Garden for winter. The lawn mowing is done for the season, and hoses/sprinklers/timers are put away. There will be a fall clean up once the leaves are down. A few hedges are in need of a trim also.

Projects yet to be completed:

- Replace ceiling light bulbs in the hallway and office area.
- Paint the new wiring conduit in the Narthex to match the walls.
- Put out the ice melt buckets and snow shovels.
- In the near future I will collect quotes to replace the lights in Holy Spirit Hall, several are burned out and also they are not as energy efficient as LED replacements.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle King

Chairperson, Building & Grounds



## We are open for public worship on Sundays at both 9 & 10:30 am!

Our 9am worship has moved from the Memorial Garden to Holy Spirit Hall. The space allows for warmth, distance and safety for our non-tech parishioners.

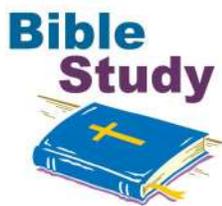
Our 10:30 am service will continue to be offered on Facebook Live as a safe alternative for those who feel safer worshipping from home.

An RSVP is not required at this time. Should the services start to reach capacity, we may need to initiate a sign-up system. We will notify you if/when that happens.

For questions, feel free to contact your vestry or the church office. Whether you continue to worship with us online or in-person, we love and give thanks for you all!



Join Pastor Sarah each Wednesday at  
**8pm on Facebook live**  
<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi> for the service of Compline from the Book of Common Prayer with the commemoration of saints that day.



Pastor Sarah's Weekly Zoom Bible  
Study

**Wednesdays at 10am**

Follow this link to Zoom in: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83005898502>  
No Password required

## Adult Forum

**Note the new time:**  
**9:00 am-10:00 am** on Sundays  
via Zoom-

All adults are welcome to join!  
For the Zoom meeting link and more  
info contact:

Eric R. Magnusson,  
Email: [emagnusson75@gmail.com](mailto:emagnusson75@gmail.com)  
Cell: 248-842-1859

Meeting ID: 992 3997 8197  
Passcode: Adult Forum





**Join us each Sunday at 10:30 am for the Facebook Livestream of our service from inside our sanctuary!**

<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi>

Sunday Worship Bulletins are on our website at

<https://stpauljxmi.org/>

You can also view the service later on Facebook.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO  
VIEW OUR VIDEOS!



Diana Sinclair is faithfully collecting names for our prayer list, so please call **(517-250-9729)** or email her [finnikki96@aol.com](mailto:finnikki96@aol.com) to add anyone for whom you'd like the Church to pray. We are so grateful for the prayers of this Church family and join with you in asking God's blessing on those we love and all who are fighting to keep us safe and healthy.

# The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church



October is almost over and the summer sound of lawn mowers has been replaced by the sound of leaf blowers and lawn vacuums as people clear their properties of fallen leaves. It is the time when people get ready to hunker down as they prepare for darker and colder days ahead.

It's also Halloween- a time enjoyed by children all over the country. Halloween started in Ireland. The ancient Irish believed at this time of year the veil between this world and the next thinned and spirits could freely pass between the two. On October 31 or Samhain (sow-in) the people believed that evil and mischievous spirits were abroad and would ruin the crops. They hallowed out turnips and put candles in them to ward off the evil spirits. They wore masks and costumes to disguise themselves so the spirits would not recognize them and come visiting. From this we get the custom of the jack-o-lanterns and the wearing of costumes and masks for Halloween. This was a pagan tradition so when Christianity came to Ireland the church named November 1 as All Saints day making the pagan festival of Samhain the Eve of All Hallows or as it's known today, Halloween. Perhaps next time we can talk about the traditions associated with November 2 – All Souls day.

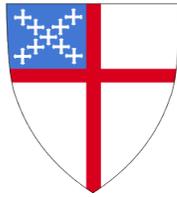
The Nut Sale! Despite COVID the orders fell just shy of last year's total. Many thanks goes out to all who pre-ordered. We are so grateful for your support. However, we are not out of the woods yet. We really need to sell the "extras" in order to make any kind of profit. So for those who perhaps forgot or didn't get their order in on time there is still opportunity to help out this great cause by buying some nuts. All pre-order pick up will be curbside. People will be called to arrange a time. The extras are available between Thanksgiving and Christmas and can be bought by contacting Romelle Frey. Still plenty of time to complete that Christmas list or stock up for the "inside" winter ahead. These nuts make great stocking stuffers, gifts for family and friends as well as having a few on hand for those "just in case" gifts. All purchases are welcomed and appreciated.

We would still love to hear from people regarding the future of ECW or your interest in serving on the board. If you are reluctant to call please e-mail your thoughts, ideas, concerns or views to either Sandra at [sekilian@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sekilian@sbcglobal.net) or myself at [varowley1@gmail.com](mailto:varowley1@gmail.com). We are assessing the role of ECW going forward and really need some input from its members. We encourage you to mull it over and let us know your thoughts on the future of this organization and how we can best serve the women of St. Paul's.

With COVID cases rising we, as always, urge you all to make wise decisions regarding this virus. Wear your mask! Wash your hands! Limit your exposure to indoor crowds! Stay Safe! Oh, and don't forget to vote. May the good Lord bless you and keep you all safe and healthy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Rowley, Vice President, ECW.





## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

### Pledging FAQ's

Your commitment in response to God's blessings makes our worship, community life, and outreach possible. We hope these "frequently asked questions" will be helpful to you as you consider your pledge.

#### *What is a pledge?*

A pledge is your commitment to make a financial gift that supports the mission of St. Paul's. Pledging is a response to God's abundance in our lives. It is both a statement of thanksgiving and a lived decision to give others as God gives to us.

#### *Why do we need annual pledges?*

Your pledge supports everything we do – from paying the salaries of our staff to supporting our outreach ministries, our pastoral care, our worship, our education programs, and our music. In order to know what we can do each year, we need pledge commitments to develop an annual budget.

#### *Can't we just rely on our endowment?*

We do have an endowment generously left to us by previous generations of St. Paul's parishioners. It would quickly disappear, however, if we relied on it as our primary source of parish support.

#### *How much should I pledge?*

At St. Paul's, every pledge, no matter what amount, makes a valued contribution to our mission and ministry. We ask each parishioner to prayerfully consider making a pledge that is both responsible and significant based on their financial situation.

Our standard of giving should reflect our standard of living. A tithe (10% of your income) has long been held as the standard of each Christian giving. For most it is a goal to be reached through incremental increases each year. To calculate your pledge or tithe, the following chart may help:

<b>Annual Gross Income</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>\$10,000</b>	\$200	\$400	\$600	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,200
<b>\$20,000</b>	\$400	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$2,400
<b>\$30,000</b>	\$600	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$2,400	\$3,000	\$3,600
<b>\$40,000</b>	\$800	\$1,600	\$2,400	\$3,200	\$4,000	\$4,800
<b>\$50,000</b>	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
<b>\$75,000</b>	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$9,000
<b>\$100,000</b>	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$12,000
<b>\$150,000</b>	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$9,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$18,000
<b>\$200,000</b>	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$24,000

*When and how should I pledge?*

Pledges are welcome throughout the year, but we would prefer to receive them before December 1<sup>st</sup> so we can plan for next year. You can make a pledge by bringing pledge card to church, by mailing it in, or by contacting a staff person or member of the Vestry.

*Do I have to pay when I pledge? Can I pay in installments?*

A pledge is a promise to pay. You may fulfill your pledge with as many or few payments as you wish. Pledges are to be fulfilled on a calendar year basis, beginning January 1.

*Can I pay by a gift of stock, a donor-designated fund, or through other means?*

We welcome all kinds of pledge payments. You may pay by a gift of stock or financial securities, or through a donor-designated fund. To find out how, contact **Marco Shehab**.

*What happens if I can't give as much as I pledged?*

While it's a commitment to your church and your fellow parishioners, God's grace abounds. If your circumstances change, let the church know that you need to change your pledge. If you've received unexpected additional income, you are always welcome to increase your pledge.

*Who knows how much I pledge?*

We hold all pledge amounts in the strictest confidence.

**Thank you for all you do to support the mission and ministry of St. Paul's. For more information, please contact our Sr. Warden, Michelle Gibson (832) 445-4461 or Treasurer, Marco Shehab (517) 937-4912, [financial@stpauljxmi.org](mailto:financial@stpauljxmi.org) or any of the St. Paul's Vestry Members.**



Barbara Lock      November 2  
Janet Patch        November 9  
Clark Hutchens   November 13  
Barney Rudolph   November 16  
Ryan Thomas      November 21

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING<sup>12</sup>

## ST. PAUL'S!

And whatever you do,  
in word or deed,  
do everything in the name  
*of the Lord Jesus,*  
*giving thanks*  
to God the Father  
through him.

Colossians 3:17



# November

## Thankfulness

Day 1 – 1 Thessalonians 5:18  
Day 2 – Ephesians 5:18-21  
Day 3 – Psalm 106:1  
Day 4 – Philippians 4:6  
Day 5 – Psalm 107:1  
Day 6 – Psalm 100:4  
Day 7 – Colossians 3:15-17  
Day 8 – Colossians 4:2  
Day 9 – Psalm 28:7  
Day 10 – Psalm 100:1-5  
Day 11 – Psalm 116:17  
Day 12 – 1 Corinthians 15:57  
Day 13 – Romans 14:5-6  
Day 14 – Psalm 118:1  
Day 15 – Psalm 50:14  
Day 16 – 2 Corinthians 9:15  
Day 17 – Psalm 95:2  
Day 18 – Revelation 7:11-12  
Day 19 – Psalm 136:1-3  
Day 20 – Psalm 136:4-9  
Day 21 – Psalm 136:10-22  
Day 22 – Psalm 136:23-26  
Day 23 – Psalm 92:1  
Day 24 – Revelation 11:17  
Day 25 – 1 Timothy 4:4-5  
Day 26 – 1 Timothy 2:1-4  
Day 27 – 1 Timothy 1:12-15  
Day 28 – Psalm 107:15  
Day 29 – 2 Corinthians 2:14-15  
Day 30 – Psalm 98:1



## Altar Guild



### WE NEED YOU!

Altar Guild is looking for additional members to set up Holy Communion and clean up afterward now that services are being held in our church building again.

Please call Cheryl Gumper, 789-7982, Co-Altar Guild Director, to find out more.

Courtesy of: [www.alyssajhoward.com](http://www.alyssajhoward.com)