



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

...Where God is seen, love is felt and lives are changed!

March 20, 2020

Sunday Readings:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

WHERE TO FIND US

While the suspension of gathered worship services remains in effect, we have begun holding "virtual" worship services on YouTube. You can find us on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBthaKMaiTbebM7gyg97TiQ>



This Sunday, we will attempt our first livestream service at 10 a.m. Please join us as we offer a service of Morning Prayer.

We ask for your patience as we learn (as quickly as possible!) new ways of communicating via video. Your constructive feedback is most welcome!

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

Effective immediately, we have suspended all small group meetings at the church while the suspension of worship services remains in effect. This is primarily out of precaution for folks who either have health concerns of their own or have small children at home and don't want to risk any potential exposure.

EYF

In light of recent events, there will not be Sunday School or EYF until further notice. While we will not be meeting in person, I will be posting more on Instagram about our Good Dirt Lenten series and fun things we can do in this time of waiting and anxiety.

If your kids need someone to talk to in this time of uncertainty, please share my phone number with them if they don't have it. I'm here to talk anytime. My prayers are with you all!

Caroline Wood, Youth Minister,
youthminister@ststephens.org

PASTORAL CARE

JOIN US AS WE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR:

Dan & Judy DiGregorio; Tailen DiGregorio
& Tori Miles, Kynlee, Jayden, Oaklyn;
Chris Dollman; Connie Douglas;
Cameron Ellis; Betsy Ellis;
Emma & Laura Ellis

Please include these people in your prayers.

COMFORTING

Instead of a sermon summary, I am offering this prayer that came to me as I was working on my sermon for Sunday. Please know that God's love continues to guide us and keep us, and the people of our parish are committed to walking with every one of you during this time.

Almighty God, the one who shines brightly before us in dark places, the one who covers us from the storms around us: Give us hearts willing to see the hope that is set before us. Grant us the wisdom to see the importance of family and community instead of grumbling about what we cannot do. Allow us to receive the invitation to slow down and listen to you, and thus strengthen us to lay our worries and anxieties at your feet instead of letting them absorb into our souls and very bones. In the midst of changes that overwhelm us, give us a sense of your abiding peace and grant us the courage and insight to share this peace with one another in ways that honor our physical safety and yet remind others that your Presence is with them always. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, abide and reign over us as one God, this day and forever. Amen.

Christ's Peace,
Bailey

ADULT FORUM

In keeping with the prevailing trend, let's cancel the Adult Forum until after Easter. If you'd like to continue on your own, here are some links to the free online course, videos and discussion questions:

Online Course: [Make Me an Instrument of Peace: A Guide to Civil Discourse home page.](#)

For groups: [Make Me an Instrument of Peace for Groups](#)

For individuals: [Make Me an Instrument of Peace for Individuals](#)



On April 19, God and microorganisms willing, we will reconvene with a guest from the Knoxville affiliate of Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light (TIPL/KIPL).

I will miss our time together. Learning from you is one of the treasures of my week. Keep yourselves and each other, safe and sane. ~ Victoria Medaglia

SHARING FAITH DINNERS

Sharing Faith Dinners planned for March have been postponed, due to the concerns about meeting in small groups.

When we resume Sharing Faith Dinners, we will host more so everyone can have an opportunity to become spiritually closer to our community.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, March 20, 2020.

SUSTAINING A SPIRITUAL LIFE

An excerpt from the Education for Ministry Reading and Reflection Guide:

In January, we learned that "listening with an ear of the heart" was the first characteristic in contemplative living. "**Commitment to place** is the second characteristic of contemplative living, which means attending to the present situation as it is rather than to how it once was or how one might wish it would be. It is a radical orientation to the present. Living in the present moment requires laying aside pining for the past along with turning from a preoccupation with the future. A mature spirituality receives the present situation. The reality of now is where one meets God."



Bloom where you're planted!



KEEP CALM AND REMAIN FAITHFUL