

Service Schedule



Niles

9:30am

Indoor Morning
Prayer

St. Joseph

9:30am

Indoor Eucharist

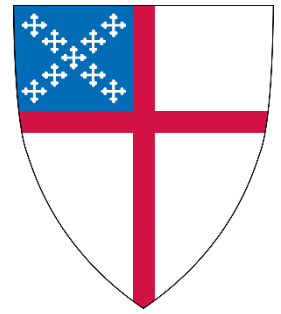
Dowagiac

10:00am

Indoor Eucharist

**Please keep an eye
out for updates from
our One Call Now
system for any changes
about services**

The Covenant Close-up



June 24th, 2021 Issue #82

Worship Materials

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

[Facebook](#) *Live Service from Dowagiac*

The Collect: Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17 - 27

Psalm 130

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8: 7 - 15

The Gospel: Mark 5:21 - 43

Note: Masks and social distancing required at all times when inside the church buildings.

Reflections from the Rector

From the desk of Reverend Diane Pike

Even the early church had a stewardship campaign. Paul might have been the first stewardship chairperson!

It sounds like the Corinthians (this is Paul's second letter to them) are a little tight-fisted. They agreed to support the growing Church in Christ but seem to be reluctant to actually put their money where their mouths were. Paul goes on¹⁰ "And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—¹¹ now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means." Calling them to fulfill their oral pledges, Paul is stern in his request to the Church in Corinth calls them to follow through on their "eager promises."

They were enthusiastic, it seems, to be part of this venture – the building of Christ's Kingdom on earth. They said they would provide resources – financial and human – to ensure these promises were fulfilled. When push came to shove, however, it seems some are not quite ready to follow through on the commitments they made.

The 21st Century Church isn't much different, I'm afraid. We are all anxious for our churches to have enough money, to have adequate clergy presence, to have office staff and musicians and Sunday School teachers and ... you fill in the blanks with your wish list. Our wants go on and on, yet Paul is telling the Corinthians that maybe they have everything they need already.

God gives us what we *need*, not what we *want*. Sometimes wants and needs are the same, but more often than not, our wants far outweigh our needs. Paul is reminding the Church that God provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness. While they might not have been fond of the menu selection, they had all they needed.

Summer is a good time to reflect on our current blessings, remembering that *everything* we have first belonged to God. We are given time think about our commitments of time, talent and treasure to our faith communities. Have we fulfilled our promises? Is there more we can do as we look ahead to 2022? Our churches – all three of them – require participation in all three areas by everyone. We all have gifts we can give in time, treasure and talent and, as Paul calls the Corinthians to give their all, so we are asked to give more. While the tithe (10%) is often used as the standard measure of giving, even 1% can be significant and life-changing for both the giver *and* the church.

I invite you to join me this summer in discerning how you are supporting your congregation with your time, your gifts of talent, and your financial gifts. Can we do more? Of course, we all can do more. Are we willing to do more? That is the question Paul is asking of the Corinthians.

Not much has changed over the last 2000 years, it seems. It's easy to forget that we are but stewards of God's gifts – of all of them – without exception. We are asked to give back but a fraction of our time (an hour a week?), our talent (answering phones, calling homebound, writing notes, working in the garden) and our treasure (can you increase your giving by 3% in 2022 – not a 3% increase in tithing, but 3% of your current giving?).

God calls us to be more. God wants us to be more. God has given us everything we need to be strong and faithful communities and followers of Jesus. How much are we willing to give to be sure we are answering the call?

In This Edition



Down Low from Dowagiac

Just in from St. Joe

News From Niles

Announcements and Reminders

Extra Spiritual Materials

Birthdays!



**Sherry Johnston
(Niles) – 6/22**

**Cuppy Mace Smith
(Niles) – 6/26**

**Geneva Okeke
(Niles) – 6/30**

**Nancy Conrad
(Niles) – 7/1**

Down Low from Dowagiac

From the desk of Carol Haney, Senior Warden

- ❖ Dowagiac will be having their monthly food pantry on Saturday, June 26th. If you can spare a few hours, any help would be appreciated. Please arrive by 10am to help get things set for the distribution.

Just in from St. Joe

From the desk of Danie
Reed, Senior Warden

JUNE



THANK YOU
Soup Kitchen Ministers
ON-SITE VOLUNTEERS
Pat Miller
Jim Miller
Henry Mora
Diane Davidson
Bill Davidson

We assembled 100 sack lunches containing a ham & cheese sandwich, bag of chips, piece of fruit, pastries (Golden Brown Bakery), and a bottle of water for the Soup Kitchen clients to pick up.

Thank you Rebecka Westerbeek for the wonderful cookies!

It looks like we will continue with sack lunches through August.

AND thanks to those who have financially supported this ministry.

News from Niles

From the desk of Kathy Davies, Senior Warden



Announcements and Reminders

Anniversaries!



**Jayne and Larry
Lamb
(Niles) – 6/25**

**Maro and Mike
Semerciyan
(St. Joseph) – 6/28**

**Gabby and Tharon
Combs
(Dowagiac) – 6/30**

**Mary and John
Phillips
(St. Joseph) – 6/30**

❖ Presiding Bishop Curry release a statement on the after the ruling on *Fulton vs Philadelphia*. Find his full statement [here](#).

❖ HELP WANTED!!!!

Our wonderful Covenant Treasurer, Kathy Davies, is taking a step back and we are looking for someone to help and take on this important role. No experience necessary, just the willingness and time to learn and listen. If you have questions or feel the call to help please contact [Diane+](#) or [Jean](#).

❖ The Province V ECW will be holding their Annual Meeting on Zoom (3 separate meeting links). For more information or to register, please go to their [website](#).

❖ Diocesan COVID -19 Update!!!! We have now moved to Phase 3 of the COVID Directive, please find more specifics [here](#). Below are a short, abbreviated version of some of the changes:

- The revised directives take effect July 1st.
- Masks are not required after July 1st but are encouraged.
- Communion will still be in one substance (bread) only.
- Avoid crowding and physical sharing of the peace.
- Fellowship hour may be offered. Food must be served, not put out as a buffet.
- Social distancing is *required* through the end of June.

❖ The OutCenter of SW Michigan would like to invite you to pop in to Pride! We are hosting **Lake Effect Pride** as a “Pop-Up” event on **June 26th from 2 - 4 pm**, in the greenspace between The Livery, Mason Jar Cafe, and The OutCenter in Benton Harbor. We want to extend a special invite to your faith community because we know how important Benton Harbor's faith community is to the city and county, and we would love to see it represented at Lake Effect Pride. Please share this invite in your newsletter, bulletin, in service, or wherever fits best for your congregation at this time!

This open-to-all, family-friendly event will feature food trucks from Silly Sausage and Nola Roux, as well as Pride and Lake Effect Pride limited-edition merch, which you can pre-order [here](#). The first 30 children to arrive at the event will receive a free SWAG bag! The event will be held next to the Livery, and guests are encouraged to stop in there for a beer.

We are taking COVID precautions and if possible, are asking people to pre-register [here](#), so we can do contact tracing if need be. Come by, grab some food, and meet and greet with our event sponsors and OutCenter board members, staff and program facilitators. Music will be provided live by Zack East and 98.3 The Coast. We cannot wait to see you then!

For any questions, please contact Alex at alex@outcenter.org.

Our Covenant Cares Mailing List



St. Joseph

Elizabeth Shapleigh
3033 Mansueto Dr.
Stevensville, MI, 49127

Kitty Fisher
The Whitcomb
509 Ship Street
St. Joseph, MI, 49085

Jean Bartz
Woodland Terrace
8850 Red Arrow Hwy.
Bridgman, MI, 49106

Extra Spiritual Materials

- ❖ A new book has been released from Forward Movement titled, *Angels of the Bible*. Over the years, many people have asked me if I believe in angels. While I don't have a definitive answer, Rev. Kate Moorehead gives us an opportunity to explore what is written in the sacred texts. The book is a bit pricey at \$20.00. But if there are 10 or more people interested, the cost drops to \$18.00 - hey, two bucks is two bucks! Please email [Diane+](#) if you are interested in participating in a study group for this book. I have not seen the book so I don't know if we will study 1, 2 or 3 angels each week. That will be determined by the group.
- ❖ Want to explore other services in other churches? Click [here](#) to take a peak at some of the others that are being offered. AND do not forget to [check](#) out St. Paul's Cathedral in Detroit!
- ❖ Upcoming Events for Interfaith [Action](#)!
- ❖ Want up-to-date news and announcements from the Diocese? Click [here](#) to subscribe to The Feast.
- ❖ Registration for this year's Episcopal Youth Camp has OPENED!!! Please follow this link to [register](#). For more information on the camp and mission, please follow this [link](#).
- ❖ ECF (Episcopal Church Foundation) sent out its newest newsletter follow this [link](#) to view.

*Our Covenant
Cares Mailing
List Continued*



Niles

Harvey and Simone Bird
132 East Bertrand Rd.
Niles, MI, 49120

Virginia Strayer
C/O Anne Comer
5153 Oak Hills Dr.
Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827

Irene Williams
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Niles, MI, 49120

**Want something
added to the
newsletter? Just let
Diane or Heather
Leonard know! **

Let's Get to Know...

The Dowagiac's Leadership Council Reps

Jennifer Frechette



- **Which parish is your "home" parish? How long have you been there?**
 - I have been with St. Paul's Dowagiac for 17 years.
- **What is your responsibility to the Covenant?**
 - I am one of the Leadership Council Representatives and help with the online service recordings.
- **What is your hope for the Covenant in 2021?**
 - To be able to get back to unrestricted worship and fellowship and to reconnect with everyone.
- **What is your favorite part of our Eucharist service?**
 - That is a tough one because I love every part of our service. What I have missed the most is the music.
- **What is your favorite season, and what is your favorite activity in that season?**
 - Fall for sure. Campfires and cookouts.