

# Service Schedule



*Niles*

**9:30am**

**Indoor Eucharist**

*St. Joseph*

**9:30am**

**Indoor Morning  
Prayer**

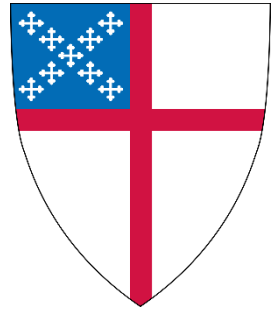
*Dowagiac*

**10:00am**

**Indoor Eucharist**

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

# *The Covenant Close-up*



July 29th, 2021 Issue #87

## *Worship Materials*

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Facebook Live Service from Dowagiac**

**The Collect:** Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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 11:26 – 12:13a**

**Psalm 51: 1 - 13**

**The Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1 - 16**

**The Gospel: John 6:24 - 35**

Note: Masks and social distancing are recommended when inside the church buildings. There will still only be the host served at Eucharist, and no contact during the Peace.

# *In This Edition*



## **Down Low from Dowagiac**

## **Just in from St. Joe**

## **News From Niles**

## **Announcements and Reminders**

## **Extra Spiritual Materials**

# *Reflections from the Rector*

From the desk of Reverend Diane Pike

The Old Testament reading for this weekend continues the story of David's fall from grace. Uriah (Bathsheba's husband) has been killed in battle, as David had planned. She is mourning the loss of her husband while God is lamenting the fallen relationship with David.

I think the message for most of us in this reading comes in the third paragraph, following an indictment of an unrighteous man in the second paragraph. The prophet, Nathan, interprets God's words to David. Finding him ungrateful and sinful Nathan states, "You are that man!" In the indictment we hear God's words of disappointment about David – "I made you king, I gave you the kingdom of Judah and Israel, and I rescued you from Saul. I would have given you anything you asked." God finds Nathan not only sinful, but ungrateful and lacking in remorse; even greedy.

How many of us could make a list of the things God has given us? Our homes, family, work that provides for our physical needs, and gifts of the Spirit to help build the kingdom of God? How many of us have recently thanked God for all we have been given? How many of us have recently asked God for more than we need, for more than we have?

I truly believe the more we have, the more we want, especially with "things." Why is that?

Perhaps, like David, we look not to God to fill the emptiness we are trying to fill but to "stuff" that will never make us happy. Only the love of God can fill our souls and grant us all that we really need, regardless of what we might think we should have.

It's a valuable spiritual exercise to take inventory every so often to remind ourselves of God's abundant gifts and care for each of us. This exercise won't take long ... our blessings overflow even when we are less than mindful of them.

John's gospel is all about signs ... signs of who Jesus is and who God is in relationship with the Son. What are the signs you see in your life that evidence God's abundant love for you and your family? List them alongside all your blessings, and give God thanks.

Faithfully yours, Diane+

*P.S. Please see the "Announcements and Reminders" section for a goodbye and blessing message from Bishop Houghland.*

## *Birthdays!*



**Michelle Sykora**  
**(St. Joseph) – 7/26**

**Dennis Haney**  
**(Dowagiac) – 7/26**

**Matthew Cripe**  
**(Dowagiac) – 7/27**

**Beth Edwards**  
**(St. Joseph) – 7/28**

**Charolette**  
**Waterson**  
**(Dowagiac) – 7/28**

**Marty Riggs**  
**(Dowagiac) – 7/29**

**Evelyn Sykora (St.**  
**Joseph) – 7/31**

**Sandy O'Dell (St.**  
**Joseph) – 8/4**

**Jean Walsh (St.**  
**Joseph) – 8/4**

**Heather Leonard**  
**(Dowagiac) – 8/4**

**Gabby Combs –**  
**(Dowagiac) 8/7**

## *Down Low from Dowagiac*

From the desk of Carol Haney, Senior Warden

- ❖ St. Paul's Saturday is coming up on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>! If you can spare some time, please stop by at 10:30a to help with food distribution.
- ❖ There will be a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, September 12th. The topic of the meeting will be the closure of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and plans to sell the building. A congregational vote is required by the canons of the diocese. Your presence, input and vote are important. Please plan to join us on that day.

## *Just in from St. Joe*

From the desk of Daniel Reed, Senior Warden

- ❖ The Monday Morning Book Group will resume meeting on Monday, September 13th at 10:00 in the St. Paul's library. Please pass the message to all of our book group friends. We also invite other friends to meet with us. See you on September 13.

## *News from Niles*

From the desk of Kathy Davies, Senior Warden

- ❖ We had a wonderful group of people that attended the Ice Cream Social, some old friends and some new friends and people off the street. Everyone had a wonderful time and the Trinity folks are so generous that we still have a freezer full of frozen goodies! Thanks to Jill Garmire and Paul Detrisac for all your hard work.

## *Anniversaries!*



**Simone and Harvey  
Bird**

**(Niles) – 7/30**

## *Announcements and Reminders*

- ❖ A word from Bishop Houghland – Saying Goodbye and Blessing. To watch the video message follow this [link](#).
- ❖ We are having a Covenant Picnic Oktoberfest-style in September (September 19<sup>th</sup>)! We will be having a joint service at St. Joe; morning prayer will be held at the other two. If you would like to help, please contact your warden or [Heather Leonard](#).
- ❖ Our next Leadership Council meeting will be Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30pm via zoom. This is an open meeting, if you would like to attend please contact Jean Walsh or your LC representative.



## *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

### **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**

2410 Miller Dr.  
Niles, MI, 49120

**Jeri Spitzer**

1070 Vineland  
St. Joseph, MI, 49085

## *Extra Spiritual Materials*

- ❖ 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.

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