

# Service Schedule



*Niles*

**9:30am**

**Indoor Eucharist**

*St. Joseph*

**9:30am**

**Indoor Eucharist**

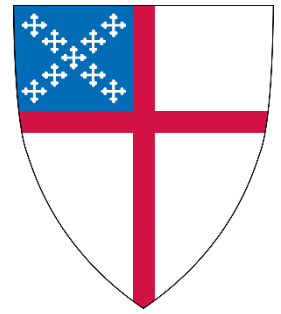
*Dowagiac*

**10:00am**

**Indoor Morning  
Prayer**

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

## *The Covenant Close-up*



June 10th, 2021 Issue #80

## *Worship Materials*

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**The Collect:** Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

**The First Reading: 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13**

**Psalm 20**

**The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6 -10 [11-13], 14 - 17**

**The Gospel: Mark 4:26 - 34**

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

# *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

I could have planted my flowers in May when we had rain, but it was so chilly I was afraid of frost. So I waited until June. Now we are in a drought. Wildflower seeds were sown the last week of May for the bees and the hummingbirds. No rain. How are we supposed to know when to – or not to – plant our summer gardens?

There are several passages of scripture that speak about a sower, a farmer, a landowner, a vineyard keeper, or a shepherd. Remember the people following Jesus, the people who Jesus healed and prayed with, were agrarian people. They made their living off the land.

Imagine the sower in the gospel of Mark for this weekend. Seeds fall everywhere...some in good soil, some on rocky land and some get eaten by hungry birds. How frustrating for anyone who has tried to grow anything from seed, and this sower was setting seed in order to earn a living allowing him/her to care for his/her family.

In the story the gospeler tells us how the grain grows ... first the stalk, then the head, then the full head – and at what point the sower harvests the grain with the sickle. “Come ye faithful people come,” a familiar hymn often sung near Thanksgiving, contains these words in the first two verses:

1 Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the world is God's own field,  
fruit as praise to God we yield;  
wheat and tares together sown  
are to joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

The hymn writer captures the true essence of this passage of scripture – all the world is God’s own field. None of it belongs to us. We are merely stewards of God’s divine grace and generosity. Like the hymnist, we should also pray to become wholesome and pure wheat in our thoughts, actions, and relationship with others.

When this passage from Mark comes around in the Revised Common Lectionary I often pause to think about the miracle that is that little seed I put in the ground. It is dead. It takes water and sunshine to grow – to be resurrected. While we are more than a little seed, we are but dead save for the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Give thanks for the rain. Feel the sunshine on your face. Bless the seedlings and all of the growing plants and trees living with you in Creation. For God’s bounty is abundant. God is good.

## *Birthdays!*



**Jocellie Llanto  
(St. Joseph) – 6/7**

**Connie Blackmond  
(Niles) – 6/12**

**Amy Durren (St.  
Joseph) – 6/13**

**The Rev. Karen Joy  
Kelly – 6/16**

**Danielle Robinson  
(Niles) – 6/18**

**Paige Lamb  
(Niles) – 6/18**

# *Down Low from Dowagiac*

From the desk of  
Carol Haney, Senior Warden

- ❖ Dowagiac needs extra prayers during their time of discernment. Their Keepers of the Kaleidoscope chapter of the Daughters of the Kings has written a prayer for guidance and strength. Please find it [here](#).

*O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding. Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire.*

*Your St. Paul's Dowagiac parish gives thanks to you for all the blessed years that we have had together. In our current building, with our amazing parish family, past - present and future, and through your grace we have been able to serve the Greater Dowagiac Community in service with our St. Paul Saturdays ministries.*

*Even though we have tried our best to be good stewards of the gifts You have given us, our church is in dire financial straits - at a major crossroads on where to go with what we don't have and what we do. We are lost and looking for guidance; grant us your wisdom during this time of discernment.*

*We WANT to stay together as a parish family. We know you brought us together for a reason, and we want to honor that in any form that we can. We WANT to be able to continue to serve the needs of our community with our food pantry, it not only feeds your flock - but feeds the souls of the workers.*

*We are your sheep - we need You, our Shepherd, to lead us in the right direction. Give us strength, wisdom, compassion, the ability to listen and hear - not only You, but each other, and the conviction to make the necessary decisions.*

*We ask it all for His sake, our King and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## *Just in from St. Joe*

From the desk of Daniel Reed, Senior Warden

- ❖ Beginning in August through November – we will be hosting a “Ladies Lunch Out”. These get togethers will be once a month. All are welcome. Please watch the newsletter and bulletins for dates and places.

## *News from Niles*

From the desk of Kathy Davies, Senior Warden



**Stay safe and  
God Bless!**



## *Anniversaries!*



**Karla and Harold  
Bragg**

**(St. Joseph) – 6/12**

**Jim and Judy  
Sullivan**

**(Dowagiac) - 6/17**

**Donna and Kirk  
Proshwitz**

**(Dowagiac) – 6/18**

**Beth and Matt  
Cripe**

**(Dowagiac) – 6/18**

## *Announcements and Reminders*

### ❖ **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](#).

❖ **CALLING ALL KNITTERS – CROCHETERS – WEAVERS – KNEEDLE POINTERS!!!!** Our first session of ChurchNext's Contemplative Knitting series has gone off with a hit, and interest has picked up in it! Diane+ will be leading another group starting in June. No cost to you – the Covenant is paying for it. If you are interested please let [Diane+](#) know.

## 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  
2410 Miller Dr.  
Niles, MI, 49120

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

## *Let's Get to Know...*

*The Niles Leadership Council Reps*

**Kathy Davies**



- **Which parish is your "home" parish? How long have you been there?**
  - My home parish is Trinity Episcopal in Niles. My first service was my wedding in 1977. I got busy moving across the country and raising my family. We came back to Trinity in the 1980's.
- **What is your responsibility to the Covenant?**
  - I am the soon to be retired treasurer of the Covenant and I am on the Leadership Council. I love all the friends that I had made through the Covenant, there are so many nice wonderful people.
- **What is your favorite part of our Eucharist service?**
  - I think my favorite part of the Eucharist is when we quietly kneel as the hosts are being prepared. It centers me to be able to then take communion. I also love when we are bid to "go and serve the Lord"
- **What is your favorite season, and what is your favorite activity in that season?**
  - My favorite season is a hard one, each has its own beauty about it but lately I have been thinking about Pentecost and having the Holy Spirit come into us.