

Service Schedule



Niles

9:30am

Indoor Eucharist

St. Joseph

9:30am

**Indoor Morning
Prayer**

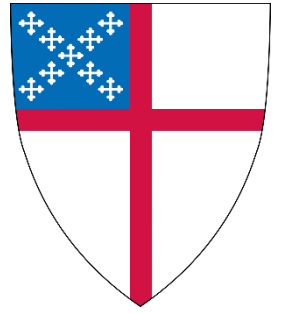
Dowagiac

10:00am

Indoor Eucharist

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

The Covenant Close-up



June 17th, 2021 Issue #81

Worship Materials

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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

The Collect: O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; 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: 1 Samuel 17:57 -18:5, 10-16
Psalm 133

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

The Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

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

In This Edition



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Reflections from the Rector

From the desk of Reverend Diane Pike

I will never forget that Sunday. I remember exactly where I was sitting, in what row and chair at Grace Episcopal Church in Liberty, Missouri. It was the second week of August – the week I was to leave for seminary. Fr. John McCann was preaching.

The gospel was about dealing with rough waters and unknown things. It was about fear and how, as Christians, fear is an irrational emotion. When we believe in God and turn everything over to Christ, there should be no fear. Right? Yeah, right I was petrified. What was God calling me to do? Really???

We all experience fear because we are human. Fear is part of our “fight or flight” mechanism that keeps us out of dangerous situations. The adrenaline rushes to our brains and there is a “Warning, Will Robinson” kind of reaction. Fear protects us.

Fear can also hinder us. It can keep us from experiencing more of life. Fear, when out of control, can be absolutely crippling. Persons with agoraphobia know all too well the fear of venturing outside of their homes, or fear of going into other unknown places. Personally, I have a fear of heights ... not really the height so much as the falling. But flying does not bother me. I also do not like snakes ... there is no rational reason other than they scare me and they are icky. That’s about it for my fears these days.

I’ve been through situations when I was afraid, and I learned early on that when I call on God to help me through fearful and anxiety-provoking times I am likely to get through to the other side with less emotion.

That is, I think, what Jesus is trying to teach the disciples in the boat on this dark and chaotic evening on the lake...how to get to the other side without fear.

So, what is on the other side?

It is different for each of us. For some, it might be starting a new job. For others, it’s a new relationship and/or a new member of the family. For me, it was leaving a good job, my home and my faith community for three years of seminary with no guarantees of a job on the other side. That was fear. I was anxious.

As I look back on it now, I realize God was with me the entire time. I just wasn’t hearing God’s voice or seeing the hand of Jesus reaching out to provide reassurance. Yes, I got to the other side – eventually – but there were some scary moments. All of which made me stronger and more aware of God’s presence in my life.

What do you fear? Naming our fears is the first step toward understanding them and toward asking God to release us from that horrible feeling that sits in our stomach. Without God, without the hand of Christ, fear is one of the most human responses we can experience. With God, following Jesus, fear can be a momentary reaction that makes us aware of something potentially dangerous or otherwise not good for us. After that, it is in God’s hands. God will not let us fall or fail.

Fear – hold it gently, friends. It has its goodness in providing alarms for us when we are walking into something we should not experience. But giving our fears to God gives us much more breathing room and keeps us from suffering that pit of the stomach pain that comes with anxiety and being fearful.

Hold it gently as God holds each of us gently in loving arms.

Birthdays!



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

- ❖ Our next vestry meeting will on Wednesday, June 23rd, at 6:30pm in the church Parish Hall. All are welcome, we will be observing social distancing and require face masks. Canon James will be joining us to discuss the future of our Luncheon program and other opportunities for outreach ministries. If you have any questions, thoughts, concerns, or ideas – please feel free to reach out to Kathy or any of the other vestry members.

Anniversaries!



**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](#).

❖ 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

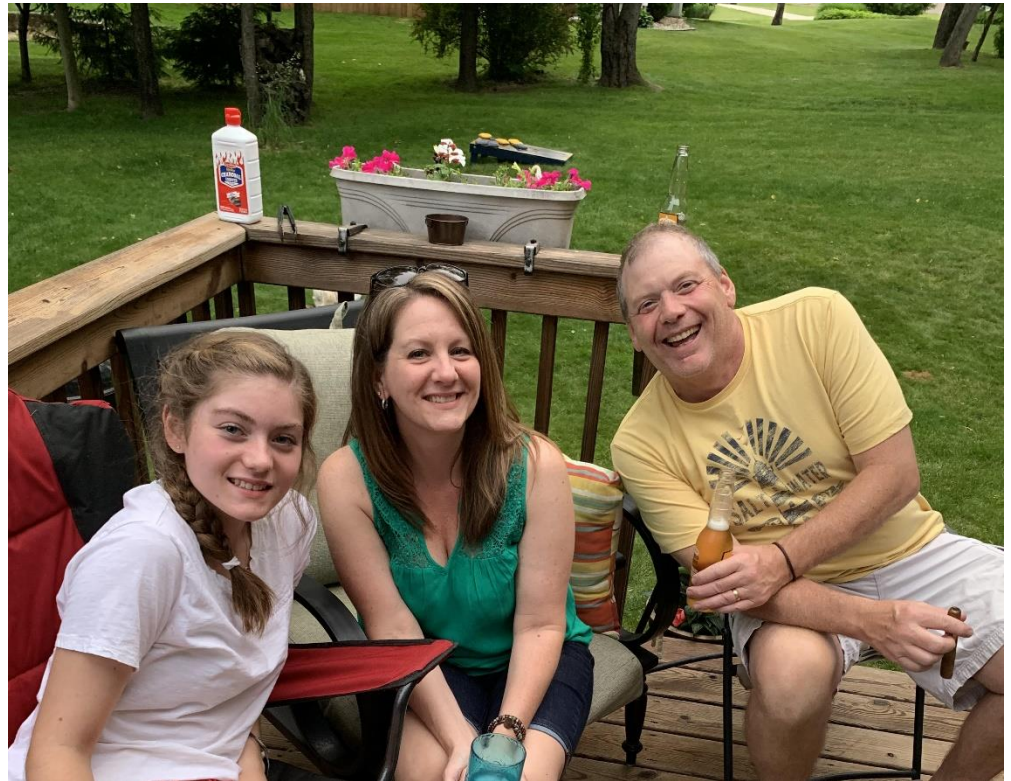
Irene Williams
2410 Miller Dr.
Niles, MI, 49120

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

Let's Get to Know...

The Niles Leadership Council Reps

Chris and Jenny Borst



- **Which parish is your "home" parish? How long have you been there?**
 - Jenny and Chris are members of Trinity Episcopal Church in Niles. Jenny has been a member for 23 years and Chris has been active in the church for 50+ years.
- **What is your responsibility to the Covenant?**
 - Jenny was on the search committee for the hiring process for the priest position and is a current member of the Leadership committee. Chris is a member of the vestry and is on the Leadership committee. He is also in charge of the building, grounds and maintenance for Trinity.
- **What is your hope for the Covenant in 2021?**
 - The hope for the covenant is that now we seem to be getting back to some normalcy, we can somehow grow the base. The vestry in Niles is really trying to find some unique ways to try and grow the congregation.
- **What is your favorite part of our Eucharist service?**
 - Our favorite part of the Eucharist is the Scripture. The Old and New Testament readings along with the Gospel and the way Diane can create a message that is relatable to our daily lives.
- **What is your favorite season, and what is your favorite activity in that season?**
 - Probably our favorite season of the year is Advent, the season of expectation. The favorite part is the worship and the gathering of friends and family during this special time.