

# The Voice of **St. Margaret's**

The Official Newsletter of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church  
2021

Volume 5 Issue 40 January

## Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church is  
To worship, to serve, and to form the spiritual growth  
Of individuals according to the teachings of Jesus Christ



## THE RECTOR'S DESK

*Make the  
most of every  
opportunity in  
2021*

We are now at the end of December. That means there are only two weeks left before we enter 2021. What should we do? Well, I believe that we should **use the last two weeks of this year to build a strong foundation for next year.** Needless to say, 2020 has been a challenging year. The biggest challenge for many of us, of course, is the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has affected pretty much every area of our lives. But here is the thing: *where there is a difficulty, there is also an opportunity.* It is just a matter of perspective. Your

perspective determines your actions, so taking a positive view is essential. Having a positive view will push you take positive actions with a positive attitude. You can then go through this situation not just surviving but thriving. I believe that a time like this is a good time to re-invent yourself. Accordingly, 2021 could be the time for the new you to thrive. That is why you should make the most of rest of this year. That way you can start 2021 strong!

Do you want to reach your full potential? To do so, you need to make the most of every opportunity. The fact is you have many opportunities in life. In fact, you have them *daily*. The question

## Service Schedule

Sundays  
8:am  
Holy Eucharist Rite I  
(No Music)

9:15 am  
Adult Formation Bible  
Study

10:30am  
Holy Eucharist Rite II  
(With Music)

11:00am  
Sunday School

Prayers for Healing  
Following the 10:30 am  
Service

Wednesday 6:30pm  
Bible Study

is whether you make the most of them or not.

How can you make the most of every opportunity? First, it is important that you never take things for granted. Why? Because many of the opportunities you have are things that *seem* normal! So normal in fact, that you might take them for granted. Being healthy is a good example. If you have always been healthy, you might not think that it is a great opportunity. But it is. It is a *great* opportunity. It is something that you should never take for granted.

Having a good Internet connection is another example. The Internet is a land of opportunities, but many people take their access to it for granted. They never make the most of it. They only use a portion of the potential. Besides the opportunities that you have daily, there are opportunities that do not come every day. These are *rare* opportunities. Your job is to recognize them when they come.

After you decide to use an opportunity, make sure that you execute well. If you execute well, you will succeed. But the opposite is also true. So how do you execute well? Pay attention to details while keeping the big picture in mind.

And have the grit to keep working on it in the long run. Now what do you think God's will is for you in the year 2021? Do you think He wants your mind so saturated with worries and anxieties that you cannot think spiritual thoughts? Do you think He wants you so preoccupied that you do not have time for the important things? What do you think God's will is for you this year?

Let me make a couple of suggestions for you to consider. First, establish your priorities. I am assuming that since you are logging-in weekly to a virtual church service, that you believe God should be a part of your life. But when you begin to establish priorities, you have to decide just where He stands in your life. So, ask yourself, "Who or what is most important in my life?" And I am hoping that your answer will be, "My relationship with God, through Jesus Christ, is most important to me." If so, then put that at the top of your list of priorities, and say, "This will affect my decisions, my scheduling, my relationship with others, and my whole outlook on life." "Therefore, when Sunday rolls around no activity will interfere with my being in church because He comes first in my life. I'll worship the Lord, and nothing will interfere with that."

You also need to schedule some definite time each day to pray and to read His Word. Pray for yourself and for your family and for people around you. Pray for the church, and for our ministries. Sometimes the volunteers feel overwhelmed. You'll never know how much your prayers will mean to them. But you will be blessed as you grow in your faith and trust in the Lord!

You must also spend time communicating with your family, especially during this coronavirus pandemic. Spend time with your children via zoom or conference call, and grandchildren too. They're growing up ever so fast. These are precious moments. Don't let them get away. Make sure that you spend quality time with them. Make sure that your family is extremely high on the list. Again, establish your priorities. And then, learn how to live today. The two greatest enemies of time are regrets for things we did in the past, and anxiety about what will happen to us in the future. Many of us are living either in the past or in the future.

Someone said, "Life is what happens to you while you're making plans to do something else." True, isn't it? Another year

has come and gone. A new year stretches before us. Help us Lord, to redeem the time.

And during the New Year 2021 may you have enough happiness to keep you sweet - enough trials to keep you strong - enough sorrow to keep you human - enough hope to keep you happy - enough failure to keep you humble - enough success to keep you eager - enough friends to give you comfort - enough wealth to meet your needs - enough enthusiasm to make you look forward to tomorrow - and enough determination to make each day better than the day before.

Lord, please help us to use every moment of 2021 the wisest way we can for you, and for your glory.

Romans 13:11-12 says, "The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."

Make the most of every opportunity in 2021. **Have a Happy and, Blessed New Year!**

*By: Fr. Dr. Ben Speare-Hardy II*

**Who's Who...**

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*Benjamin Speare-Hardy II, Rector*  
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**Priest Associate**

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**5301 Free Pike**

**Trotwood, Ohio 45426**



**Vestry**

*Agnes George, Senior Warden*  
*Steven George, Junior Warden*  
*Joyce Stone, Church Treasurer*  
*Monty Reece, Assistant Treasurer*  
*James Bolden, Assistant Treasurer*  
*Barbara Hudson-Banner, Secretary*

Mac Howard                      Barbara Bass  
Nancy Butler  
Thora Holder  
Beatrice Ramsey  
Ellen McDaniel  
Karen Schuster-Webb  
Brenda Cochran  
Mitchell Lucas

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**The Voice is Published Monthly**

**Deadline:** 18<sup>th</sup> of Month

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• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

**The Brotherhood of St. Andrew** would like to thank all of our congregation and friends for your love and support of our Men's Day Celebration.

**"To God Be The Glory".**

### January

8 Tammy Tucker  
15 Chelsea Bradshaw  
16 Regina F. Smith  
22 Barbara Hudson Banner  
27 Theresa E. Griffiths

### February

2 Michael Thompson, Jr.  
4 Robert Stockton, III  
9 Ronald Ogletree  
13 James Bolden, Jr.  
14 Monty Reece  
14 Jaysha Williams  
17 Joyce Stone  
21 Ruth McDonald  
25 Rev. Pamula Gaylor  
27 Mac Howard  
28 Jeff Brunson, Jr.

### March

3 Luther Burns  
9 Erin Reece  
21 Bronce McDonald  
23 Brenda Scot-Rile  
23 Brian Scott  
23 Miles Smith Custer  
25 Nikki Parrott  
25 Raymond Lucas

### Anniversary

#### February

5 Frank & Valerie Jackson

### Due to the Covid-19

#### *Worship Leaders*

We've been extended for another indefinably!! 🙏🙏🙏

**Seriously Rock Star Readers, until further notice, I will prepare schedules monthly. Please let me know of any days not workable for you. We will need all readers each month. See Judy for schedule.**

🙏 Stay safe, stay home, stay patient. *Judy Wilson, Coordinator*

**The ECW will have information for 2021 coming soon. Stay Tuned!!**

## **Making the Best...**

### **Being Alone Vs. Being Lonely**

Did you know that there are some differences between being alone and being lonely? Well, since we have experienced a very difficult time lately, this subject may be on the minds of many people simply due to the realization that there are so many people who have no one else around him/her. Nevertheless, there are definitely some differences, but both can be positive.

The first difference is that you can be happy while you are alone, but the same can't be said for being lonely. Think about sitting in a baseball stadium that is full of people. Did you know that you can still be lonely? It is not a question of numbers; however, it is the emotions. You probably don't know any- one in the stadium.

Let's consider this difference. There are some things that are preferable for you to be alone and this is when you are reading. Can you imagine carrying on a conversation with someone nearby or answering a question? You really would like to get to the next

part in the book. The book is your companion.

Think of the manner in which we have been living during the past months and also consider everything that has been going on around us. It's not just the pandemic and the election, but the loss of jobs and all the activities we usually look forward to. It would be easier to mix up these two words, but it would also be better to make a clear disassociation between being alone and being lonely. Although we could mix them up or put them together, there is still going to be a common misconception.

Being alone is a physical state of not being with another individual, whether it is a human being or an animal. I have a friend who just recently got a dog. She didn't set out to get one, but a circumstance came about where she had to when a love one passed away. She was quite accustomed to being alone, but you can't imagine how her life has changed. She was just fine before, but now she's a little better.

Being lonely is a psychological state that is characterized by an experience occurring when social relationships are perceived to be

less in quantity than quality than is desired. So, when the present social contact that you now have doesn't seem to fulfill you, perhaps you were doing a lot better when no one was around- or if you now have a different social contact, you can acknowledge the difference that it is no longer better to not be alone.

So, as we are sometime riding along with the thought that the pandemic is still with us, remember there are many people who are going through social isolation, primarily because we have all been encouraged to stay home. To quarantine and prevent diffusion of the virus to affect other people.

We can all agree that it is not a fun thing to self- isolate. We as humans are a very social species: All of our lives are built around a certain amount of social interaction in physical proximity. Even the most introverted of us can enjoy a limited amount of social contact that has been denied

us though long termed feelings of loneliness can have the same impact on your body as smoking or obesity.

We may be spending a lot of time alone in the coming days. How about we try to make the most of what we experience – whether alone or a little lonely.

Here are a few quotes about the difference between alone vs. lonely. The first is by Ann Landers, a well- known columnist who said: ***“It is far better to be alone than to wish you were.”*** The late actress – Marilyn Monroe said: ***“I restore myself when I am alone. It is better to be unhappy alone than unhappy with someone.”*** Wayne Dyer was a self-help and spiritual advisor and motivational speaker who said: ***“You cannot be lonely if you like the person you are alone with.”*** And according to an African Proverb, ***“It’s better to travel alone than with a bad companion.”***

***Submitted By: Brenda Cochran***



## **Say Hello Too.....**

This time last year, the choir was working very hard on our Cantata, "Everlasting Light". The music is so beautiful it often brought tears to our eyes. But they were happy tears. We were so excited! We were inviting everyone we could think of to come and hear us sing! Robert, who is without doubt, the best music director in the world, never lost faith in us. He really knows how to bring out the best in all people. His faith paid off. We were Superb! The Church was beautifully decorated, the congregation was enjoying Advent and joy was in the air.

This year is a different story, but if you're reading this, you have survived! Maybe not as well as you would have liked, because let's face it, many of us have taken another turn around the sun!

But we still have church every Sunday, and lately, we even have communion. It's not like we've always done it, but we still have an opportunity to participate in the Lord's Supper each week. We get to hear each other's voices, and many of us get to see each other's faces. Bible study is available, as well as daily prayers for those who want and/or need it

But somehow, something is still missing.

God has a plan for all of this. I don't pretend to know what that is, but I am so thankful that he has chosen me to be a part of it. Daily I look around at the world we are living in, and I express my

undying gratitude for the blessings that have been bestowed upon me. I know that things could be so much worse.

I believe that's what we all have to do. I believe we will come through this stronger and better because we have learned so much more about ourselves. Like the ability to find pride in the smallest accomplishments. How to live alone, and like it. How to share your life together, and still find "me time". New recipes, new hobbies, new phone friends, new shows to watch on TV, and how to recognize the amazing grace of God.

Perhaps best of all, we can finally see light at the end of the tunnel. There is a vaccine that shows great promise, and there is a sane person headed to the White House,

I want to end this with something I saw on Facebook recently.

When all this is over, let's have the biggest, best party ever! Let's dye Easter eggs, and have fire works! Let's wear Halloween costumes, and fix a Thanksgiving dinner! Let's decorate a Christmas tree, and sing Auld Lang Syne. Let's celebrate missed birthdays and anniversaries. And let's celebrate being together and Thank God because we are.

**I LOVE YOU ALL!!!! HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*Submitted By: Judy Wilson*



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we move through Advent 2020, we struggle with how best to respond to the dangers of the COVID-19. Even though, as a religious community, we may be afforded certain exemptions by our government, as Christians, we are never exempt from caring for our neighbors and putting other's safety before our own needs and desires.

Yesterday, the Ohio Public Health Advisory System listed only one county in our diocese (Montgomery) as Level 4, the highest health threat alert – Severe Exposure and Spread. Almost every other county is at Level 3. Given the continuing surge in every metric – positive tests, symptomizing patients, hospitalizations, growing numbers in Intensive Care, and COVID related deaths – it is time for all of us to take extreme safety measures for ourselves and others in the midst of a still-growing major crises. After deliberations with Bishop Hollingworth in the Diocese of Ohio, we have come to a common understanding of what this means for The Episcopal Church in the state of Ohio.

Following the prediction of medical experts at both the federal and state level, we join in asking **all congregations in Ohio to suspend all in-person worship by Sunday, December 13 if they have not done so already, and return to worshipping by online services only.** This will continue until further notice, certainly through the end of the month and likely well into the new year. It will also include the suspension of other in-person gatherings, save for feeding, clothing, and recovery ministries. It will be essential to work closely with leaders of those ministries and organizations to determine whether they can be safely continued.

This means that our diocese's previously issued guidelines for worship will be altered with the **instructions for the purple level now applying to both purple and red.** Our state's dangerous situation has increased dramatically

since those guidelines were issued, leading to this revision. ([See revised guidelines](#)) Live-streamed and pre-recorded worship may be offered from churches, with a limit of 10 people in any room for liturgical roles and technological assistance, masked and at least six feet apart. I ask all clergy to join me in a Zoom call on either December 11 or 15, (separate invitation to be issued soon) where we can discuss this further. Until then, you are welcome to reach out to me or any other member of the diocesan staff for assistance.

Taking these steps in this unprecedented emergency is, indeed, an act of faith and a witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus. It is vital that we continue to model Christian charity as we strive to meet the practical responsibilities demanded of us in this time of challenge. By so doing, I believe we can provide hope and protection to those who are suffering from illness, fear and loss. In spite of all of this, we will hear again the angels sing and proclaim joy to the world with unflinching confidence in the incarnate love of God, who is Christ the Lord.

Please know that you are in my every prayer.

The Rt. Rev. Kenneth L. Price Jr.  
Bishop in Southern Ohio



TRAFLY 2020

WEARING A FACE MASK  
IS AN ACT OF LOVE

# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



## **Celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and how it came about.**

[States](#) and [municipalities](#) have enacted King holidays, authorized public statues and paintings of him, and named streets, schools, and other entities for him. These efforts to honour King have focused more on his role as a civil rights advocate than on his controversial speeches, during his final year, condemning American intervention in [Vietnam](#) and calling for the Poor People's Campaign.

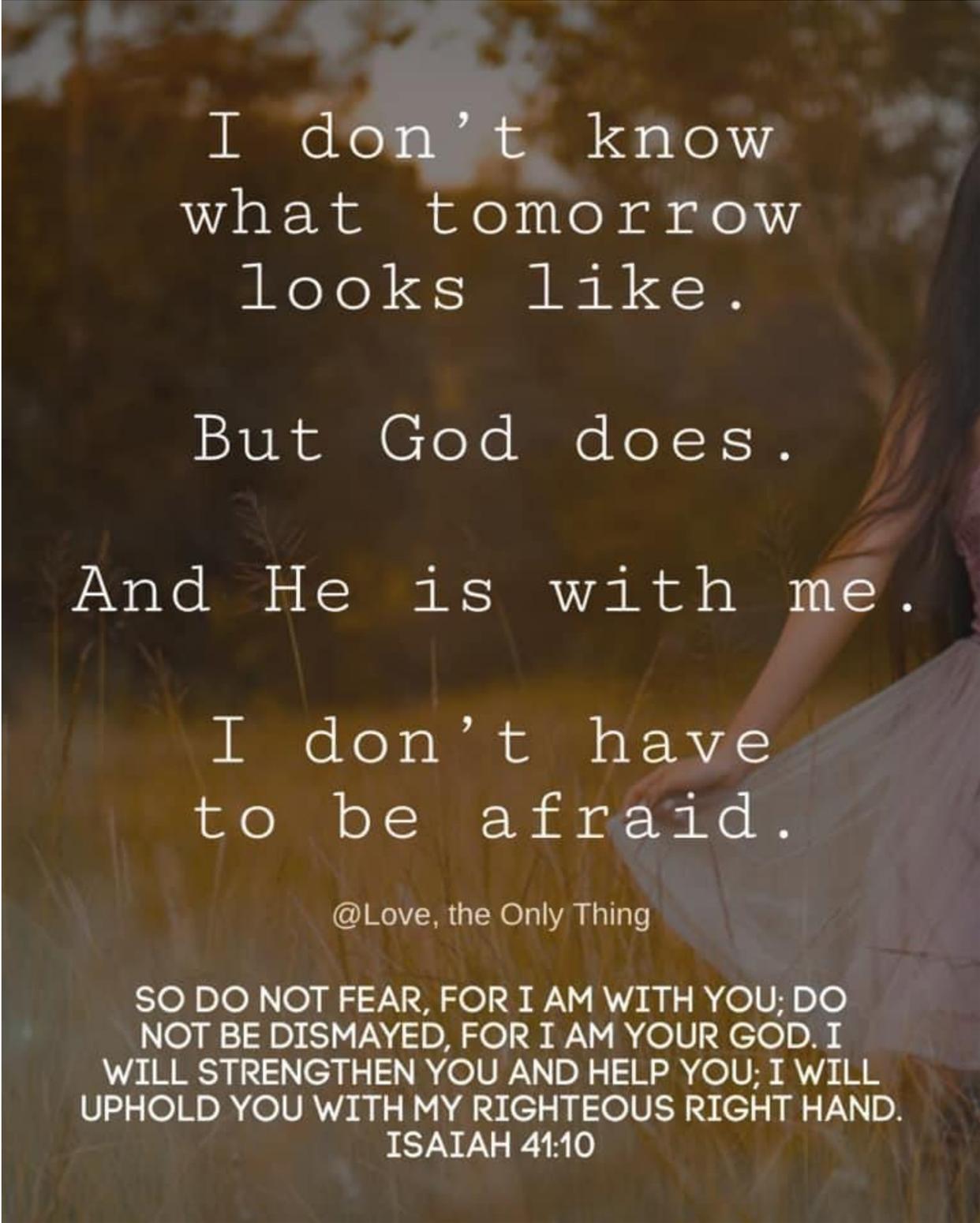
The King holiday campaign overcame forceful opposition, with critics citing [FBI](#) surveillance files suggesting that King was an adulterous radical influenced by communists. Although the release of these files during the 1970s under the [Freedom of Information Act](#) fueled the public debate over King's legacy, the extensive archives that now exist document King's life and thought and have informed numerous serious studies offering balanced and comprehensive perspectives. Two major books featuring King—David J. Garrow's *Bearing the Cross* (1986) and Taylor Branch's *Parting the Waters* (1988)—won [Pulitzer Prizes](#). Subsequent books and articles reaffirmed King's historical significance while portraying him as a complex figure: flawed, fallible, and limited in his control over the mass movements with which he was associated, yet also a visionary leader who was deeply committed to achieving social justice through nonviolent means. Although the idea of a King national holiday did not gain significant congressional support until the late 1970s, efforts to commemorate King's life began almost immediately after his assassination. In 1968 Rep. John Conyers of [Michigan](#) introduced a King holiday bill. The idea gradually began to attract political support once the newly

formed Congressional Black Caucus included the holiday in its reform agenda. Coretta Scott King also played a central role in building popular support for the King holiday campaign while serving as founding president of the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change (later renamed the King Center), which became one of the major archives of King's papers.

Despite the overall conservative trend in American politics in the 1980s, which might have been expected to work against recognition of the efforts of a controversial activist, King holiday advocates gained political support by portraying him as a symbol of the country's progress in race relations. Musician [Stevie Wonder](#) contributed to the campaign by writing and recording "Happy Birthday," a popular tribute to King. In 1983 Coretta Scott King and Stevie Wonder participated in the 20th Anniversary March on Washington, which drew a bigger crowd than the original march.

After the House and the Senate voted overwhelmingly in favour of the King holiday bill sponsored by Sen. [Ted Kennedy](#), Pres. [Ronald Reagan](#) put aside his initial doubts and signed the legislation on November 3, 1983, establishing [Martin Luther King, Jr., Day](#), to be celebrated annually on the third Monday in January. Coretta Scott King also succeeded in gaining congressional approval to establish a King Federal Holiday Commission to plan annual celebrations, beginning January 20, 1986, that would encourage "Americans to reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change espoused by Dr. King."

Celebration of the King national holiday did not end contention over King's legacy, but his status as an American icon became more widely accepted over time. The revelation during the early 1990s that King had plagiarized some of his academic writings and the occasional controversies involving his heirs did little to undermine recognition of King's enduring impact on the country. Even before the first King national holiday, members of King's fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, had proposed a permanent memorial in Washington, D.C. By the end of the 20th century, that proposal had secured governmental approval for the site on the Tidal Basin, near the Mall. In 2000 an international design competition ended with the selection of a proposal by ROMA Design Group. To build and maintain the memorial, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation eventually raised more than \$100 million. Commemorations of King's life were also held in other countries, and in 2009 a congressional delegation traveled to India to mark the 50th anniversary of King's pilgrimage to what he called the "Land of Gandhi."

A person with long dark hair, wearing a white dress, is seen from the side, standing in a field of tall grass. The background is a soft, golden sunset with trees and a bright sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

I don't know  
what tomorrow  
looks like.

But God does.

And He is with me.

I don't have  
to be afraid.

@Love, the Only Thing

SO DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU; DO  
NOT BE DISMAYED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD. I  
WILL STRENGTHEN YOU AND HELP YOU; I WILL  
UPHOLD YOU WITH MY RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND.  
ISAIAH 41:10

**Please remember our sick and shut-in with prayers, calls and cards.**

**Barry Johnson**, 3101 Valerie Arms Dr. #3D, Dayton, OH 45405 (Sylvia Wilson's son)

**Bernadette Wills**, 4821 Old Hickory Place, Trotwood, Ohio 45426

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**Billy Jean Edwards**, Bette and Harold Stratton's son's mother-in-law

**Brenda Wise**, 701 Rosamond Dr., Dayton, OH 45417, (937) 268-8059

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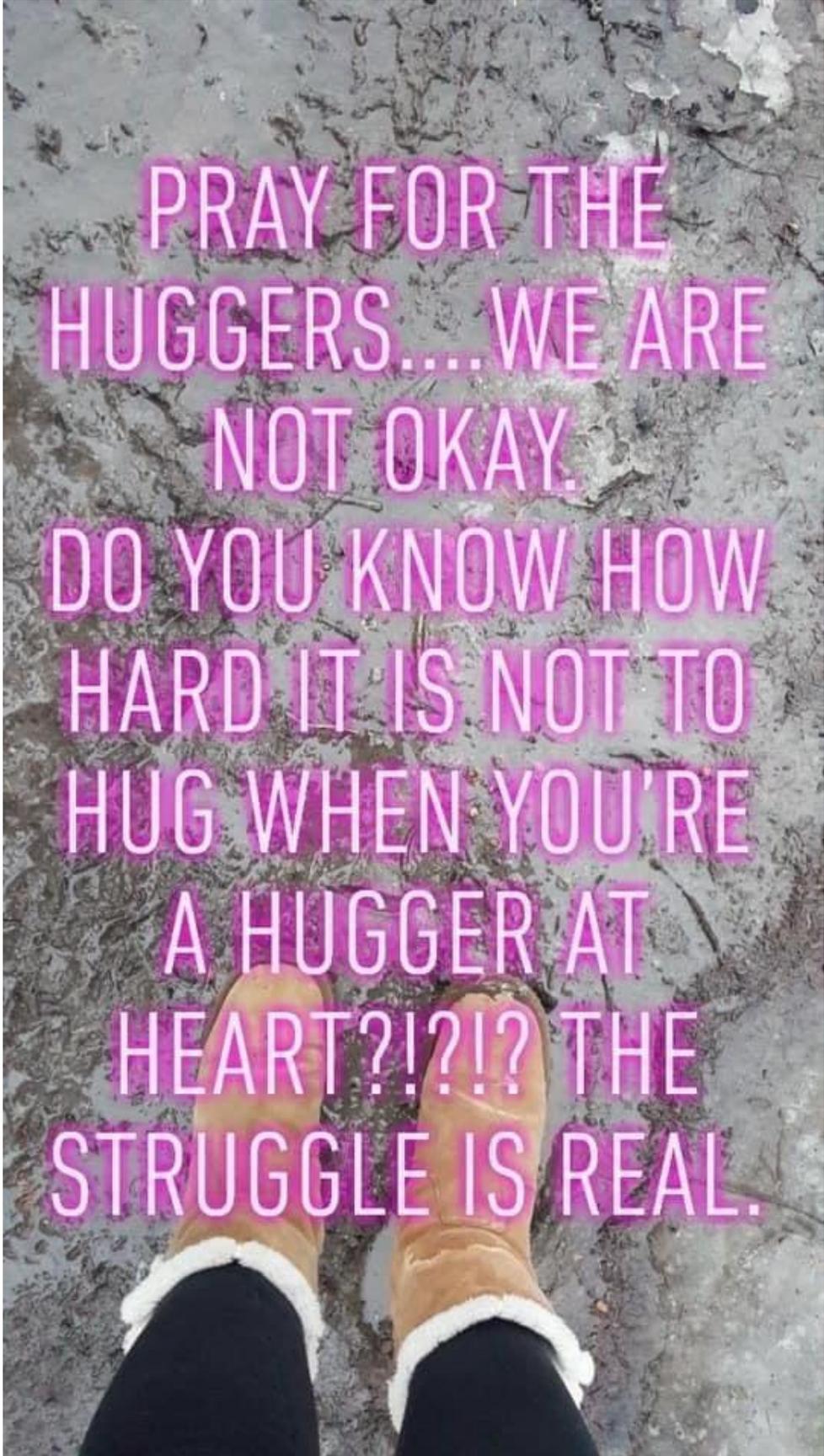
**Shawn Sandridge**, 917 Stolz Ave., Dayton, OH 45408, (937) 268-3967

**Thasha Kuntz**, Cynthia Kilby's cousin

**Theresa Griffiths**, Father Ben's mother who is in Liberia

**Kevin Twyman**, 73839 Mondrian Pl. Palm Desert, CA 92211

**Michael Thompson**, 330 W. First St.#704, Dayton, Ohio 45402



PRAY FOR THE  
HUGGERS....WE ARE  
NOT OKAY.  
DO YOU KNOW HOW  
HARD IT IS NOT TO  
HUG WHEN YOU'RE  
A HUGGER AT  
HEART?!?!? THE  
STRUGGLE IS REAL.



**December 1, 2020**

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**A message from the Standing Committee**

**December 1, 2020**

***Feast of Nicholas Ferrar, deacon***

**Dear friends in Christ,**

**Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**We who serve on the Standing Committee are writing to give updates on our diocesan transition.**

**On November 30, our diocese began a new chapter. We have said thank you to Bishop Breidenthal for his faithful leadership of our diocese over thirteen years. In gratitude for all that he has done, we wish him every blessing in the next chapter of his ministry.**

**In the Episcopal Church, when a diocese is without a diocesan bishop, the Standing Committee becomes the ecclesiastical authority. This formal term indicates that the life and the ministry of our diocese can continue, and many of those things which might have required the bishop can be approved or decided by the Standing Committee.**

**Certain tasks require the ministry of a bishop. For example, only bishops can do confirmations or ordinations. In the immediate near term, we are finalizing arrangements with Bishop Ken Price to serve the diocese, organizing visitations, confirmations, ordinations, and other work that must be done by bishops. His working title will be Bishop in Southern Ohio, though he will canonically serve as assisting bishop, working with the Standing Committee as ecclesiastical authority. Bishop Price will work part-time. Bishop Ken Price is well-known in our diocese, having**

**served here as bishop suffragan. He lives near Columbus.**

**In addition to Bishop Price, we will benefit from the ministry of Bishop Nedi Rivera and Bishop Wendell Gibbs. Many of you will know Bishop Rivera, as she has been living near Cincinnati for several years now and has been a regular presence in our diocese. Bishop Gibbs recently retired from his work as Bishop of Michigan, and he now lives near Columbus. Bishops Rivera and Gibbs will do occasional visitations, while Bishop Price will have a more active role.**

**We have heard from some people who believe that our diocese is healthy and ready to proceed quickly with a search for our next bishop. We have heard from others who believe we have issues that require attention and time to address.**

**We have chosen to have a short time of reflection and assessment of our diocesan ministry and life over the next few months. You will receive more details soon, but we hope to hear from lay people and clergy about the needs and the state of our diocese. We want to get a sense of whether we are ready to embark on a relatively speedy transition heading toward the election of our next bishop, or whether we have particular challenges that might require outside expertise and more time. Look for details about listening sessions, surveys, meetings, and so on, in the weeks to come. We hope to launch this work in January.**

**During this time of reflection and assessment, for the next six months or so, Bishop Price will be visible as a regular presence in our diocese. However, the Standing Committee will retain its role as the ecclesiastical authority. Within three or four months, we expect to be able to lay out a timeline which could include a longer search period (24-36 months) and the need for an outside, provisional bishop; or we may see that we are ready to proceed on a more traditional timeline (about 18 months) continuing without the need for sustained, outside leadership. In either case, the Standing Committee will appoint a bishop search committee, and you will hear more about that in due course.**

**Much of the work of the diocese will continue through diocesan staff, ably led by Canon John Johanssen, Canon to the Ordinary. He will serve as chief of staff, and he will be in touch with the Standing Committee if there are matters which require our attention. Otherwise, diocesan committees and commissions, as**

**well as congregations, clergy, and lay leaders should continue to interact with diocesan staff as usual.**

**We are aware that this communication may answer some questions and raise others. Please contact us with questions, comments, or concerns. You can reach our president, Larry Hayes, by emailing [standingcommittee@diosohio.org](mailto:standingcommittee@diosohio.org).**

**This will be the first of many letters from us, and we want to be as clear and transparent as we can during this period. We expect to be able to write again within a couple of weeks with more details.**

**Of course, this time is not just the beginning of a new chapter for our diocese. We are at the start of our liturgical year, a time in which we look for Jesus and prepare to meet him in our hearts and lives. We have much to celebrate in our diocese, even as we have some measure of uncertainty. But we also know that if we keep our lives oriented toward Jesus our savior, he will bless us.**

**We encourage you to pray for Bishop Tom Breidenthal and Margaret, his wife, as they begin a new chapter. Pray for our whole diocese, and especially for those of us on the Standing Committee who have begun a kind of leadership we could not have imagined a few months ago.**

**You might like to offer this lovely collect from the prayer book.**

**Grant, O Lord, that the course of this world may be peaceably governed by your providence; and that your Church may joyfully serve you in confidence and serenity; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.***

**We wish you the blessings and peace of the Advent season. We are,**

**Yours faithfully,**

**Mr. Larry Hayes, president  
The Rev. Philip DeVaul, vice-president  
Dr. James Allsop  
The Rev. Dr. Ellen Cook  
Mr. Barry Feist  
The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn**

---

And let us not  
grow weary in  
doing good,  
for in due season  
we will reap,  
if we do not lose  
heart.

GALATIANS SIX NINE



## **FIVE THINGS you can do to PREPARE for the LONG WINTER**

This is a challenging time to maintain good physical and mental health, especially since we're mostly staying indoors and more isolated than before. Here are five suggestions from the Mayo Clinic:

1. **Get your flu shot:** if more people are vaccinated for the flu, fewer will become sick and fewer will require hospitalization. This frees up hospital resources for Covid-19 patients in the event of surges.
2. **Keep up with preventive screenings and checkups:** early detection is the best way to improve effectiveness of treatment. In addition, people without underlying conditions appear to recover from, and have lower rates of complication or death from, Covid-19.
3. **Plan an indoor exercise routine:** This is great for your body and your mind! Research indoor fitness options (apps or videos) that you can do at home; maybe even dust off that elliptical or treadmill that makes such a good clothes rack.
4. **Try some outdoor winter activities** such as treasure hunts, hiking, camping, photography; or for the more athletic, cross-country skiing or ice fishing.
5. **Map out a healthy meal plan:** this is a great way to prepare for healthy dinners, simplify grocery shopping (however you do it), and save money. This planning can also eliminate the daily stress of "What's for dinner??", and makes healthy choices easier.



**Dayton Metro Parks wants your Christmas tree!**

The metro parks conservation team is working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to collect up to 450 used holiday trees to help bolster aquatic habitats, making the local fish very happy. Trees can be dropped off at Eastwood Metro Park, 1401 Harshman Rd, through January 21 (except New Year's Day.) Trees will be sunk in the lake, which is fed by the Mad River and contains saugeye, large bluegill, and other fish. Questions? Contact the MetroParks at (937) 275-7275.

## Remembering St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

You may make a bequest to St. Margaret's Episcopal Church by preparing a new will or by adding a codicil to your present will. To make sure your exact intentions are carried out wills and codicils should be prepared by or with the advice of an attorney.

The most useful bequest is an unrestricted bequest for the general purpose of the Church. This permits the Church to use your gift wherever it is needed at the time.

For more information on making a bequest consult your attorney or estate planner.

### Membership in St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Trotwood

If you are currently a member of another Episcopal Church and would like to transfer your membership to St. Margaret's please contact the Parish Administrator at 937-837-7741 so that a request for a letter of transfer can be prepared for you.

If you are not currently a member of an Episcopal Church and desire to become a member we would welcome your commitment to God and the Church. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion in the Episcopal Church and to participate fully in programs and ministries of the Church.

Individuals who have been baptized within any denomination can officially be prepared for membership by attending formal confirmation classes, which are conducted by the church. The Bishop subsequent to class completion will perform confirmation of prepared candidates. Dates for both classes and confirmation will be announced when they have been determined. If you would like additional information or baptism, please call the Parish Administrator at the church office 937-837-7741

**Church Rental:** Are you planning a reception or anniversary, celebration or just looking for a place to hold a musical concert? St. Margaret's can accommodate your needs. Contact the church office at 937-837-7741 for details.



## **Little Known Black History Facts**

### **Watch Night Service in the Black Church in America: 150 Years After the Emancipation Proclamation**

**Many of you who live or grew up in black communities in the U.S. have probably heard of “Watch Night Services” the gathering of the faithful in church on New Years Eve.**

“Watch Night Service” in the Black Church in America symbolizes the historical fact, that on the night of Dec. 31, 1862 during the Civil War, free and freed blacks living in the Union States gathered at churches and/or other safe spaces, while thousands of their enslaved black sisters and brothers stood, knelt and prayed on plantations and other slave holding sites in America — waiting for President Abraham Lincoln to sign the Emancipation Proclamation into law. The Emancipation Proclamation legally recognized that the Civil War was fought for slavery.

One hundred and fifty years later, African American Christians continue the faith tradition of their enslaved ancestors and gather at a designated meeting space, the church, tonight, Dec. 31, 2012, to celebrate; they are the survivors of a people who were defined in the U.S. Constitution as three-fifths human, shackled in chains and denied the right to vote.

One hundred and fifty years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, across denominational lines, African American Christians will join with family members and church members to pray and thank God for allowing them to survive the oppressive Voter Suppression ID laws that were created by states after President Barack Obama was elected the first African American President of the United States. These Voter ID laws mirrored the unethical, racially discriminating poll taxes and voting tests which were enacted after the Civil War.

Like other black churches in America, Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago offers two “Watch Night” worship services — at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. CDT. Thousands of children, women and men will unite in the Spirit of the Lord in the Sanctuary, while other members and guests from as far away as

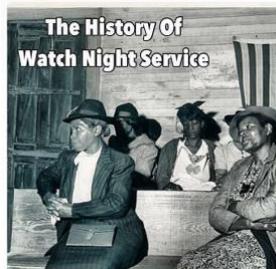
New York, Oregon, Vietnam and Australia will participate in Trinity's "Watch Night" service at [www.trinitychicago.org](http://www.trinitychicago.org). The Men's Chorus and Sanctuary Choir will lead the intergenerational virtual congregation in "Look Where God Has Brought Us."

It is a tradition in the Black Church in America that five minutes before midnight, men, women and children will kneel, hold hands and pray to God from the present year into the New Year.

One hundred and fifty years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation into law, on Dec. 31, 2012, African American Christians engage in their prayer posture, and will reflect upon the fact that approximately 11 million Africans were enslaved during the Transatlantic Slave Trade, where 10-20 percent of them died on the slave ships, and the exact number of enslaved Black children, women and men killed or died during slavery will never be known.

And the choir sings:

*Look where God has brought us,  
look how far we've come,  
we're not what we ought to be,  
we're not what we used to be  
Thank You, Lord, thank You, Lord, for what You've done!"*





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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we move through Advent 2020, we struggle with how best to respond to the dangers of the COVID-19. Even though, as a religious community, we may be afforded certain exemptions by our government, as Christians, we are never exempt from caring for our neighbors and putting other's safety before our own needs and desires.

Yesterday, the Ohio Public Health Advisory System listed only one county in our diocese (Montgomery) as Level 4, the highest health threat alert – Severe Exposure and Spread. Almost every other county is at Level 3. Given the continuing surge in every metric – positive tests, symptomizing patients, hospitalizations, growing numbers in Intensive Care, and COVID related deaths – it is time for all of us to take extreme safety measures for ourselves and others in the midst of a still-growing major crises. After deliberations with Bishop Hollingworth in the Diocese of Ohio, we have come to a common understanding of what this means for The Episcopal Church in the state of Ohio.

Following the prediction of medical experts at both the federal and state level, we join in asking **all congregations in Ohio to suspend all in-person worship by Sunday, December 13 if they have not done so already, and return to worshiping by online services only.** This will continue until further notice, certainly through the end of the month and likely well into the new year. It will also include the suspension of other in-person gatherings, save for feeding, clothing, and recovery ministries. It will be essential to work closely with leaders of those ministries and organizations to determine whether they can be safely continued.

This means that our diocese's previously issued guidelines for worship will be altered with the **instructions for the purple level now applying to both purple and red.** Our state's dangerous situation has increased

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dramatically since those guidelines were issued, leading to this revision. ([See revised guidelines](#)) Live-streamed and pre-recorded worship may be offered from churches, with a limit of 10 people in any room for liturgical roles and technological assistance, masked and at least six feet apart. I ask all clergy to join me in a Zoom call on either December 11 or 15, (separate invitation to be issued soon) where we can discuss this further. Until then, you are welcome to reach out to me or any other member of the diocesan staff for assistance.

Taking these steps in this unprecedented emergency is, indeed, an act of faith and a witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus. It is vital that we continue to model Christian charity as we strive to meet the practical responsibilities demanded of us in this time of challenge. By so doing, I believe we can provide hope and protection to those who are suffering from illness, fear and loss. In spite of all of this, we will hear again the angels sing and proclaim joy to the world with unfailing confidence in the incarnate love of God, who is Christ the Lord.

Please know that you are in my every prayer.

The Rt. Rev. Kenneth L. Price Jr.  
Bishop in Southern Ohio



## **Congratulations**

### **The Rev. Canon Paula Clark Elected Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago**

**Washington D.C. Priest will be first Black person, first woman to hold the job.**

The Rev. Canon Paula E. Clark was elected today to be the thirteenth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. She will be the first Black person and the first woman to hold the position.

Clark, who currently serves as canon to the ordinary and chief of staff in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, was chosen unanimously on the fourth ballot in an election conducted on Zoom from a slate originally composed of four candidates. She received 229 clergy votes and 284 lay votes.

“We Episcopalians are strong people who can model for the rest of this country and the world what it looks like to walk the way of love,” Clark told the convention over Zoom. “God is calling us to a new day and a new way of being.”

## CONT....

Clark was baptized into the Episcopal Church at age 10 by Bishop John Walker, the first Black dean of Washington National Cathedral and first Black bishop of the Diocese of Washington. She received her undergraduate education at Brown University and earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Before entering the seminary, Clark served as public information officer for the Office of the Mayor and the District of Columbia's Board of Parole for nine years and spent five years as director of human resources and administration for an engineering and consulting firm in the District.

In 2004, she received a Master of Divinity degree from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, and served at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Washington, D. C. and St. John's Episcopal Church in Beltsville, Maryland, before joining the staff of Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. Her work for the diocese focused initially on clergy development and multicultural and justice issues.

The bishop-elect is married to Andrew McLean and describes herself as "the proud matriarch of our blended family of five adult children and seven grandchildren."

Clark, who is scheduled to be consecrated on April 24, will succeed Bishop Jeffrey D. Lee, who is retiring on December 31, as bishop of a diocese that includes 122 congregations and more than 31,000 members in northern, central and southwestern Illinois. Under the canons of the Episcopal Church, the diocese's Standing Committee will serve as its ecclesiastical authority during the interim.

The other nominees were:

- The Rev. Edwin Daniel Johnson, rector, St Mary's Episcopal Church, Boston
- The Rev. Dr. Fulton L. Porter III, rector, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Chicago
- The Rev. Winnie Varghese, priest for ministry and program coordination, Trinity Church Wall Street, New York

## **COVID-19 vaccines: Get the facts**

**Looking to get the facts about the new COVID-19 vaccines? Here's what you need to know about the different vaccines and the benefits of getting vaccinated.**

Vaccines to prevent the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) are perhaps the best hope for ending the pandemic. But as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) begins authorizing emergency use of COVID-19 vaccines, you likely have questions. Find out about the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccines, how they work, the possible side effects and the importance of continuing to take infection prevention steps.

### **What are the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine?**

COVID-19 can cause severe medical complications and lead to death in some people. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. If you get COVID-19, you could spread the disease to family, friends and others around you.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can help protect you by creating an antibody response in your body without your having to become sick with COVID-19.

A COVID-19 vaccine might prevent you from getting COVID-19. Or, if you get COVID-19, the vaccine might keep you from becoming seriously ill or from developing serious complications.

Getting vaccinated also might help protect people around you from COVID-19, particularly people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

### **What COVID-19 vaccines have been approved and how do they work?**

Currently, several COVID-19 vaccines are in clinical trials. The FDA will review the results of these trials before approving COVID-19 vaccines for use. But because there is an urgent need for COVID-19 vaccines and the FDA's vaccine approval process can take months to years, the FDA will first be giving emergency use authorization to COVID-19 vaccines based on less data than is normally required. The data must show that the vaccines are safe and effective before the FDA can give emergency use authorization.

## ***Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine***

The FDA has given emergency use authorization to the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Data has shown that the vaccine starts working soon after the first dose and has an efficacy rate of 95% seven days after the second dose. This means that about 95% of people who get the vaccine are protected from becoming seriously ill with the virus. This vaccine is for people age 16 and older. It requires two injections given 21 days apart.

## ***Moderna vaccine***

Moderna has applied for FDA emergency use authorization of its COVID-19 vaccine. Data has shown that the vaccine has an efficacy rate of 94.1%. This vaccine requires two injections given 28 days apart.

Both the Pfizer/BioNTech and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines use messenger RNA (mRNA). Coronaviruses have a spike-like structure on their surface called an S protein. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give cells instructions for how to make a harmless piece of an S protein. After vaccination, cells begin making the protein pieces and displaying them on cell surfaces. Your immune system will recognize that the protein doesn't belong there and begin building an immune response and making antibodies.

## **Can a COVID-19 vaccine give you COVID-19?**

No. The COVID-19 vaccines currently being developed in the U.S. don't use the live virus that causes COVID-19.

Keep in mind that it will take a few weeks for your body to build immunity after getting a COVID-19 vaccination. As a result, it's possible that you could become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or after being vaccinated.

## **What are the possible side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine?**

A COVID-19 vaccine can cause mild side effects, including:

- Pain, redness or swelling where the shot was given
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills

- Joint pain

Most reactions happen with the first few days after vaccination and last no more than three days. If you experience side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, it doesn't mean that you have COVID-19. Take time to rest and recover. If you develop a fever, stay home. However, it's not necessary to get a COVID-19 test or quarantine.

If you have a reaction that prevents you from being able to eat, sleep or work, contact your doctor. Also, contact your doctor if you have a reaction that lasts longer than three days.

Signs of an allergic reaction include hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, and weakness. If you have any of these signs, seek care immediately.

### **How are the COVID-19 vaccines being distributed?**

Due to limited supplies, not everyone will be able to get a COVID-19 vaccine right away.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is a U.S. federal advisory group made up of medical and public health experts. The ACIP has recommended that in the first phase of vaccination in the U.S., COVID-19 vaccines should be given to health care personnel and adult residents of long-term care facilities. Other groups under consideration for early COVID-19 vaccination include workers in essential and critical industries, adults at high risk of severe COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions, and adults age 65 and older.

### **Is there anyone who should not get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

The COVID-19 vaccine is not being offered to pregnant women. This is because researchers don't know enough about how COVID-19 vaccination can affect children, pregnant women or their babies. There is also no data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines for breastfeeding women.

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is not available to children under age 16.

COVID-19 vaccination also might not be recommended for people with certain health conditions. Talk to your doctor if you have questions about getting the vaccine.

Also, if you have a history of allergic reactions, talk to your doctor before getting the vaccine. You might need to be observed for a short time after

getting the vaccine.

### **Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine even if I've already had COVID-19?**

Getting COVID-19 might offer some natural protection or immunity from reinfection with the virus that causes COVID-19. But it's not clear how long this protection lasts. Because reinfection is possible and COVID-19 can cause severe medical complications, it might be recommended that people who have already had COVID-19 get a COVID-19 vaccine.

### **Can I stop taking safety precautions after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?**

Experts want to learn more about the protection that a COVID-19 vaccine provides and how long immunity lasts before changing safety recommendations. Factors such as how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities will also affect these recommendations.

In the meantime, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends following these precautions for avoiding infection with the COVID-19 virus:

- **Avoid close contact.** This means avoiding close contact (within about 6 feet, or 2 meters) with anyone who is sick or has symptoms. Also, keep distance between yourself and others. This is especially important if you have a higher risk of serious illness.
- **Wear cloth face coverings in public places.** Cloth face coverings offer extra protection in places such as the grocery store, where it's difficult to avoid close contact with others. Surgical masks may be used if available. N95 respirators should be reserved for health care providers.
- **Practice good hygiene.** Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw away the used tissue. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Avoid sharing dishes, glasses, bedding and other household items if you're sick. Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces daily.
- **Stay home if you're sick.** Stay home from work, school and public areas if you're sick, unless you're going to get medical care. Avoid public transportation, taxis and ride-sharing if you're sick.

If you have a chronic medical condition and may have a higher risk of serious illness, check with your doctor about other ways to protect yourself.

○  
○ **Helping Those In Need**

On Saturday December 19, 2020 St. Margaret's distributed 100 prepared dinners along with frozen turkeys and hams to the communities of Trotwood and Dayton. We also mailed out \$50.00 Kroger gift certificates to fifty families in need.

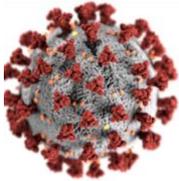
Thank you to Miami Valley Feeds, The Rotary Club of Dayton, The Dayton Caravan and the parishioners of St. Margaret's who came out to help with the distribution. All of the families were very appreciative and thankful to receive the food to put on the table and to help make their Christmas dinner merrier.





There's NO STORM  
that God won't carry you  
through. NO BRIDGE that God  
won't help you cross.  
NO BATTLE that God won't  
help you win. Trust God  
and NEVER Give Up.  
Amen!

# What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others



## Know about COVID-19

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.**
- **The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.**
- **COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.**

## Know how COVID-19 is spread

- **You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.**
- **You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.**
- **You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.**

## Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

- **There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.**
- **Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.**
- **Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.**
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.**

- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol- based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.**

## **Practice social distancing**

- **Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.**
- **If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.**
- **Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.**

## **Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick**

- **Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.**
- **Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.**
- **Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.**
- **There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.**
- **If you need medical attention, call ahead.**

## **Know your risk for severe illness**

- **Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.**
- **Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.**



**[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)**



## **St. Margaret's Episcopal Church**

**We will be Back Soon**

**The Congregation**

**Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m.**

**Via Teleconference Call in Number**

**1-844-621-3956 Pass Code: 172-999-8682#**

**Noonday Prayer 1-602-580-9715 Pass Code: 6434898#**

*Living the Vision from Generation to Generation*



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# Notes