



## The All Saints MESSENGER April 2020

All Saint's Church  
1250 Spear Street  
So Burlington, VT 05403  
Telephone 862-9750  
allsaints16@gmail.com  
website www.allsaintsvt05403

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II  
9 a.m. Adult Forum  
10 a.m. Child Care & Christian Education  
for Children and Teens.

The Rev. Canon David Hamilton, Rector  
The Rev. Peggy Mathauer, Deacon  
Vestry:

Glenn Sproul     Senior Warden  
Whye Yap         Junior Warden  
Josh Cheney  
Charles Conn  
Hilla Damm  
Susan Hartman  
Marian Halloran  
Cheryl Hooper  
Katrina McGibney

Vestry Clerk: Julie B. Pierson

Special Warden for Property: Julie Bonanno

Treasurer: Marcia Corey  
Assistant Treasurer: Iris Darling

Pledge Secretary: Don Crofut  
Assistant Pledge Secretary: Iris Darling

Church Secretary/Administrator:  
Margaret MacLean

Young Children's Ministry:  
Katrina McGibney

Middle School & Teen Ministry:  
Don Crofut

Adult Education Leaders:  
Josh Cheney/Whye Yap

### Precautions Are Prayers In Action

Dear Parish Family,

We are in the midst of and experiencing the most extraordinary health crisis of the century. The coronavirus, which seemed to come out of nowhere, has now sped across the globe to almost every country. Daily we hear of increased hundreds of thousands being infected and thousands dying. With each mandate of increasingly stringent precautionary steps, there are empty mercantile streets, restaurants and pubs being closed and most recently, a "Stay Home and Stay Safe" order from Governor Scott.

There is a pervasive feeling of dread as we are increasingly isolated and common interactions with neighbors, friends, and even family members, are stunted and stilled by social distancing and sheltering-in-place. Hospitals are on the brink of being overwhelmed by the increasing number of seriously sick patients. Field hospitals are being erected to attempt to manage the overflow, while essential medical supplies are running out and warehouses are near to empty.

*(continued)*

Of course, you know all of this! But the remarkable thing is that had someone described a scenario like this, even a few months ago, we would have thought it to be nothing more than a script for a Robin Cook horror movie. But it is real and it is here and therefore more than a bit difficult to really get one's head around. My observation is that this week the reality is truly, finally, sinking in.

When we start to know people who have tested positively with COVID-19, people not in China or Italy, but down the street, members of our church, and even several who died at a facility in downtown Burlington, then this is real. Really real!!

So I must ask myself, much as I suspect you are asking yourselves, "What can we say to these things? If God be for us who can be against us?" The knee-jerk fundamentalist reaction would be that this pandemic is punishment for sins, and if not exactly for ours, certainly for those whom they vilify, depending on race, orientation, immigrant status, or that "we just don't like them".

So if the wrath of God is not responsible for this pandemic, what sense do we make of what is going on? In the midst of this crisis of gargantuan proportions, what makes theological and spiritual sense? I suggest that we look for the ways in which the Holy Spirit and the love and power of God are being manifested within us and right beside us, every moment, every day. Governor Scott, (whom I would not previously thought of as a theologian), today emphasized the profound meaning of fully participating in ALL of the precautionary behaviors which have a chance of stemming the spread of the virus. And in so doing, **SAVING THE LIVES OF OTHERS.**

The sacrificial restraint that each of us shows by every sanitizing, hand-washing, isolating, sheltering, distance-keeping, blood donating, mask-wearing, home-staying behavior, is an act of love. Of course there is some self-serving benefit if by doing so we remain virus free, but it is surprising to me that some cannot see that the "common good" begins with protecting the God-given gift of our own lives. If the greatest prayers are not petitions for what I want, but thanksgivings for what I have, then all our efforts to protect our health and that of my "six feet distant" neighbor is showing genuine gratitude to God. **Each of our precautions is a prayer in action.**

Be well,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David" followed by a small plus sign.

## All Saints Church ✕ South Burlington, VT

We are invited to worship together on-line via [Zoom](#) beginning this coming Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m..

Granted, this is “digital togetherness”, but by using [Zoom](#) we will be able to see and hear one another from the safety of our own homes as we read Morning Prayer.

In a couple of days, an email will be sent out with the contact information you see in the invitation below.

Just shortly before 10 a.m. Sunday, join the meeting by clicking on the [link](#) and follow the instructions (each participant shows up in their own small window on the larger screen and we see and hear each other).

David Hamilton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  
Topic: All Saints Morning Prayer

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/608871002>

Meeting ID: 608 871 002

You will also see phone numbers you can use to phone into the meeting.

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,608871002# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,608871002# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 608 871 002

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aoydvXyFR>

Let us look forward to celebrating  
Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, and  
Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>,  
online using Zoom.

See article about connecting with  
Zoom on previous page.

**The following is part of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's message to the Episcopal Church on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, that some may have already seen.**

“The other thing that I came across was a poem. It was in an email from Thistle Farms, a ministry that many of us know, led by Becca Stevens. It was a poem called *Pandemic\**. It's by a poet named Lynn Ungar, who's also an ordained minister, and in the poem she says:

*What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.*

*And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has become clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.*

*Promise this world your love—  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.*

Have a blessed week. God love you and keep the faith.”

## South Burlington Food Shelf Covid-19 Update

### Current status

Following the Governor's update to his Executive Order "stay home", we wanted to provide another update to you as well.

The Food Shelf is considered an essential service under the updated order as an entity that "provides necessities and services to economically disadvantaged populations". As such, we can continue to operate but like all organizations we are being very deliberate in our actions.

We are also sensitive to the volunteer nature of the operation, so we reached out via email to the advisory board and hosted a conference call with the Faith Influenced Leaders and Peter. We wanted to discuss items such as: the growing need for the food shelf due to layoffs and other displacements, the risk of being a vector for spreading the virus, and the health and safety of those that use the food shelf's services and those that volunteer in person, among other items.

With the new process that Peter has put in place we've minimized as many person to person contacts as possible and will continue to serve our community. At the same time, we want to be very clear that any in-person volunteer who is not comfortable being present at the food shelf should feel free to stay home. Your health and safety is of the utmost importance. If you make this choice, please know you'll be welcomed back with much love when we are past this pandemic crisis.

## So much Gratitude

### South Burlington is so awesome

Monetary donations have increased over the past two weeks and we're so grateful. Since mid-March we have seen an unprecedented set of financial donations topping the \$10,000 mark.

We've also continued to see food donations by individuals and groups. Trader Joe's has also continued to supply us with great food.

It is not possible to put into this short newsletter the love we see being expressed through all this. These food and financial supports are directly helping those that are hungry and it's hard to imagine a time that this sense of caring for each other is as vital as it is right now. We are in awe of you all and we know those we assist are truly grateful.

### A bit more.

If you're in need of food and in self-isolation, know that you can send a proxy to pick up food for you.

Make a donation online at [www.southburlingtonfoodshelf.org](http://www.southburlingtonfoodshelf.org) or send a check payable to the South Burlington Food Shelf, P.O. Box 9417, South Burlington, VT 05407-9417.

### Food Needs

Look to our Facebook page for our current needs.

Peace, Patrick & Peter

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**Here's a delightful poem written in the style of  
Gilbert and Sullivan – “Pirates of Penzance” –  
which speaks to our current situation**

The author is Lorraine Kawecky, the mother of one of Marga Sproul's daughters-in-law, Katie Tunning. Lorraine is sheltering in place at her home in Cincinnati.

I am the very model of effective social distancing!  
I listen to the experts on the topic of resistance-ing;  
I know that brunch and yoga class aren't nearly as imperative  
As doing what I can to change the nation's viral narrative.

I'm very well acquainted, too, with living solitarily  
And confident that everyone can do it temporarily:  
Go take a walk, or ride a bike, or dig into an unread book;  
Avoid the bars and restaurants and carry-out, or learn to cook.

There's lots of stuff to watch online while keeping safe from sinus ills  
(In this case, it's far better to enjoy your Netflix MINUS chills!)  
Adopt a pet, compose a ballad, write some earnest doggerel,  
And help demolish Trump before our next event inaugural.

Pandemics are alarming, but they aren't insurmountable  
If everybody pitches in to hold ourselves accountable.  
In short, please do your part to practice prudent co-existence-ing,  
And be the very model of effective social distancing!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Aaron Welch
- 4 Shanti Mathauer
- 5 Eddie Hockenbury
- 6 Betty Packer  
Becky Herbig
- 8 Bruce Bosley
- 10 James Bogdanovich
- 16 Joe Nieters
- 17 Cheryl Kail
- 22 Meg Huffman  
Dan Staples
- 23 Glenn Sproul
- 27 Jackie Duval
- 28 Dot Edgerton
- 29 Michael Premsagar

IN MEMORIAM

- 28 Evelyn Munson



All Saints Episcopal Church  
1250 Spear Street  
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“Find your roots in the rituals and traditions of a people with a history.”