



The

MAY 2020

# TRUMPETER

*St. Christopher's Episcopal Church*  
*8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday Services*

## ONLINE SERVICE SCHEDULE

### SUNDAYS

8 am - Morning Prayer Service via Facebook Live & Zoom  
*Zoom Gathering following*

10:15 am - Morning Prayer Service with Music  
via Facebook Live & Zoom  
*Zoom Gathering following*

### WEDNESDAYS

5:30 pm - Evening Prayer via Facebook Live  
6 pm - Bible Study via Zoom

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*and so much more!*



# SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Dearest St. Christopher's Members,

Oh, how I miss you all! Its been such a short time away but it feels like forever. This isolation can be a blessing in disguise as we stay at home. Family, learning technology, sorting out long neglected chores, staying safe, praying for others, continuing our education online, learning a new skill, and worshipping together online are just a few new realities for us. Hopefully, the activities we always wished for are now wishes coming true.

As we go forward let us worship and pray nonstop for our world, country, state and our church worldwide and here in Grand Blanc. Keep the Faith and see you soon!

Blessings,

*Jane Brewer*  
Senior Warden

## PRAYER UPDATE

The Prayer Team is still praying for existing requests.

We will gladly accept new paper requests whenever we can once again gather in our building. In the meantime, requests can be submitted for inclusion during either our Sunday Morning Prayer or the Diocesan Monday/Thursday afternoon healing prayer services on Facebook.

Requests can be submitted to the Rev. Ann Grady or the Rev. Michael Spencer.

*Linda Rathburn*  
Prayer Team Member

## SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We'll meet again when we can. When we last met in person in February we finished up our profile and the additional questions that are required with the profile submission. That means we were ready to wait anyway while those items were reviewed and processed. When we hear anything about our process, we'll let you all know.

*Linda Rathburn*  
Search Committee Member

## ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
(810) 694-3600

*Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org*

### STAFF

The Right Reverend Whayne Hougland Jr,  
*Bishop Provisional of the  
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern MI*

The Reverend Ann Grady  
*Priest in Charge*  
*RevAnn2709@gmail.com*

The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr,  
*Priest in Residence*  
*FrMike@stchrisgrandblanc.org*

The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie,  
*Associate Emeritus*

The Reverend Canon Michael Spencer,  
*Assistant to the Rector*  
*Michael@stchrisgrandblanc.org*

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*  
*Nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org*

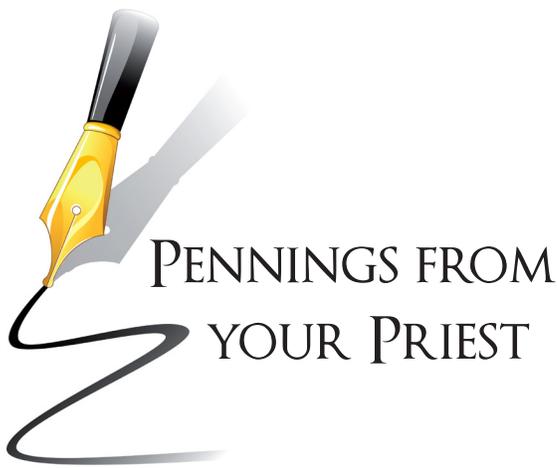
Dr. Greg Hassold, *Parish Organist*  
*Greg@stchrisgrandblanc.org*

Elizabeth Sailus, *Administrative Assistant*  
*Elizabeth@stchrisgrandblanc.org*

Matt Mackinder  
*Director of Christian Education*  
*Matt@stchrisgrandblanc.org*

Ashley Sweers, *Nursery Coordinator*  
*Ashley@stchrisgrandblanc.org*

Joel Stoeklin, *Sexton*  
*sexton@stchrisgrandblanc.org*



Under normal circumstances my first use of the clergy space in the parish newsletter would be to introduce myself. These are not normal circumstances; my backstory can wait.

The fact is our normal has been smashed to smithereens. Shards of our lives before COVID-19 are strewn everywhere.

We've been hunkered down in our homes for how many days now? I've lost count.

Many of us aren't working and wish we were. Many of us are working and wished we weren't required to do so.

Many of us who live alone have about "had it" with social isolation. And, if our mental health or sobriety is fragile, loneliness can be dangerous.

Many of us who live with others feel the strain of being together all day, everyday. And if there is a history of abuse, such a living situation could prove lethal.

We struggle with our children's remote learning – getting it to work; and getting our kids to do the work.

We grieve all the life milestones that won't happen because it isn't safe – graduations, weddings, births of grandchildren, funerals.

The way we practice our faith has also changed. Our buildings have been closed since mid-March, and, it remains to be seen, when we can again worship in the nave. So we worship using electronic devices.

We wish we could take communion. But we can't. So we try to get used to Morning Prayer.

Zoom no longer just means to speed quickly. It is now the means by which we conduct business. It's the only way to see family from we which are separated.

All of this feels heavy and burdensome and endless. We want it to be over. NOW.

My friends, this situation is redeemable. There is hope.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the systemic injustices in our society – income inequality, access to medical care, access to healthy food, segregation in housing, insurance connected to employment, to name a few.

The Church will have the Gospel on its side when it speaks truth to power. We will have the mandate of our Baptismal Vows propelling us to get involved in remedying these entrenched injustices.

We have more opportunities than ever to pray together and worship together thanks to a plethora of virtual services – Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline, and Prayers for Healing – accessible to us on various platforms.

We are being more intentional during this time to check in with fellow parishioners. And we still have coffee hour, virtual though it is.

*...continue on page 4...*

*“Pennings from Your Priest” cont. from pg 3...*

Our environment is healing in remarkable ways because we’re driving less, flying less, emitting fewer pollutants into the air.

We will start a reentry of sorts – gradually and in stages. Still, the patience of many of us will continue to be tried.

So, for this time and into our uncertain future, I offer you one of my favorite psalms.

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;\*  
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD\*  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved\*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel\*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you;\*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,\*  
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;\*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and  
your coming in,\*  
from this time forth for evermore.

Blessings,

*Rev. Ann*

Priest-in-Charge

Flowers outside the church building in April  
Photo taken by Jane Brewer.



## MASK MINISTRY

We're starting a mask ministry! Calling all sew-ers, quilters, and others who are interested and want to help make face masks for the church and our community!

Face masks in public are quickly becoming the norm, and have been mandated by the Governor's recent executive order when conducting essential business in public like shopping for groceries. Many front line workers and some in essential industries are required to wear them as well as our community joins efforts to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. Sometimes those masks are homemade, and they're often much appreciated by those who need a steady supply of new

ones and can't get them from Amazon or other suppliers. This is something we can help with, and we can do it in the comfort of our homes, all the while giving thanks to God for the chance to serve others in this important way.



We're going to start by having a Zoom gathering to talk about sewing face masks. Jackie Beal and Joyce Thewalt, known for

their quilting expertise, will be on hand to share their sewing wisdom and encouragement. We'll share patterns for those who need them, and we'll help each other obtain supplies as needed. We'll keep a supply of our masks at the church for our use, and all the extras will be donated to organizations such as hospitals, nursing homes, grocery stores, etc, as long as they need them and as long as we keep making them.

If you're interested, please contact Fr. Michael and let him know you'd like to get involved. Even if you can't do the Zoom meeting, you can still participate. After we have at least a handful of folks signed up, we'll set up a time to get started.

*Fr. Michael*

Assistant to the Priest

## UPCOMING LESSONS

RCL YEAR A

### May 10 - Easter 5

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Acts 7:55-60

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

### May 17 - Easter 6

Psalm 66:7-18

Acts 17:22-31

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

### May 24 - Easter 7

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Acts 1:6-14

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

### May 31 - Pentecost

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

Acts 2:1-21

or Numbers 11:24-30

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

or John 7:37-39

### June 7 - Trinity Sunday

Psalm 8

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

**Find the readings every  
week on the church  
website or at  
[lectionarypage.net](http://lectionarypage.net)**

# CHOOSE HOW YOU GIVE

*"All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God."*

- Deuteronomy 16:17

## Give easily and securely...

If you are able to continue your pledge through these challenging times we have several options:

1. Mail in your pledge to address below
2. Online Giving:  
<https://onrealm.org/SaintChristopher/give/now>
3. Text StChrisGB to 73256



**St. Christopher's  
Episcopal Church**  
9020 S. Saginaw Rd.  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

If you have questions about giving, please feel free to contact the church office:  
(810) 694-3600  
or [office@stchrisgrandblanc.org](mailto:office@stchrisgrandblanc.org)



## INFORMATION FOR ST. CHRIS STEWARDS REGARDING CARES ACT CHARITABLE GIVING INCENTIVES

Stewardship can be deeply spiritual, rooted in a desire to reorient our lives towards God, but it also has a practical side.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, signed into law on March 27, 2020, includes several provisions that may affect charitable giving this year.

**New charitable deduction for taxpayers who do not itemize.** Beginning in 2020, individuals can deduct \$300 in charitable contributions from their gross income even if they do not itemize their deductions. Donations must be made in cash to a charity. Gifts of appreciated securities, and gifts to a donor advised fund or supporting organization, do not qualify. Although the permissible amount is modest, it is a new benefit available to many of your donors.

**No cap on charitable deductions for taxpayers who do itemize.** Donors who itemize their deductions can usually deduct cash contributions up to 60% of their adjusted gross income. For 2020, that cap is lifted, and donors contributing cash to charity may deduct up to 100% of their income, a significant tax savings for anyone able to contribute larger amounts. Again, this is only for gifts of cash, and only for gifts made directly to charity (not to donor-advised funds or supporting organizations).

**No required minimum distributions, but qualified charitable distributions still possible.** The CARES Act eliminates required minimum distributions (RMDs) from many retirement plans in 2020. Some donors have been using their RMDs for tax-advantaged charitable gifts by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to charity. Under the CARES Act it is still possible for donors who are 70½ or over to contribute up to \$100,000 directly to a charity without paying tax on the distribution. This remains a beneficial way for donors to make gifts to your church.

The CARES Act is a complex new law. This memo is intended only as a summary of provisions that may be important for church stewardship efforts. Donors should always consult with their own professional advisors before making a gift.

# AN UPDATED PASTORAL DIRECTIVE FROM THE EPISCOPAL BISHOPS OF MICHIGAN

Dear Friends in Christ,

As people of faith, we follow the commandment Jesus gave us - to “love our neighbors as ourselves.” Loving our neighbors these days, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, means setting limits. This is how we love our neighbors - by working to slow the spread of this extremely contagious, life-threatening virus. We know that coming together, even for the best of reasons, can spread this disease.

On March 17th, we issued a pastoral directive that put all of our 203 congregations on hiatus from in-person gathering until May 10th. Today, we extend that directive and offer a plan for how we might engage re-entry when it is advisable to do so. We know that if we resume gatherings prematurely, we will force our most vulnerable members to make the choice between keeping themselves safe and participating in congregational life.

The linked “Plan for Re-Entry for Great Lakes Episcopalians” articulates three phases for re-entry into our new normal. Currently, we are in Phase I and will remain in Phase I until further notice, pending further recommendations from public health experts and the State. When we are able to progress into Phase II, we will communicate the return date at least ten days ahead of the change.

Furthermore, as we continue to respond to this pandemic in the way we gather for worship, formation, and fellowship, we must consider how to respond more fully to the injustices being revealed by this pandemic - food insecurity, racial bias, access to healthcare, a living wage, housing, and education. As a people of faith who believe in the power of resurrection and new life, we are committed to naming and addressing these injustices so that the kingdom of God may come nearer. We must be asking - how might our faith communities use this crisis as a catalyst for re-imagining our ministries and priorities to come alongside a world in grief? What tangible steps will we take to address these issues?

And, as we continue to follow recommended guidelines for safety, please remember to embody hope as we pray. Pray for the ill and recovering, for the grieving, and for the lonely. Pray for researchers, medical professionals, health policy experts, front line workers, and for those who clean and stock and ship. Pray for our clergy and our staffs. And pray for each other - that we may be filled with God’s courage and compassion in the midst of fear and unknown.

Peace be with you,

The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr.  
Bishop, The Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan  
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry  
Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan  
The Rt. Rev. Rayford Ray  
Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan

**This letter and the full “PLAN FOR RE-ENTRY FOR GREAT LAKES EPISCOPALIANS” are available on the Diocesan website: <http://eastmich.org/coronavirus/>**



It goes without saying that the Grand Blanc community has experienced many challenges in the past few weeks. Additionally, we know that once the Stay in Place Order is lifted, our challenges will not automatically cease and desist. We will continue to have families struggling to put food on the table.

I'd like to take a moment to update you on how FISH is responding to the need. We have temporarily closed our Pantry and combined it and our Food Rescue Distributions into a single operation. And we have increased how often we hand out food from twice to four times a month with the thought that we could

distribute less to more recipients. However, when we made these plans in mid-March, it was just before the schools were closed and we lost the frozen foods we normally received. And then the Food Bank suspended the availability of free produce, dairy and reclamation items. This, of course, put our program in jeopardy because of inventory and budgetary restraints.

Prayers were answered when we received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint's Urgent Relief Fund. These monies will allow us to continue handing out some 2,400 meals to 300 individuals weekly.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church is continuing to allow us the use of their Fellowship Hall to operate a no-contact drive up food distribution. Foods are pre-packed by family size and then placed on the pavement next to the auto and once the volunteer has walked away, the occupants can load them. The distribution begins at 3 pm each Monday on a first come, first served basis until the food is gone.

Recipients are required to provide a valid MI picture ID and verification of residency.

With the help of Grumlaw Church, we are delivering to residents who cannot attend for reasons of health, no auto or no one to assist them.

We appreciate your continued support of volunteers, financial and other donations to continue this program. We do plan to revert back to our 1st and 3rd Mondays on September 21.

Stay safe, stay healthy.

*Barb Smith*  
Chairman, FISH of GB



Cars lined up for Monday "drive-through" Food Distribution. Photo on MLive and in Diocesan "The Feast" Newsletter.