



EPISTLE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville, Ohio

Helping all people find a connection to God's community.

June, 2020

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Day of Pentecost

Morning Prayer, Rite II

10:30 AM

Please note that if you feel ill, have a cough or fever, please stay home. It's a good practice to check your temperature before you leave home during this time of pandemic. Face masks are necessary, and will be available at the garden and nave doors. Services will continue to be streamed on Facebook Live.

www.facebook.com/episcopalgreenvilleohio

A Statement of Mission



As Episcopalians in the
Diocese of Southern Ohio,
we commit to:

- † Know the common story
Deut. 11:18-21
- † Proclaim our common
faith
Matt. 28:19-20
- † Pray our common prayer
1 Thess. 5:16-19
- † Drink the common cup
Mark 10:38
- † Serve the common good
Matt. 25:37-40

In the name of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ.
This is our common
ministry.

The Church Picnic, originally slated for Sunday, June 14, has been postponed. We will try to reschedule it for early Fall.

COMING HOME AGAIN

Do you remember the first time you left your family home for an extended period, and then after several weeks, maybe months or years, you returned? My first such time was when I went away to graduate school in 1979. I commuted to college for four years, then was admitted to a program in New Jersey. All I knew about New Jersey at that time was that my mom's sister married a man from there, and it took us quite a while to understand him because he talked so fast.

Anyway, we had a Fall break, which was when the school choirs toured and performed. I wasn't in a choir that semester, so I drove back to West Virginia on the Monday of break week. It was a cloudy, rainy October day, until I began climbing the hill that stood at the border between Maryland and West Virginia. As I passed under the welcome sign that marked the border, the clouds parted and the sun shone on the other side of the mountain. I smile now, but that really did happen.

On Sunday, we will again open our doors to allow entrance into the church building for worship. As it often is when we return home, we'll find some things have changed. I've written about them before, but as we draw near to that time, perhaps a reminder or two is in order.

As you enter, you'll find that bulletins will be handed to you by an usher wearing a mask and gloves. Hopefully, you will be wearing a mask, too. We don't have enough of a handle on this coronavirus to be comfortable not protecting ourselves and each other, despite what some politicians might say and do.

Once you enter the Nave, you'll see a table with an offering plate and a bottle of hand sanitizer. You'll also find a bin with cloth face masks if you need one, and if you didn't bring your own, you'll need one. We will not be passing the offering plates during worship, so your contributions can be placed in the plate as you enter or as you depart.

As you enter, you will notice indications as to which pews to use. These indications may change from week to week, and we're hoping to not to have to resort to barricade tape. We may get a bit creative, maybe even humorous as time goes on. Please sit near the indicated space. Each pew is exactly three feet from its neighbor in front or behind, while the middle aisle is five feet wide. So we're alternating ends of the pews in order to allow us to use each pew as needed. Please do not sit directly in front of or behind others. Families who arrive together, and those who have been together in the same household will please sit together.

We will continue to use Morning Prayer II for the time being, and instead of singing hymns, we will speak the appointed canticles. There will be no procession in the aisle; officiant(s) will enter through the sacristy door near the altar. We will have only one lector to alleviate the need to disinfect the microphone between readings.

Preaching will be done from the choir steps, as that is the minimum distance from the front pews as recommended by the CDC. That recommendation is that there be nine feet of space between readers and preachers who need to project their voices and, in turn, produce more aerosol droplets that may contain unknown quantities of viruses and bacteria, if present in that person. Lectors and your preacher will wear masks. And perhaps a note here will help us understand why we're not sharing the Eucharist. One, we cannot maintain a six foot distance while distributing it. And a more important reason is that we would need a shield on the altar like restaurants place over salad bars and buffet steam tables. Even a face mask won't prevent some aerosol droplets from escaping. Go ahead and cringe a bit if you must while thinking about that.

To help us not spread a virus we don't know we have, all announcements will be printed in the bulletin, which will also contain everything you'll need during worship. Please do not handle prayer books or hymnals. Even though

the coronavirus has been shown to not be as easily transmitted from surfaces, we will choose to err on the side of caution. If it becomes necessary, all books will be removed from the pews and stored until we can use them again.

When our service is concluded, please leave the bulletin in your pew unless you want to take it home for future reference and study of the lessons. We will collect them during cleaning during the week, and recycle them appropriately. You may keep a face mask you may have received from the church. They are machine washable (and have been already before first use). If you do not wish to keep it, please leave it in the pew. And just in case anyone wants to be “helpful” and collect items from the pews, please be most helpful and leave things as they are. A day or two in the pew greatly reduces any chance of transmission of the virus. And with one service each week, and seven days between services, we will not need to deep clean and disinfect every surface after services have ended.

Finally, please maintain all social distancing protocols during any conversation. Many suggest that we dismiss congregants by rows to leave in order. If we had hundreds of folks attending, we would need to do this. Just make sure that you don’t block aisles, doorways, or walkways while engaged in conversation with others. Move to the garden area, or the back lawn if needed. And, if you use a restroom, please wipe any handles with a clean paper towel after use. Sometimes it’s difficult to wait seven days for everything. Remember — there will be no coffee hour or need to go to the basement except for restroom use.

So as you can see it’s going to be a bit different as we return home. Maybe the clouds will part and the sun will shine. Since we may need to limit our use of fans, maybe the sun will wait until we’re finished. But nevertheless, it will be good to be home again and to see all those smiles hidden behind masks. If we work together on keeping each other safe, we can continue to meet together. Hopefully enough of us will do this in our community that we will not see the expected surge in cases all around us.

—Wayne+

PLEASE KEEP OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

Ally Roessner; Kay Shockney; Jeff Raymond; Jim Dunwoody; Meredith Carpe; Joyce Miller; Terri Hunt; Eldon Wolter; Sharlean Stanley; Paul Alexander; Alicia Morgan; Connie McCarroll; Todd Shellabarger; Don Shellabarger; Linda Cassel; Lynn Harvey; John Harvey; Ellen Doss; MaryAnn Cornell; Darrell Wintrow; Duane Johnson; Michelle Pitsenbarger; John McCracken; Nancy Brumbaugh; Jan Dunwoody.

All those who suffer because of the coronavirus, including those who are unemployed because of it, those who are isolated at home and are lonely, those who grieve the loss of family and friends, and healthcare workers and first responders who face it each day.

We pray also for government and community leaders who must make difficult decisions to help everyone stay safe.

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of your servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by your gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

June 2020

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																															
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28 9:30 AM Morning Prayer	29	30 Bulletin Information Due	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">May 2020</th> <th colspan="7">Jul 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				May 2020							Jul 2020							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2				1	2	3	4	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	31													
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***During this time of uncertainty and waiting, here are some helpful internet sites
for worship and inspiration***

Our live-stream services are here

www.facebook.com/episcopalgreenvilleohio

For Diocese of Southern Ohio events and offerings

www.episcopaliansinconnection.org

then click on the "Doing church" during COVID-19 button

For Daily Offices and other meditations

www.missionstclare.org

prayer.forwardmovement.org

dailyoffice.app

<https://dailyoffice.wordpress.com/>

for the Daily Office in Quarantine

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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