



St. David's Episcopal Church

APRIL DOVETALE

2022

MISSION STATEMENT:

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to love and serve God and community, committing ourselves to lives of joyful worship, prayer, and the teaching of Scripture.

Holy Week

You can find all the details about the remainder of Lent and also Holy Week in this issue of the *Dovetale*. Here I just want to emphasize the importance of Holy Week in particular.

Holy Week was the nucleus of the entire Christian year. First there was Easter. Then Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the rest of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday. Next came Lent as a season of preparation for Holy Week. Finally, the rest of the Christian year was filled in. The entire Christian year matters. But Holy Week was the start of it all.

Part of the work of Holy Week is properly done at home. Try to take a little extra time for prayer that week. Reflect on your life with God, where you stand now and where you would like to be. Ask God's help in taking another step forward on your Christian journey.

Some of that work is best done with each other. We offer a lot of options at Saint David's, and we co-sponsor events at other area Churches as well. Gathering with brothers and sisters in Christ is important.

I encourage you to make a particular effort to attend the **three services at the core of Holy Week**: *Maundy Thursday*; *Good Friday*; and *Easter Sunday*. Those three services encapsulate in miniature the entire gospel story. We hear the story of the first time Christians gathered around the table to celebrate the Eucharist. We hear again the awful events of Christ's death. Finally, we hear the good news of great joy that Christ has risen, that Christ is alive, that Christ has defeated sin and death, and opened the way for us to experience eternal life.

On that first Easter morning, everything changed. This Easter will not be so dramatic as that very first one. But we will worship with great joy. We will drop the confession of sin, and bring back the alleluias. Afterwards we can indulge ourselves for the day—guilt-free!—in whatever we have given up for Lent.

Do your best to be part of the celebration. Bring family and friends with you. But also do the work of preparation in the remaining time leading up to that day. It will be worth it!!

In the name of the One who died and rose again,

Fr. Harvey

LENT MADNESS:

We're almost there! Soon we will have a winner of the Golden Halo! Based loosely on the NCAA basketball tournament, this online devotion pits saints against one another in a bracket as voters choose their favorites throughout the penitential season of Lent. Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Check it out, and see which saints remain in the running!

LENT PRAYER PARTNERS:

If you signed up to have a prayer partner, I hope you've been praying for your person! Keep going until Easter (4/17), then send your partner a card, telling them that you have been praying for them, and wishing them God's blessings!

LENT FORMATION PROGRAM:

We have one more session in April—on Wednesday, April 6. This is a joint series with several area Churches. We meet on Zoom to watch one of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's sermons and then talk about it. If you have never seen Bishop Curry preach, you are in for a treat! Our conversations about his sermons are led by area clergy. The sermon for April 6 is "Reclaiming Epiphany," Bishop Curry's sermon for last January 6. Please join us!!

COMPLAINT-FREE LENT:

This was a wonderful discipline brought to us a few years ago by Penny Miller. The basic idea is to wear a purple bracelet that reminds us not to complain. Every time we do complain despite the reminder, we put aside a little money. If you have been participating, come Easter, donate the money you've collected to some good cause. If you would like to pool your donation with others from Saint David's, give the money to the Church, with a note that it is complaint money. We'll again donate whatever we receive to the Senior Farm Share Program of Communities Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA). This program helps needy seniors have access to fresh vegetables through local farmers markets.

EASTER VIGIL:

This wonderful service is back! Once again we are teaming up with Saint Andrew's and other area Churches for an Easter Vigil, this time as part of Saint Andrew's celebration of their centennial. (We'll be having our own centennial in three years, so we should be paying attention!) The service will be at 5:00 on Saturday, April 16. The Vigil is a traditional service beginning around dusk on the eve of Easter. We begin outside and march around the Church, pausing for readings and songs at various points. We renew our baptismal covenant and celebrate Eucharist. After the service, we have a festive reception! Please let me know if you would like to participate.

EASTER FLOWERS:

Most weeks, the flowers and/or the altar candles are given to the glory of God and in honor of someone important to us. But in Easter we really do it up! If you would like to remember, honor, or give thanks for someone on Easter, please complete the special form (available in the narthex), attach a check for the relevant amount, and return it to the office or put it in the collection plate. Thanks!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

As everyone can see on the walls of the sanctuary, we recently inherited a beautiful set of hand-carved Stations from the old Saint Christopher's Church in Chicopee. If you haven't spent a few minutes admiring them, please do! We'll leave the Stations up year-round, but we'll only walk the Stations a few more times in 2022. On Friday, April 1 and 8, we'll walk the Stations at 11:30 as part of our regular Lenten weekly schedule. On Friday, April 15, we'll walk the Stations at 6:30, before our evening Good Friday service. That's it for this calendar year, so please make a point to join us!

HOLY WEEK SUMMARY:

On Palm Sunday (April 10), we'll have regular services at 8:00 and 10:00, except that they will begin with the procession of Palms. Our Maundy Thursday service will be April 14 at 7:00. Our principal Good Friday service will be April 15, also at 7:00. But Good Friday is a big day. We start with a combined children's Stations of the Cross/Easter Egg Hunt from 10:00 to 12:00. We will have a less formal Good Friday service in place of our regular healing Eucharist at 12. Finally, at 6:30, to get ready for our principal service, we'll walk the Stations of the Cross. On Holy Saturday (4/16), we'll join several area Churches in an Easter Vigil at Saint Andrew's. And, of course, our Easter services on April 17 at 8:00 and 10:00. Whew!!

SAFE CHURCH DATES:

There are two Safe Church Trainings offered in March. A session for volunteers will be on Wednesday, March 9 from 5:00 to 8:00 on Zoom. This is the normal training for everyone except priests. There will also be a training for clergy and paid staff on Tuesday, March 22, and Thursday, March 24 from 5:00 to 8:00, also on Zoom. It may be that volunteers can do the Tuesday session only as an alternative to the March 9 date. For additional information please visit [our webpage](#).

Time and Talent Never Ends at St. David's by Ted Zern

Faith is alive and well at St. David's. While that sentence sounds a bit redundant, it can also be testament to how the community at St. David's responded to the annual time and talent solicitation. Over 30 members responded and are represented to 20 different ministries. This number does not even include those who are serving in a continuing role and perhaps did not actively submit the declaration form, yet still answer the call.

While the annual solicitation of time and talent options has formally concluded, it does not mean that the opportunity to engage the ministries at St. David's is put on hold until next year. We have all heard the adage that it takes a village to raise a child. It also could be said that it takes a congregation to raise a church. So don't hesitate to step forward; giving of time and talent does not have a particular deadline. Everything we have is a gift from God. All good things are gifts from God (1 Timothy 6:17). The gifts we have received are not ours alone. God gave them to us for the purpose of serving Him and serving other people.

Each of us has something to give. The apostle Paul phrased it this way:

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (Romans 12:5-8)

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS, by Father Harvey

This is my regular reminder that I have a small discretionary fund which is intended to give people a little financial boost when necessary. Deacon Terry does too. If you get in a bind, please talk to one of us. I should add those conversations and any help people receive from either discretionary fund will be fully confidential.

REIMBURSEMENTS

Across from the office are forms for receiving reimbursements for expenses people incur on behalf of Saint David's, as well as a list of which vestry member is in charge of which budget line. You can also see who is in charge of which budget area on our webpage at <https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html>. Please note that the responsibilities recently changed now that we have new members of the vestry. As always, if you need to spend the Church's money, please complete the form and get the signature of the relevant vestry person. Thanks!!

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS, by Fr. Harvey

We have a new Church partner! Agawam Congregational is joining this ministry and taking over on the second Sundays of the month. We have shifted to the first Sundays. In April, that means the 3rd, the last Sunday before Holy Week. If you would like to contribute to the meals, please sign up on the form in the narthex. Thanks!!

HEALING MINISTRY

We continue to offer prayers for healing each week at the altar after the 10:00 service. If you would like to receive prayers for yourself or for a loved one, please go to the altar after the service to meet the designated person offering prayers that week. If you would like to join the rotation of those who offer healing prayers, please let Fr. Harvey know. Thanks!!

EUCCHARISTIC VISITS AND VISITORS

We are beefing up our Team of Eucharistic Visitors. Our goal is to offer Communion to homebound people something like every other week. We currently have seven visitors, so we are about there. If you would like to join our intrepid crew, please let me know. Thanks!!

BISHOP BECKWITH'S VISITS, by Fr. Harvey

Retired Bishop Beckwith, Missioner for Spirituality and Leadership, will be with us on Sunday April 24 (Momentum Sunday!!) and May 1. He'll preach and celebrate at both services both days. He'll also lead a Parish Forum from 11:15-11:45 on both days, and then meet with the vestry on the 24th.

His visit is a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on what the good news of Easter means for our lives together and for our mission to the world. Please make a special effort to attend the forums if you possibly can.

**Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong, Let all
that you do be done in love.”
1 Corinthians 16:13-14**

AGAWAM EASTER/CHRISTMAS PROJECT, by Fr. Harvey

Roxanne and Ted Zern started this ministry and have faithfully coordinated it ever since. After several years of devoted service, they have decided it is time for them to step down. On behalf of the entire congregation, I thank them for all that they have done!

We are now looking for new leadership for this rewarding ministry. If you might be interested, please talk to the Zerns or to me. As a reminder, the Town Nurse informed us that she was not in a position to renew the Easter Project this year, so the real work will not begin next December. But we don't want to wait until then to identify new leadership!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHEET

This is just a reminder that we have forms in the narthex for planning a celebration of life (aka funeral). It can be really helpful to family members if you plan your service in advance. And the conversation can be surprisingly rewarding! Please speak to Fr. Harvey if you would like any help. We also have available Health Care Proxy Forms and Power of Attorney Forms.

A YEAR WITH LUKE

A group of us meet on Zoom on Tuesdays at 4:15 roughly every other week to talk about a chapter of Luke's Gospel, along with a very accessible guide by N.T. Wright called *Luke for Everyone*. Our April meetings will be the 5th and the 26th. Please join us!

BELOVED COMMUNITY

The next event of the Beloved Community Commission of the Diocese is a book conversation in June. The details are still being worked out, but the book will be Stephanie Spellers, *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community*. The plan is to have the book conversation over two Zoom sessions, and then have an online worship service to commemorate Juneteenth, the day the last enslaved people learned that they were free.

DAILY PRAYER, by Fr. Harvey

We have LOTS of opportunities to pray online together. Mondays through Fridays, the Diocese offers a zoomed service of Compline at 8:00 PM. Tuesdays through Fridays, Deacon Terry and I team up with Saint Mark's and Saint Andrew's to offer Morning Prayer on Facebook at 8:00 am. (Terry or I now lead it on Fridays.)

For people who prefer to say Morning Prayer or Compline by themselves, we have put seasonal versions of those Prayerbook services in the narthex. For now, that's means Lent. As of Easter (4/17) we'll have Easter versions. You can, of course, also just use the Prayerbook if you have one!

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: by Jo Joubert

The Development Committee is finally at work after surviving COVID's shut down of many activities.

We will hold a meeting to discuss our "Annual" tag sale and announcement of our "Annual" Auction (Thank you Scott). I encourage anyone with ideas and/or suggestion to please join us on April 7th at 2:00 p.m.

THE JOHN O'HARE VETERAN'S MINISTRY, by Fr. Harvey

Our lunches are back! We'll have our regular monthly meal on the first Tuesday of April, which is the 5th, beginning at 11:30. The meal is free and open to all area Veterans. Please help get the word out. And let Bob Rendrick know if you'd like to help out. Thanks!

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES, by Fr. Harvey

In March we were snowed out, but we plan to be back at the tables on Wednesday April 13 at 6:00. At least I think that's the plan. That is also Holy Week, so please watch for confirmation or a change of plans. Whenever it happens, please join us! It's a fun and easy game.

BISHOPS' VISITATION, by Fr. Harvey

Our Bishop will be with us on Sunday, June 26. I realize that's still a long way away (!), but I wanted to let everyone know. During the Easter season, we'll offer a Formation Series on our Baptismal Covenant, which is intended to help everyone get ready to renew our baptismal covenants (which we'll all do that day). More information on the series to come.... Thanks!

CROP Walk

We going walking! The 2022 CROP Walk to raise money to help feed hungry people will be Sunday, April 24, beginning at Agawam Congregational Church on Main Street. Registration is at 1:00. The Walk itself starts at 1:30. If you are interested in helping with our team, please be in touch with Valerie Smart. Thanks!!

Vestry Meeting Summary, March 2022 by Mary Moore *

* We are using a new form for financial reports. More detail will be provided in the minutes, which will be posted, once approved. We are still in the black.

* Pandemic restrictions will be eased a bit.

1) For the sake of convenience and saving time, we will continue to keep the collection plate at the back of the church instead of passing it around during the service.

2) Father Harvey will ask the congregants at the 8 AM and the 10 AM services separately whether or not they want to continue to give the "Peace" in place or to move around again. How to proceed will be determined for each individual service based on the feedback that he gets. (Both services decided to continue "peacing in place" for now.)

3) We will continue to use communion wafers with a drop of wine added, but will also start offering the chalice starting on the Sunday after Easter. Theologically, the sacrament can be done using just the bread, just the wine, or both.

4) We are still recommending wearing a mask if you are comfortable doing so. We are especially asking ushers, LEM's, lectors, and officiants to wear masks because either they come in contact with more people during the service or because they are role models.

* There are no outcomes to report on other issues that remain under discussion

Creation Care, Kids' Corner by Mary Moore (for April)

The Moon & Easter

The moon does not make its own light; it reflects light from the sun.

The moon has 8 phases:

New moon, which is when we can't see it at all because the side of it that is lit up by the sun is facing away from us at the time

Waxing crescent: looks like a smile in the sky; gets bigger from one night to the next

first quarter: looks like a half circle with the rounded edge on the right (in the northern hemisphere)

Waxing gibbous: bigger than a half circle, but not yet a full circle, and appearing bigger every night

Full moon: looks like a full circle

waning gibbous: also between a full circle and a half circle, but looks smaller from one night to the next. It looks like a flipped version of the waxing gibbous moon.

third quarter: looks like the first quarter moon, except flipped so that the rounded edge is on the left.

Waning crescent: looks like the waxing crescent, except flipped and it gets smaller from one night to the next.

Waxing means growing bigger; waning means getting smaller

The moon takes about 29.5 days to go from one new moon to the next new moon. We get our word "month" from the word "moon" because a month is about how long it takes to complete one full cycle of the moon.



The Moon/Easter connection:

Have you noticed that Easter is not on the same Sunday every year? That's because the date on which we celebrate Easter depends on when we get the first full moon of spring. For our church, Easter is on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring. (Some churches celebrate Easter one week later than we do.)

Activity: Find the first day of spring on a calendar. It is usually on March 21 plus or minus a day. If your calendar shows when full moons occur, find the first full moon that comes after the first day of spring. Now look at the Sunday that comes after that full moon. That should be Easter Sunday.

CREATION CARE: by Pauline Mortenson

Have you ever wondered why a robin turns its head when searching for worms in the lawn? I thought they were listening for movement from worms...boy am I wrong! They are actually watching the earth moving to indicate to the robin that a worm is below.

How about the cute chickadee...they collect over a thousand a day of small caterpillars to feed their nestlings. But for the first week or so after hatching their young, the adults seek out spiders to feed their young. The spiders provide the nutrient taurine, which is essential for brain development and other functions.

Or...the loud blue jay which I thought must ruin their hearing. But...as usual I was wrong. What actually happens is when the jaw opens, the external ear canal closes to shut out the sound. Birds also have the ability to restore damaged hearing by growing new hair cells inside their ear, something humans cannot do.

Oh...I do love seeing a red flash across the yard of the cardinal. They have an optimistic song which they sing from conspicuous perches on treetops or wires beginning on the first sunny days after the winter solstice. Sometimes to me it sounds like a whistle.

Mother Nature has built in such amazing attributes for our birds. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

FROM THE KITCHEN CREW: Vegetable platter



APRIL CALENDAR:

OUR WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday: Services at 8:00 and 10:00 (in person and Facebook)

Monday: Men's Bible study at 7:00 (in person)

**Friday: Healing Eucharist every Friday (except 4/15) at 12:00 (in person)
Bible Study every Friday (except 4/15) at 1:00 (in person and Zoom)
Contemplative Prayer, every Friday (except 4/15) at 2:30
(in person and Zoom)**

M-F: Compline at 8:00 PM (on Zoom)

T-F: Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM (on Facebook)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, April 1 and 8: Stations of the Cross at 11:30

Sunday, April 3: Church without Walls at noon (Parish Cupboard)

Monday, April 4: Community Supper at 5:00

Tuesday, April 5: Veterans lunch at 11:30

Tuesdays, April 5 and 26: Conversation on Luke at 4:15 (on Zoom)

Wednesday, April 6: Lent Formation Series at 7:00 (Zoom)

Thursday, April 7: Development committee at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 10: Palm Sunday Services at 8:00 and 10:00

Wednesday, April 13: Dominoes at 6:00 PM

Thursday, April 14: Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM

Friday, April 15: Children's Stations and Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00-12:00

Good Friday Services at Noon and 7:00 PM

Stations of the Cross at 6:30

Saturday, April 16: Easter Vigil at 5:00 (St. Andrew's)

Sunday, April 17, Easter Services at 8:00 and 10:00

Wednesday, April 20: Women's Greif Group at 1:00 (in person and on Zoom)

Sunday, April 24: Visit of Bishop Beckwith

CROP Walk, beginning at 1:00 at Agawam Congregational

Tuesday, April 26: Vestry at 7:00 PM

REGULAR RENTALS

Spanish Church, Sundays from 2:00 to 6:00

OA Mondays from 6:30-8:00

OA Thursdays from 10:15-11:30

Al-Anon Saturdays from 7:15-8:30

Mercy Church, Saturdays from 2:00-4:00

For any rental of the Church by Church Members contact John Litchfield or Father Harvey with information on the date and event.



Let Me See
Poet: Unknown

God grant to me that I may see
The beauty of a crooked tree,
The blossom of a humble weed,
The glory of a homely seed,
The pathos of a homeless pup,
The way to lift a brother up.
O, grant me the highest art —
The patience of an understanding heart

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