



St. David's Episcopal Church

MARCH 2023 DOVETALE

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 aching of Scripture.

THE LENT JOURNEY

This year the entire month of March falls within the Lenten season. We began this journey on Ash Wednesday (2/22) and will finish it on Easter Sunday (4/9).

Weirdly, Lent is one of my favorite seasons in the Christian year. That seems weird because it's a time for giving up small pleasures and/or taking on new responsibilities. Why would anyone enjoy that?

I can most easily explain why I love Lent by talking about food. Beginning around Thanksgiving, I eat and drink too much. It's fun, but I always gain six or seven pounds. By the end of Christmas, I feel bloated and heavy, but can't seem to reign myself in.

Then comes Lent, when I give up my main food vices. The first couple of weeks are a struggle, as I adjust my eating and drinking back to more sustainable levels. By the middle of Lent, I feel better physically, and my improved food habits don't seem burdensome. By the end of Lent, I usually have lost the weight I gained over the winter.

What is true in a measurable way for food/weight is true for my spiritual life more generally. Lent is a time to give up some of my bad habits and to take on a few good ones. Especially at the beginning, the changes can be challenging. But within a few weeks, I can tell the difference. I grow a little closer to God. I am a little more loving towards others. And once again, I appreciate the season of Lent for giving me the extra encouragement I need.

If your Lenten journey is well under way, I encourage you to stick with your disciplines and enjoy the benefits that come with them. If you haven't really gotten started, it's not too late to embark on a holy Lent. You won't regret it!

In the name of our crucified Lord,

Fr. Harvey

SAFE CHURCH TRAININGS:

The Rev. Tanya Wallace, our Diocesan Safe Church Officer, will be leading Safe Church training on the following dates:

Tues/Thursday, March 28 & 30 - 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Clergy, Staff, Lay leaders

Sunday, April 16 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Volunteers

Thursday, April 27 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Clergy, Staff, Lay leaders

Thursday, May 18 - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Volunteers

To register, you can click the link or contact Fr. Harvey. The parish will cover the cost.

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION CLASSES:

Diocesan Confirmation is back! This class is a great way to do confirmation preparation, but it would also be great for folks who want to be received, reaffirm their baptismal vows, or anyone who just wants a refresher.

Most of the sessions will be Wednesday evening via Zoom, but the concluding session will be an in-person quiet day. Classes will start March 1, take a break for Holy Week, and then finish up in Easter. Dates for the classes are below. The sessions will be recorded for anyone who can't join live.

DRAFT SCHEDULE FOR CLASS

1-Mar What is Confirmation?

8-Mar The Holy Scriptures

15-Mar The History of the Church

22-Mar The Gift of the Episcopal Church

29-Mar Care for God's Creation

Break for Holy Week & Easter Week

12-Apr God's Justice in the World

19-Apr Living as a Christian

26-Apr The Sacraments of the Church

6-May Ways of Praying (*in-person quiet day*)

21-May The Mystery of Easter/Confirmation

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday—April 2 this year. The entire week is a time for focusing on Christ, but the next big service is Maundy Thursday (April 6) at 5:00. (Note this is a new service time. Same for Good Friday’s evening service.) Then Good Friday (April 7), which begins with a children’s combination Stations of the Cross and Egg Hunt from 10:00 to 12:00. Next up is a traditional Good Friday Service at noon. At 4:30 we’ll walk the Stations of the Cross. And our main Good Friday service will be that evening at 5:00. On Saturday (April 8), we’ll join the good people at our Cathedral for an Easter Vigil at 6:00 (I think!). And of course, Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 on Easter Sunday. I encourage everyone to take advantage of these opportunities as much as you can. And particularly on Easter morning, bring friends or family with you to worship!

LENT MADNESS

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, beginning on February 23, 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. If you’re looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn’t be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ?

LENT PRAYER PARTNERS

Participants pray for their partner every day during Lent, and then send an Easter Card to their partner offering God’s blessings on that person. This is a great way to support each other as a community of faith. If you would like to participate and are not already doing so, please let Fr. Harvey know.

LENT FORMATION PROGRAM

Our Lent formation program comes from the Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent (BCP, 265). The Church invites us to “self-examination and repentance;... prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and...reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.” Each of our sessions will take up one part of that invitation. Clergy from area Churches will lead the conversations, but the plan is be practical, to talk about what people are doing or would like to be doing. Please join us Wednesdays at 6:00 on Zoom!

COMPLAINT-FREE LENT

This is another wonderful Lent option. 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. At the end of Lent, we donate the collected money to a good cause. Those who have participated in past years will remember how helpful this practice can be. But I warn anyone who hasn’t participated before: don’t commit to putting aside much money for each complaint. It can really add up!! The purple bracelets are available throughout Lent (while supplies last). Please join the “fun”!

CALENDAR KEEPING, by Fr. Harvey

On our webpage, you can find the calendar of all our events, along with the space in the building or grounds that will be used for that event, where relevant. You can also see our events that are offsite.

If you would like to schedule an event, please first check the calendar to see if the space you need is available. If so, please contact the Calendar Keepers (Janessa Piteo and Carol Fabrycki) at saintdavidsMA@gmail.com (a dedicated email address) to request the space. It will be reserved when you receive confirmation that the space is indeed available.

In my head, it's a beautifully simple system. In practice, there will surely be bugs to work out. Please be patient, and share your thoughts with me, the wardens, or Carol and Janessa. Thanks!!

THE BLESSING BASKET:

Dear Friends,

During March our Sunday school class will collect items to create a Blessing Basket as part of our Community Outreach theme. A Blessing Basket will be given to our friends who need a "hand up." As we learn how God blesses us, we will talk about tangible ways we can bless others through simple gifts, such as a blessing basket. We are asking our church community to participate in this event as well. We will focus on collecting underwear and socks for men, women and children. As we create the blessing basket, children will explore how simple everyday items we may take for granted are actually treasured blessings. Thank you for your participation in blessing others!

The Sunday School Staff

SHROVE TUESDAY:

Shrove Tuesday was a great event. Great Big thank you to Bob Rendrick and his Kitchen Crew and all the servers. The menu consisted of pancakes, sausage, home fries and fruit. The King cake was made by Bev Lawson very tasty. Thanks to all.

DEVELOPMENT:

Floors are done and look great. A big thank you to Bob and his Crew for all the hard work in moving furniture out of the way so the floor people could do their job. The rugs have been replaced in the Office, Community room and Harvey's Office.



SNOW POLICY

Now that winter is here, you will see this article for the next few months. The Church will always be closed if Agawam High School closes for the day because of snow. On Sunday mornings, we have to make that call ourselves. When Church is closed, notice will appear on our webpage and on television stations 3, 6, 40, and 22. All meetings are presumed to be cancelled, including any meetings by outside groups that rent the Church property. Our full snow policy is posted on the bulletin board by the office. Thanks!

FOOD FOR THE POOR, by Fr. Harvey

Thanks to those who contributed to support the mission of Food for the Poor when Canon Williams was here and/or made a donation through Saint David's! The vestry decided to supplement the individual donations with another \$1000 donated in the name of the parish. That money comes from the legacy we received from Saint Christopher's. As people may recall, we received \$50,000 from the sale of the building. The vestry voted to tithe that money, which is to say, to give away \$5000. The donation to the Food for the Poor is part of that tithe.

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF, by Fr. Harvey

As you all know, Turkey and Syria were hit with a devastating earthquake. Episcopal Relief and Development has created a fund for earthquake relief. If you would like to donate to it, please click [here](#). The Vestry also decided to make a \$1000 donation in the name of the Parish. Like the donation to Food for the Poor, this one comes from the Saint Christopher's legacy.

BIG BLUE DROP-IN CENTER (at Christ Church Cathedral)

The Big Blue Drop-In Center located in the undercroft of Christ Church Cathedral is once again looking for donations of gently used winter wear. We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of people who visit the Drop-In Center on Thursdays and are near 50 consistently each week. Many of our guests are homeless and in need of all types of clothing. We are especially low on larger size, men's clothing/coats.

If you go through your closets and drawers and find items to donate, please drop them off. Please call the Cathedral (413 736-2742) first to schedule a time when someone will be there. We can use sweatpants and hoodies, as well as coats, boots, gloves and other items needed for life on the streets.

If you need items picked up, please call Deacon Linda Taupier at (413) 478-9813. Thank you for your generosity!

CROP Hunger Walk!

The Spring 2023 Walk will take place on Sunday, April 30, 1:00 pm beginning with a rally at First Congregational Church, 108 Park Street in West Springfield. If you would like to coordinate a team from Saint David's, please let Fr. Harvey know. Thanks!!

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB Leader Linda Seabury

The book club will meet in March to discuss the book, "Ali's well that Ends Well." Ali Wentworth takes us once again into her dizzying world. All women are welcome to join.

MORNING PRAYER

We continue to join with area Churches to offer a livestreamed version of Morning Prayer on our Facebook page Monday through Friday at 8:00. Please tune in as you are able—it's an excellent Lenten devotion! But also remember that we put forms in the narthex for seasonal versions of Morning Prayer and also for Compline. The forms there now are for Lent. The forms are intended to help you say Morning Prayer or Compline on your own. Joining us or praying Morning Prayer or Compline on your own is a great way to add a little prayer into your weekly routine!

CONVERSATIONS ON THE MYSTERIES OF FAITH, by Fr. Harvey

Our Luke *Discussion Group* has a new topic for the new year. We are reading *Mysteries of Faith* by Mark McIntosh, a book in the Church's New Teaching Series and chatting about it on Tuesdays at 4:15 on Zoom. Our March sessions will probably be March 7 and 21. Please talk to me if you would like more information about the book or our sessions.

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

Our meal this month is Tuesday, March 7, beginning at 11:30. As always, all Veterans eat free. And everybody is welcome to come help out. Thanks!!

Church without Walls, by Fr. Harvey

Our February Church without Walls was well-timed: it came on the same day Canon Williams from Food for the Poor joined us. Because of his flight schedule, he couldn't lead our CWW service, but his sermon about helping the poor with food and other services got us all in the right spirit! The service itself was good, and the people gathered always appreciate the lunches we provide! In March, our Sunday is the 5th. Thanks, as always, to the people who prepare the food!!

Healing Ministry

In the front row of chairs are baskets with small ribbons. If you would like special prayers at the altar during Communion at Sunday services, bring a ribbon with you. Fr. Harvey or Dcn. Terry will offer a quick prayer. Please return the ribbon afterwards!

We also offer prayers for healing 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!!

FRIDAY NOONTIME HEALING EUCHARIST

A group of us gather on Fridays at noon for a short healing service. The service includes a conversational sermon on the saint of the day, an opportunity for people who so choose to receive anointing and special prayers at the altar, and Holy Eucharist. It's a wonderfully intimate service. All are welcome—please help spread the word!

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 1:00

Our Friday Bible Study meets at 1:00 on Fridays. Many of us gather in person in the Community Room, while a few others join us by Zoom. We are now into the Acts of the Apostles, the dramatic story of the very beginning of the Church. Please join us! All are welcome, and you don't have to have any background knowledge about the Bible—just an interest in learning!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON FRIDAYS AT 2:30

We gather Fridays at 2:30 for a session of contemplative prayer. We read a passage of Scripture three times, interspersed with short periods of silence. The basic question we ask ourselves is, what is God saying to me through this passage. Our sessions are hybrid: some of us gather in person, while others join us on Zoom. Please join us in whatever way is most comfortable for you!

PRISON BIBLE STUDY, by Fr. Harvey

This ministry is different than anything I've experienced in the past. Because of obvious security concerns, the prison administration needs to clear all volunteers, and they don't really like ministries with lots of participants. But this is a team ministry involving more than a dozen people. Then there is the task of coordinating the volunteers, which can be its own challenge when we don't all have exactly the same vision of what we are doing. Still, I can say that the rewards far outweigh the challenges. We're two months in and, despite some awkward moments, it's off to a good start. I am grateful to Deacon Terry and Mary Moore for their leadership, and to Penny Miller who will soon be joining us. My hope is to figure out ways to involve people who may not want to enter the prison itself. There is one thing we can definitely all be doing: pray for the imprisoned women and for our efforts to help them. Thanks!!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We'll walk the Stations of the Cross every Friday in March at 11:30. The service takes about twenty minutes, and is a wonderful way to focus your Lenten journey. Please join us!

FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR CANDLE, by Fr. Harvey

Most weeks, the flowers and/or the altar candles are given to the glory of God and in honor of someone important to us. If you would like to remember, honor, or give thanks for someone, please complete the 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.

CREATION CARE KIDS' CORNER, SPRINGTIME! by Mary Moore

Spring begins this month. All of nature seems to be waking up.

Some animals such as black bears are coming out of hibernation; robins and other birds are coming back while some birds that have been here all winter start to change color; flowers such as skunk cabbage are beginning to bloom.

Black bears - They may be pretty hungry after sleeping away part of the winter, and a snack they can't pass up is suet or the other foods found in bird feeders. If you have bird feeders in your yard and they are in easy reach for bears, you may want to take the feeders down until next winter. Bears have been known to tear down and break the feeders in order to get to the good stuff inside.

Birds - You should be seeing more robins than you did a month ago. In addition to other birds that are coming back into the area, red-winged blackbirds for example, some birds that have been here through the cold weather are beginning to change color in order to attract a mate. Male goldfinches wear drab colors during the winter, but have started to replace some of those feathers with bright yellow ones. They will stay yellow throughout the summer and a little bit into the fall.

Skunk cabbage - This is one of the first flowers to bloom, usually in late winter or early spring. You might be able to see some popping up through the snow if you take a walk in the woods, especially in wet areas like near a stream. These plants produce a lot of heat, and so some insects like to go into the flower blossom to get warm. Skunk cabbage gets its name from the skunk-like smell it gives off if its leaves are crushed or bruised. **Activity:** Make a list of any birds, mammals, or other animals that you haven't seen all winter, but see now. Do the same for any flowers that may be appearing.

CREATION CARE CORNER: Jim Shields

It was recently reported that the manufacture of "GREEN STEEL" is moving towards fruition as Boston Metal announced a \$120 million investment from the world's 2nd largest steel-maker. The funds will be used to expand a pilot program in Woburn, Ma., and help launch commercial production in Brazil. The company uses renewable electricity to convert iron ore into steel. Steel production is a particularly dirty heavy industry, releasing more climate-warming CO₂ than any other industry, accounting for 8% of worldwide emissions. Three quarters of the world's steel production currently uses coal furnaces that release pure iron from ore. Boston Metal's process runs electricity through the ore in a school-bus sized metal cell to separate the iron from the oxide. The liquid iron is then collected from the bottom of the cell. Boston Metal claims it can eliminate all CO₂ from its steel production and hopes to raise production to millions of tons by 2026.

This new technology in steel-making holds great promise in the transition to cleaner processes that have less impact on the climate. Many European steelmakers are also announcing alternatives to traditional coal-fired steelmaking and some automakers are buying the cleaner steel to fulfill promises to customers and shareholders.

MARCH CALENDAR:

OUR WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday: Services at 8:00 and 10:00

Sunday School at 10:00

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

**Wednesday: Lent Formation—Invitation to a Holy Lent at 6:00 on Zoom
Diocesan Confirmation Class at 6:00 on Zoom**

Friday: Stations of the Cross at 11:30

Healing Eucharist at 12:00

Bible Study at 1:00 (in person and Zoom)

Contemplative Prayer at 2:30 (in person and Zoom)

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, March 5: Church without Walls at 12:00 at the Parish Cupboard

Tuesday, March 7: Veterans Lunch at 11:30

Tuesday, March 7 and 21: Conversation on Faith at 4:15 (Zoom)

**Sunday, March 12: Daylight Savings Time begins—set your clocks forward!
Development meeting in community room at 11:15 a.m.**

Wednesday, March 15: Vestry at 7:00

Monday, March 27: Prison Bible Study at the WCCC at 7:00

Monday, March 27: Community Supper—Turkey at 6:00

REGULAR RENTALS

Sundays from 1:30 to 5:30 PM: Church of the Last Harvest

Mondays from 6:30-8:30 PM: OA

Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 PM: Church of the Last Harvest

Wednesdays from 6:00 to 10:00 PM: Church of the Last Harvest (2nd and 4th)

Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 AM: OA

Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:30 PM: Church of the Last Harvest

Fridays from 6:30 to 10:00 PM: Church of the Last Harvest (first Friday)

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

Saturdays at 7:00-9:00 PM: Al-Anon Meeting



HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAYS TO ALL

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