



# St. David's Episcopal Church

## MARCH 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.*

### **INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT:**

This year, Lent begins on March 2. To kick off the Lenten season, we'll have our traditional Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. And at that service, I will invite you, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent.

Lent is one of the most important seasons of the Christian year. It is a time of preparation that gets us ready to acknowledge the brutal events of Holy Week, particularly Christ's death on the cross, and then to celebrate the incredible good news of Easter, that Christ is raised.

Those events stand at the very heart of our faith. And yet they can become so familiar that they cease to shock and amaze us. We begin to take them for granted. Lent is the antidote for this attitude.

Thankfully, unlike last year, we will be able to gather during Lent for camaraderie and the support. But important as gathering for worship is, Lent is largely a season that you observe at home.

One of the duties of Lent is self-examination and repentance. We pause to acknowledge the ways we have turned away from God, and to commit ourselves to turning back. The Ash Wednesday service is a good way to begin that process, but it should continue throughout the season.

A second duty is fasting and self-denial. What that means in practice will vary from person to person, but all of us should give something up or take something on. The point is not suffering for its own sake. The point is to act in such a way that our attention is drawn back to God. So, for example, I will once again give up sweets. Ideally, every time I crave sweets, I will pause to remember what Christ has done for me. Then, come Easter, I can eat sweets again, and generally celebrate God's abundance with renewed gratitude!

A third duty is reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. Join us in reading the Gospel of Luke. Join one of our Bible studies or contemplative prayer. Participate in our Lent formation program. Say Morning Prayer (a form will be available in the narthex) or use one of our Lenten devotionals. Again, the point is to take some time to come to know God better.

If you take Lent seriously, if you strive to have a Holy Lent, you will not enjoy every minute of it. But you will grow a little closer to God. You will know a little more joy. You will experience a little bit of new life. And that is a very good reason to give it a try!!

Fr. Harvey

## **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 March 3, information is posted at [www.lentmadness.org](http://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:**

This is our fourth year to have Prayer Partners, and I can say from experience that it is a really wonderful practice. If you would like to participate, sign up in the narthex, ideally by March 1. (If you would like to join in a bit later, just let Fr. Harvey know.) On Shrove Tuesday, we'll put all the names in a hat and then draw names. Participants then pray for your partner every day during Lent. Finally, on Easter, send an Easter Card to your prayer partner offering God's blessings on that person. This is a great way to support each other as a community of faith. Please join us!

## **LENT FORMATION PROGRAM:**

For our Lent Formation Series we are teaming up with area Churches. On Wednesdays at 7:00, we'll 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 will be led by area clergy. 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. 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 will be available in the narthex beginning in March and throughout Lent (while supplies last). Please join the "fun"!

## **ASH WEDNESDAY :**

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2. I strongly encourage everyone to join us or watch the service from home. Ash Wednesday is one of the most solemn and holy services of the entire Christian year, and the best way to kick off a holy Lent. We will also offer "Ashes to Go" in our parking lot from 7:00-8:00 AM and again from 5:00 to 6:00 PM for those who can't join us in person for the service.

## **SHROVE TUESDAY/SAINT DAVID'S DAY:**

On Ash Wednesday Eve (aka Shrove Tuesday), we'll have our traditional Pancake Supper, complete with King Cake! It's March 1, which is also Saint David's Day, so we'll be especially festive! Join us at 5:00. Mardi Gras beads optional!

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:**

During Lent, we'll walk the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 11:30. This is something we do every year, but this year will be extra special. We are inheriting a beautiful set of hand-carved Stations from the old Saint Christopher's Church in Chicopee. Please join us!

## **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 and Church staff. 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](#).

Wednesday, March 9, from 5:00 - 8:00 PM, VOLUNTEERS  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/256206359117>

Tuesday+Thursday, March 22/24, 5:30 - 8:00 PM, FULL DAY (Clergy, staff, lay leaders)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/256279909107>

Tuesday+Thursday, April 5/7, 5:30 - 8:00 PM, FULL DAY (as above)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/256294863837>

Tuesday, April 26, 5:00 to 8:00 PM, VOLUNTEERS  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/256229548477>

Wednesday, June 1st, 5:00 - 8:00 PM, VOLUNTEERS  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/259635555937>

Tuesday+Thursday, June 7/9, 5:30-8:00 PM, FULL DAY (as above)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/259655766387>

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES!**

In other great news, in-person Sunday School resumes in March! We'll start back on the first Sunday of Lent, March 6. Thanks to Valerie Smart for making activity bags for our children during the recent suspension of in-person classes!



## **COVID PRECAUTIONS**, by Fr. Harvey

Given the improved COVID numbers in our area, the vestry voted to relax some of the recent restrictions. We are resuming most of our activities, including our Veterans Lunch and Sunday School. We've brought back Coffee Hour. And we're no longer requiring people to wear masks. We do still strongly encourage mask-wearing for those who can, as a courtesy to people with compromised immune systems or who cannot be vaccinated. Thanks!

## **DAILY PRAYER**, by Fr. Harvey

We have LOTS of opportunities to pray online together. For Lent, the Diocese offers a zoomed service of Compline every weekday evening at 8:00 PM. Please note that there is a new log-in address, which I include in my weekly e-mailings. We are also expanding livestreamed Morning Prayer. Going forward, you can participate in Morning Prayer on our Facebook Page at 8:00 Tuesday through Friday. (Terry or I will lead it on Fridays.)

For people who prefer to say Morning Prayer or Compline by themselves, we have put Lent versions of those Prayerbook services in the narthex. You can, of course, also just use the Prayerbook if you have one!

## **A YEAR WITH LUKE:**

We have begun our "Conversations about Luke"! We meet on Zoom on Tuesdays at 4:15 roughly every other week to talk about a chapter of the Gospel, along with a very accessible guide by N.T. Wright called *Luke for Everyone*. Our March meetings will be the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please join us!

## **FRIDAY NOONTIME HEALING EUCHARIST :**

A small 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, and perfect for people who want to worship but are concerned about gathering with larger numbers of people. All are welcome—please spread the word!

## **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!!

## **CANDY DONATIONS:**

The Children's Ministry is collecting candy donations for an Easter Egg Hunt on April 15. You can drop the donations off in a bin in the narthex. Candy should be individually wrapped, and no peanuts, please. Thanks!!!

## **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!!

## **FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 1:00**

Our Friday Bible Study meets at 1:00 every Friday. Many of us gather in person in the Community Room, while a few others join us by Zoom. We recently began the Gospel of John, so this is an excellent time to 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 every Friday 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!

## **PRAYER CYCLES:**

The 2022 prayer cycles are now available in the narthex near the mail slots. The list of nations did not change, but our Parish Prayer Cycle is new and improved. (If you notice people or ministries missing from our Parish Prayer Cycle, please let me know!) They are a wonderful part of my prayer life. It takes just a few minutes each day, and over the course of a month, I pray for every nation in the world, and every member and ministry here at Saint David's. If you are not already doing so, I encourage you to give one or both a try. We can all use more prayers on our behalf!!!!

## **CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS, BY FR. HARVEY:** 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'll shift to the first Sundays. In March, that means the 6<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday of Lent. If you would like to contribute to the meals, please sign up on the form in the narthex. Thanks!

## **OUR VESTRY AND THE BUDGET**

Our vestry does many things, but one of the most important is creating our budget. The 2022 budget was presented at our annual meeting, and a copy is posted on the bulletin board in the office-side hallway. The good news is, we anticipate a (slightly) positive balance. Thanks to everyone involved in putting the budget together, and to the faithfulness of our parishioners who provide us the resources we need to continue our work on behalf of God's mission!

## **CELEBRATION OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHEET, PLUS HEALTH CARE PROXY AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

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 Health Care Proxy Forms and Power of Attorney Forms.

## **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 three pairs of visitors, but we could use a few more to reach our goal. We'll have a meeting of interested people on Sunday, March 13 at 11:30. Please join us!

## **SNOW POLICY:**

Now that winter is here, you will see this article every month. The Church building will always be closed if Agawam High School closes their building 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 or else moved online, 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!

## **CROP Walk:**

We are 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!!

## **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 March. As it happens, that is March 1, which is Saint David's Day and also Shrove Tuesday. We have LOTS of reasons to celebrate! Please help get the word out to area Veterans about the lunch. And let Bob Rendrick know if you'd like to help out. Thanks!

## **FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR CANDLE**

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. You can do this anytime of year, but I find it is helpful to get it done early so that I don't forget! Thanks!

## **CAREGIVERS** by Fr. Harvey

The people of Saint David's have a long tradition of supporting each other in times of need. Now we are hoping to organize this generosity into a more regular ministry. If you are willing to offer fellow parishioners occasional help, please let me know. My goal is to have a handful of names of people who are willing to offer rides, run local errands, and/or provide meals when people need that. If we get several volunteers for each kind of help, no helper will be overburdened and people who can use a little help will get the help they need. Please also let me know if you are willing to help coordinate this ministry. Thanks!!

## **BELOVED COMMUNITY**

The next event of the Beloved Community Commission of the Diocese is a book conversation in May. 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*.

## **MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES**, by Fr. Harvey

In February, we had our first Dominoes game in several months. I don't like to brag, but I was one of the winners! The plan is to play every second Tuesday of the month at 6:00. In March, that's the 8<sup>th</sup>. Please join us! It's a fun and easy game. Penny Miller was another February winner, and it was her first game of Dominoes ever!

## **BISHOPS' VISITATION:** by Fr. Harvey

Our Bishop will be with us on Sunday, June 26. I realize that's a long way away (!), but I wanted to let everyone know. If you are interested in being confirmed or received, or in doing some formal preparation to renew your baptismal covenant (which we'll all do that day), please let me know. Thanks!

## **EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**(approved by vestry, 2022)**

If fire alarms sound in the Church building, anyone present should exit at the nearest marked exit door. These doors have an exit sign fixed above them. Clergy, ushers, Sunday School Teachers, and members of the vestry will assist in directing people to the nearest exit. It is important to stay calm during an evacuation of the building.

Parents and guardians with children in the classrooms should NOT try to go to the education wing. Your children will be evacuated by the teachers. You can join them outside.

In the event of an emergency, teachers or other supervisors of children should immediately count the children under their care, then proceed to the nearest exit. Once outside, they should again count the children and continue to watch over them until parents rejoin their children.

All people in the front half of the nave (the street side) should exit via the emergency exit doors on either side of the altar. People in the rear half of the nave should exit through the double doors at the back (parking lot side) of the building. People in the education wing should exit through the front or rear exits, depending on which classroom they are in. Emergency evacuation instructions are posted in each classroom. Teachers should familiarize themselves with the instructions.

Once you exit the facility, please move away from the building. Do not congregate at the entrance or exit driveways, as emergency vehicles may need a clear and safe passage around the building. The rear yard is an excellent meeting point, and you are encouraged to go there. Parents can join their children at this point. Always stay calm, but move as quickly as is safe.

We pray that an emergency evacuation is never necessary. However, we should always be prepared and mindful of how to properly and safely exit the building. Thank you for your cooperation!



## **Creation Care Kids' Corner: Signs of Spring** by Mary Moore

March is a time of renewal in nature. Some mammals and amphibians are coming out of hibernation; some birds are migrating back into our area while others are passing through on their way further north. Sap is flowing in trees as their leaf and flower buds are getting ready to open and grow in the months ahead.

Things to look and listen for:

\*Red maples are one of the first trees to flower in the spring. Look for dark red buds that are getting plumper before they open up to reveal tiny red flowers. Once the flowers get a little bigger (but still very small overall) you might notice not only the red of the flowers, but also the yellow of the pollen covered stamens. You might even be able to tell what kind of tree you are looking at from a distance because the colors are that noticeable.

\*Skunk cabbage comes up and flowers, oftentimes when there is still snow on the ground. Look for it near streams or wet ground out in the woods.

\*Spring peepers might be stirring and you may be able to hear a few of them now, but you will have to wait until April to hear them at their peak.

\*Black bears have already or are just starting to come out of hibernation. If you have any bird feeders within reach of bears that may wander into your yard, now would be a good time to take them down. Otherwise, the bears may tear them apart trying to get an easy meal. These creatures are pretty hungry when they wake up from their winter's nap.

\*Robins, red-winged blackbirds, and turkey vultures are starting to return to the area.

\*Chipmunks, skunks, and woodchucks are showing up again, as they too wake up from their winter's sleep.

\*You may want to ditch the winter jacket for a lighter one, especially if you're running around outside during school recess.

## **CREATION CARE CORNER**, By Jim Shields:

As I read and listen to the recent discussion on climate change, it's taken on a more gloom and doom tone, with "climate crisis" and "climate emergency" now the norm. These terms and others are meant to instill in us a greater sense of urgency to this ever-growing problem, to stir us to action, which is what is needed. They can, however, create a feeling of despair and hopelessness in us as well. As Christians, we know well that God has entrusted us to be good stewards and cultivators of His Creation, and clearly we have not lived up to that obligation. As we strive as a world to prevent the apocalyptic predictions from happening, we'd do well to remember that God loves us and is in control of all things, and that having a right relationship with Him should provide us with a sense of comfort, security and peace during these turbulent times. God wants us to restore His Creation to a state of health, to do what we can do individually and collectively to get there, but not to fall into the pit of despair. Pray for the Earth, do what you can, and keep your chin up.

## MARCH 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)**

**Wednesday: Lent Formation Series on Bishop Curry's Sermons  
at 7:00 PM (on Zoom)**

**Friday: Stations of the Cross every Friday at 11:30 (in person)**

**Healing Eucharist every Friday at 12:00 (in person)**

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

**Contemplative Prayer, every Friday 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

**March 1 (Saint David's Day!): Veterans lunch at 11:30**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5:00 PM**

**March 2: Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM**

**Ashes to Go from 7:00-8:00 AM and 5:00-6:00 PM**

**March 6: Church without walls at noon at the Parish Cupboard;**

**March 8 and 22: Conversation on Luke at 4:15 (on Zoom)**

**March 8: Dominoes at 6:00 PM**

**March 13: Daylight Savings Time**

**Eucharistic Visitor Conversation at 11:30**

**March 15: Vestry at 7:00 PM**

**March 16: Women's Grief Group at 1:00**

**March 20: Creation Walk at 11:30**

### Regular Rentals

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

**OA Thursdays from 10:15-11:30;**

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

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

## VESTRY SUMMARY:

Beginning in this month's Dovetale, our Vestry clerk, Mary Moore will provide us with a scaled down report from the vestry meetings. We still suggest that you review the full report that is posted each month. The purpose of the summary in our Dovetale is to open more lines of communication.

Feb. 2022: \* Returning vestry members will be responsible for the same budget line items that they had last year. We are also reviving the Women's Ministry, with Linda Seabury at the helm. Jo Joubert will take over Altar & Seasonal Flower Coordinator from Carol Fabrycki, who retired from vestry, and Luis Torres will take over Outreach from Jim Shields, who also is newly retired from vestry. Jude O'Hare has stepped down after 8 years as Treasurer. Denise Noyes has replaced him, and Helene Robbins is our new Assistant Treasurer.

\* We tweaked our Evacuation and Snow Policies by adding a word here, a phrase there. These are posted on the bulletin board by Father Harvey's office.

\* Refugee Ministry - Our family has arrived in Springfield. They are pretty well set for clothes and household items, but money is always welcome. See Deacon Terry for more information.

\* There will be a Lent Formation Program on Wednesdays at 7PM on Zoom. This is being done with other area churches and will run through Holy Week.

\* We will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Good Friday.

\* There will be a Holy Saturday Vigil at Saint Andrew's. People can also attend via Zoom.

\* Saint David's 100th Anniversary is in three years. Start thinking about what we might want to do to celebrate this milestone.

\* Other business items were tabled until March because we did not have enough information for making proper decisions.

\* We will post instructions on how to participate in Parishioner's Speak Time, a segment included in vestry meetings as requested by individuals in the congregation.

## *The Guest House*

by Rumi

*This being human is a guest house.*

*Every morning a new arrival.*

*A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
some momentary awareness comes  
as an unexpected visitor.*

*Welcome and entertain them all!  
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,  
who violently sweep your house  
empty of its furniture,  
still treat each guest honorably.*

*He may be clearing you out  
for some new delight.*

*The dark thought, the shame, the malice,  
meet them at the door laughing,  
and invite them in.*

*Be grateful for whoever comes,  
because each has been sent  
as a guide from beyond.*

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