CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

GIDEON'S TRUMPET

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PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray that you have found this season of Lent as a time of healthy reflection and meditation. Lent is a good reminder for all of us of the nature of this world and what challenges we may face.

I have not spoken much of what has been presented to us in this diocese regarding the possible challenges that we may face in the near to distant future. How we face any of these challenges is truly what being a Christian can be about.

What I mean by this is that all of the world will face multiple challenges. Some of these challenges will be easier than others. I have sometimes heard folks have discussions about

becoming a Christian with this expectation of life suddenly getting easier for them. They enter into their faith with thoughts that "now God will make things go smooth for me" or "now God will answer all of my prayers", only to have that same faith rocked when faced with a significant crisis. They enter this crisis asking, "How can God let this happen?" Or perhaps they ask other similar questions.

Yet the truth of our faith is not found in God making everything easy for us. No, the real truth is that "God causes it to rain on both sinner and saint alike". "Good people" as well as "bad people" will each face similar crisis. The Christian is charged, however, to respond in a different manner than the rest of the world. We are charged with responding first with faith, secondly with prayer and thirdly with more faith that helps us to believe that, despite what we may see with our eyes, we know in our hearts that God is with us through what we face. This should also include a desire to seek God in and through what we face and to trust in Him to provide us with whatever lessons He may have for us to learn as we go through the situation.

God promised us at the end of Matthew's Gospel that He would be with us "forever into the end of the ages. So, no matter the crisis or situation, God is there with us in the midst of it. We "walk by faith not by sight". We do so trusting that God is alongside us and His desire is for the best for us out of any given situation.

May God's mercy and grace be always with you.

Fr. Frank

PRAYER CONCERNS

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry The Right Rev. William Love, Bishop **Daniel Herzog Rev. Frank Lockwood Rev. Canon Clinton Dugger Deacon Randolph Lukas Deacon Leslie Groneman Pope Francis** Fr. John **Deacon Peter** Metropolitans of Eastern Orthodox Churches **Bishops of Lutheran Synods** Archbishop of Canterbury Missionaries **United States Government President Trump Governor Cuomo** Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Senator Daphne Jordan Senator Charles Schumer **Congressman Anthony Delgado** Assemblyman Jake Ashby Supervisor Colleen Teal

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PRAYER CONCERNS (Cont'd)

Mary Ann H. Al & Jeanne Mayer Eddie Louis & Carolyn Michelle, Hailey, Aiden St. Mark's Church – Philmont Storm Riders Michael Jane & Freida Janice C. **Bitsy & Tony Winig Beverly** Person in other car Nancy A. Sue H. Jean P. **Cliff Myers** Theresa Hoffman Peter Quinn U.S. Military – Evan, KI and families Vestries and ministries of Christ Church Coxsackie and **Church of Our Saviour**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear friends,

Tony and I want to thank everyone for all the cards, visits, prayers, and food. Knowing that we have such a wonderful family makes us grateful. Tony's second surgery went well and he is recuperating. I have another surgery in May and hope that will be the end of that long road. We both have months of healing ahead of us, but knowing that you are all behind us and praying for us gives us strength. God is good - all the time.

FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

Welcome Spring! Per the calendar, spring arrived March 20, 2019. As I write, the snow is continuing to fall and the temperature is still below 32 degrees. Granted by the end of the week, the temperature is supposed to be 60 degrees. I love spring as we see an awakening of the earth after a deep sleep. As the earth awakens from its sleep, so we awaken in Lent to the glorious Easter, the love of Jesus to go through an earthly life to allow all of us to relate to him and then doing the unthinkable, intentionally dying in what is considered the most violent form of killing man has ever developed, to rise from death to be ALIVE and promise us the same gift if we just believe in him. As the snow drops peek through the mulch and raise their heads, to the glorious daffodils that fill my garden by the end of April; as you see the spring around you develop remember the one who has given us a glorious spring for all eternity Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Mary Young

DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E

This is one of those months when I stare at the paper and try and figure out what could I possible write that would be of interest to anyone else. As usual, I'm out of ideas. I told about my travels with God last month and although I've made some other trips, nothing really stands out.

At this time, it is all about Lent – for me it is a time of reflection and introspection. Sometimes I question why specific things happen – like hearing something or reading something you feel is important. God is popping things into my mind. Maybe I should talk about my story about Lent-Time Change-Spring-Sun-Flowers. Quite frankly, I'm almost (notice, ALMOST) out of ideas. As usual, God is saying go ahead. He is pretty insistent this time – I guess I'm supposed to follow His lead.

It's all about Lent – Time Change - Spring – Sun – Flowers and me. Lent is my reflection time – what have I done that I might have done better – what didn't I do and how has my prayer life been working. Lent, although a solemn time for me, is a slower pace and always the color purple.

Reflecting on the life of Jesus, I know He must have known that He was going to His death. But He didn't let that interfere with His mission. Again, the color of purple. It is amazing to me every year how Jesus' message of Love survived the centuries.

Tie the message into words that make most people feel happy – think of the Time Change which gives us more sunlight, since the Sun sets later every day (more daylight after the gray of winter) – my neighbor has these strange Crocuses that seem to bloom all year long – not just in the Spring. The flowers that I always think of as Spring are the Daffodils or Jonquils, and with the Sun, the color is yellow – Lent does that – it leads us thru the days of purple; of thought; of prayer; and into the sunlight – to the happiness of Jesus' resurrection and our knowing we are saved.

Well, it may not be the best I've written but I know I've shared some ideas I have about Lent – for me, it is waiting for the curtain to come up on the extravaganza of Easter! And enjoy the season of the color yellow. God has definitely blessed me this past year and I thank Him every day for His blessings! Don't forget to come and join your parish family on Sunday and after stop at Jimmy D's for coffee – it is another of His gifts to us.

God's Love and Blessings to All!

Susan Darcy

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Thank you

Thank you, so much, Deacon Leslie for sharing with us on Sunday, March 31st. We enjoy seeing you and having you challenge us to grow in the Lord. Hopefully we will see you again in June.

Bible Study

Bible Study is held every Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m..

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter deadline for the May issue will be *Monday, April, 15th.*

If you have any news to share, please send it to Susan Darcy at <u>susan@darcy-systems.com</u> or Kris Smith at <u>pioneer03@aol.com</u>.

Easter Brunch

Join us after service on Sunday, April 21st to have fellowship as we share the joy of a Risen Lord on his special day. Bring your favorite breakfast dish, your family and friends and plan to stay for a breakfast of champions. Have a Happy Easter to all.

Diocesan Convention

Convention is being held on June 7th to 9th. Look on the web site for specifics and plan on joining in a soul lifting experience.

APRIL CALENDAR

Saturday, April 6 – 5:30 p.m. Evening prayer and Bible Study
Sunday, April 7 – Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Saturday, April 13 - 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Evening prayer and Bible Study
Sunday, April 14 – <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Monday, April 15 - <u>Newsletter deadline!</u>
Thursday, April 18 – <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:30 p.m. Worship Service
Friday, April 19 – <i>Good Friday</i> 12:00 noon Worship Service
Saturday, April 20 - <i>Holy Saturday</i> 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Evening prayer and Bible Study
Sunday, April 21 - <i>Easter</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Brunch to follow in Fellowship Hall
Saturday, April 27 - 6:00 p.m. Evening prayer and Bible Study
Sunday April 28

Sunday, April 28 -8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Coming Up Events:

Diocesan Convention – June 4-6 **Schedule of 2019 Vestry Meetings**: May 19; June 16; July 21; August 18; September 22; October 20; November 17; December 8.