

**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR-
PO Box 827 Lebanon Springs, NY 12125**

GIDEON'S TRUMPET OCTOBER 2020 VOLUME 12 #9

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Happy autumn to you! The smell of change in the air as summer wavers goodbye and winter awaits somewhere around the corner. I especially love this time of year. Even as a child, it was always my favorite season. When camping, black flies are no longer a problem and mosquitos are far fewer. The air is crisper typically with reduced humidity making heavy work a bit more comfortable.

As I was out for a ride enjoying the color of the leaves and the smell in the air, I was reminded of how often I get asked about prayer. Many will say they don't know how to pray or if they are praying "correctly". I hear this not only from individuals new to the faith but even from "seasoned" church goers. In truth, I have frequently heard it said that it was the priest's job to handle the prayers. Yet, nothing could be further from the truth.

What really is prayer? Is it some type of way of bending God to our will? Is it shifting unseen energies in order to a desired outcome to be seen? Is it opening a gage way between dimensions? Well, in some ways, the results of prayer may be the above in one form or another, but it is not what prayer is.

When asked about prayer by his disciples, Jesus began that lesson first and foremost by telling them to get someplace secret. In other words, prayer is not for public display. Why? I would suggest because what prayer is supposed to be is an intimate conversation between Creator and creation, between God and the believer. It is not formulary any more than any other intimate conversation should be formulary.

Throughout the psalms and the prophets, God often speaks about that intimate desire. He uses the human relationship of marriage as an image of our relationship between us and Him. He says how he wants us to draw close to him and to be one. Jesus confirms this in John 17 during what has been designated the High Priestly Prayer. Jesus prays for the disciples to "be as one" just as he and the Father "are one". He goes on to say how this will be an indication of the relationship and a sign to others.

Spiritual intimacy.

Prayer, like any other relationship conversation, is going to take on many forms depending upon circumstance. Sometimes, in the course of a relationship, the conversation is humorous, sometimes it is filled with sadness and tears, sometimes whispered, sometimes shouted and even sometimes silent. Prayer, when it flows from the spirit, may take on any of these forms. Jesus has an encounter with a Samaritan woman at a well (John 4). During that conversation, he tells her that the day is coming, and now is, when the worshipers will worship God in spirit and truth for such the Father seeks. Prayer begins where spirit encounters truth and that is in turn expressed to the Father.

This is not about some secret magical formula that will get God to do for you what you want. It should be just like any other relation that you have with someone. It should flow out of honesty.

Oh, and it should also include some time when you are quiet and simply listening. Yeah, I know, that will take another article to explain. <insert grin>

So, by all means, start praying and be less worried about a proper “form” and simply be more open to the encounter.

In the love of Christ,
Fr Frank

Other Side of the Mountain

I am wondering about the Bible passages now with floods and pestilence. Although I do believe in a lot of the Bible, I also believe in God. Now how does that compute? Well, I see that God always has a plan – so I view the pestilence as a bigger plan to turn us away from all of the outside life and focus on our inside life. In other words, our relationships with family and ourselves.

Afterall, we have had the opportunity to spend some quality time with our families which may be a bigger gift from God. During this new environment, we are also trying to maintain our incomes along with educating our children. A friend of mine who works in the City (and you know there is only one City, New York), now works from his home and has spent more time with his children than he has for years. His commute to the City was before they were awake and back home after they were in bed. In my mind, another of God’s gifts both for him and for his children.

The other week, with great trepidation, I ventured into NY state to attend a very hastily arranged award ceremony for four recent high school graduates. These four exceptional students were being awarded scholastic grants by my boating group. Sadly, only one of the awardees was able to attend since the others were all at college. The reason she could attend? Her college had over 550 Coronavirus cases and had to send the ‘well’ students back home. A blessing both for her parents and for our group to be able to actually award her scholastic grant.

Yes, the trip was uneventful but it showed me that God does have a plan, it allowed me to see thoughtful and generous people who even with the pandemic thought enough of their mission to raise sufficient monies to continue to support their students’ aspirations. They made sure where we met was safe and we could ‘social distance’. A definite blessing from God.

Love, Peace and Wellness!!!

Susan Darcy

Vestry News:

In person service and Zoom services are going well. We will continue with this system until Christmas. Greening of sanctuary on 12/20/at 9am after service.
Christmas service 12/24/20 7:30 pm in sanctuary
Service will be in the sanctuary every Sunday from 12/24 until 1/10/21.
Epiphany service 1/10/21 9am in the sanctuary.

Bible study has resumed on ~~Saturday~~ Thursday at 5:30 pm in the hall and on Zoom. Coordinates ID: 872 3908 4276 Passcode: 975647

School has continued the Back pack program this year. This program provides food for school children on the weekend who are part of the breakfast and lunch program during the year. We have helped these children in the past. \$183 will provide a year of the program for a child. If you are interested in helping please give a check to the church with Back pack in the Memo line, we will forward all gifts to the program. Richard is asking that we submit checks prior to 12/13 .

Mary will be going to Convention on line on 10/24. She will give a report in the Nov. Trumpet.

The vestry continues to work on moving the office from the Rectory and we have purchased and had replaced an oil tank for the rectory.

The next vestry meeting is 10/22/20 at 6pm.

Mary Young Junior Warden

From the Treasurer

I want to acknowledge the generosity of all the members of Church of Our Saviour
This has been a most difficult year...but thanks to your continued support we have been able to maintain our Church. We have encountered some unexpected expenses this year...but nothing we could not handle.

I am pleased to report that we still have a prudent reserve in the bank

Please help us with the Backpack program if you are able- it makes a difference

Thanks for all your help and support

Richard Dauchy

**BIBLE STUDY ZOOM INFORMATION
THURSDAY 5:30**

JOIN SUNDAY SERVICE VIA ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87239084276?pwd=ZzFWWDBhdjRmWlNwUFlYz0ErMlVmdz09>

Meeting ID: 872 3908 4276

Passcode: 975647

One tap mobile

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

**ZOOM INFORMATION COOS SERVICE
SUNDAY 8 AM**

JOIN SUNDAY SERVICE VIA ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6346473801?pwd=di9DWGZEdFVJa1JJeFYrS3NIQjhBUT09>

Meeting ID: 634 647 3801

Passcode: 349101

One tap mobile

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