

**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR-  
PO Box 827 Lebanon Springs, NY 12125-0827**

**GIDEON'S TRUMPET NOVEMBER 2020 VOLUME 12 #10**

---

**NEW CHURCH PHONE # IS: 518-938-1183**

**From Father Frank**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

When first called to being ordained, the question that I was asked was “What difference will being ordained make in the ministry you are doing?”. I very distinctly recall talking about the participation in the sacraments. Now, in the first step, being ordained into the diaconate, the sacraments would still remain somewhat out of reach, yet, I agreed to that process.

A couple of years later, the bishop asked me again about ordination, only this time discussing the possibility of ordination to the priesthood. Again I responded with participation in the sacraments. He asked about the meaning of that to me. I shared with him a story.

I was doing prison ministry in a small town. One of my prayer partners after our session began speaking with me in the parking lot. They shared about situations they had been through and what still remained of guilt and shame. We discussed God’s ability and desire to forgive. I assured them that, according to scripture, God’s forgiveness is true forgiveness. As they spoke even further, they felt compelled ultimately to confess to me what was truly troubling them from their past. I explained that I had not been granted the authority by the church to pronounce absolution for them. They said they didn’t care and that they felt deep within their own spirit that they were being led by God to confess and that they would trust God’s forgiveness through my prayer. Very quickly after hearing the confession and praying for forgiveness for them, what they confessed was wiped from my mind.

As I shared this with the bishop, my eyes watered up. I explained to him how important to me Eucharist is. I also explained how my faith was made stronger by the sharing of confession with my confessor and looking into his eyes and receiving God’s forgiveness through him and the fact that his care for me never changed. “Bishop, this is a gift I feel called to share.”

A couple of years later, I was ordained to the priesthood. I have been available for confession always, but only a couple of times did I go through the rite of

Reconciliation of the Penitent. Yet, each time, the healing that took place was amazing.

Why share this with you now? Am I accusing you of something? Is God upset with you and this is His way of letting you know that?

No, not at all.

I share this with you to encourage you to be honest with God and to confess to Him what you struggle with. As I wrote in previous articles, our relationship with God grows best through honest and open communication. Some of that communication should include you be honest with God about how you view yourself. Also, it should include admitting to Him when you have been wrong. Yes, he already knows it. However, you admitting this to Him invites Him into the situation. Now, should there come a time when you are doubting in that forgiveness, not certain that God has set aside those sins and you would like that assurance, then I have a possible solution. Seek out a priest and ask for the rite of Reconciliation. Receive the gift that is there when you have confessed, been told you are forgiven and you see that same assurance staring back at you and, ideally, the love of God having never waivered.

Blessings and peace to all

Father Frank Lockwood

### **From The Senior Warden**

November is my favorite month of the year. It is the month of my birthday, one of my brothers, a granddaughter, and the celebration of Thanksgiving. There is much to celebrate, even in the year of COVID. My family is healthy, the little grands are in school and doing well, a granddaughter married her best friend in October, and life is good. The holidays will be celebrated differently, but the one common thread will be the love of family. The family of Our Saviour has celebrated our love of God and our Lord in person, via Facebook, and via Zoom. We will continue to share the good news with all who listen. November is also the month we look forward to Advent and the coming of our Lord. Be still, be present, be waiting, be loved.

## **From the Junior Warden**

Vestry report:

As we continue to move in the new normal lifestyle of social distancing and face masks, we at Church of Our Saviour would like to continue make our time together as family as possible. With this in mind the Vestry has decided to restart some of our previous schedules.

The Altar Guild: will return to the members serving on alternate months, as of now this is Bitsy and Mary. If you would like to join our group, we would be glad to train you as to what is needed. Please contact one of them and they will set you up.

Lectors: We would like members of the parish to read the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson every Sunday. Mary will continue to do the Psalm and the Prayers of the People. At present we have some members who have previously agreed to read, if you would like to continue or not or to add your name to the list let Mary know. The present list is Ed Wever, Mary Young, Bitsy Sheffer, Ed Curtain, Pam Coley-McCann. A schedule would be developed so you would know which week you would read and will start 12/6/2020

The rectory is fully operational with a new oil tank and all the holes we found filled. The guard cat still is smaller than the mice, but she is growing daily and soon will supplement Father's love of meat and reduce the mice population. The ethernet cable has arrived and will be installed so we are ready to Zoom from the sanctuary for Christmas.

Convention:

Mary attended Convention via Zoom on 10/24/2020, although it was not a mountain top experience as it has been in the past the business was conducted in a professional manner and completed earlier than expected.

Election for these offices are as follows:

Secretary of Diocese: Marian Sive

Treasurer of Diocese: Clark Curtis

Assistant Treasurer of Diocese: Sharon King

The Great Cathedral Chapter: Rev. John Scott III, Louise Wood

Convention Rep. to Diocesan Council: Penelope Belton

Trustees of the Diocese: Rev. Jacob Evans, Rev. David Haig, Tim Condon, Helen Smith

The Disciplinary Board: Rev. Darius Mojallali, Very Rev. Patricia Besuharnois, David Malsan, Robert Luther, Judith Sweet

Provisional Deputies to General Convention: Rev. Jacob Evans, Rev. Laurie Garramone, Rev. Cn. Haskell, Rev. Darius Mojallali, Christopher Cassidy, Debra Gerlach, David Malsan, Dennis Winslom

Standing Committee: Rev. Tom Malionek, Rev. Derik Roy, Sue Ellen Ruetsch, Jean Lauria

Confirmation of Resolutions:

Salary and Benefit resolution approved; Mary has given a copy of this to the Vestry and Treasurer to follow.

2021 Diocesan Budget projection of income: \$1,516,273 Expenditure: \$1,518,307 approved the audit of the Diocese was found to be in order for 2020.

Resolution to extend the standard Assessment reduction formula for another year approved. This resolution from last year to not need to vote on this yearly was found to violate the Cannons and since it is easier to vote yearly than to change the cannons the resolution will be submitted yearly.

Resolutions were given to express the thanks for cooperation and the continued commitment to the Diocese for Christ the King Staff, Diocesan Staff, Technological staff, and supports both Bishop Love and Bishop Herzog.

Reports were given by Christ the King with a financial report, they have found ways to support the Diocese during this time with as much virtual programming as possible of services and youth ministry.

Youth Ministry continues virtually including Beaver Cross and they had almost as many youth participate as they have had on site with the exception being some youth were from parts of the diocese or the country that would not have had access in person. The cost of these programs has been covered by donations from the diocese.

Cathedral of All Saints has returned to in person services as well as virtual with attendance and giving down. Most of the programming has been cancelled including the Messiah and Christmas concerts. If in person events are allowed in 2021 the Cathedral will do the programing with appointments and social distancing.

Convention for 2021 is scheduled for 6/4/2021 – 6/6/2021

As most of you know Bishop Love announced his resignation at Convention. He does not agree with the National Church about the sanctity of Homosexual marriage and cannot remain Bishop if asked to do so. He will complete his time on 2/14/2021 but will not be available after 1/1/2021. The standing committee under

Chancellor of the Diocese Rev. Chip Strickland has already started working with Bishop Love and the Presiding Bishop Curry for the transition to occur and the Standing Committee in its governing role until a new Bishop is secured. I am sad about this news as Bishop Love and I have worked together on many things during his time and I will miss him. As Always, We are Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus as we know he already has a plan for Bishop Love and his family as well as the Diocese of Albany. We need to be praying for the Bishop and the parishes of this Diocese including the priests and deacons and parishioners as Jesus reveals his plan.

Respectfully.

Mary Young Church of Our Saviour Delegate to Convention

#### Christmas Giving:

We have been offered four opportunities to express our love of Christ through Christmas giving this year.

1. The NLCS High School giving tree program, select a boy or girl and purchase a gift card for them to use to purchase an item or items of their own choosing. The school is asking that we choose stores that do not sell alcohol or cigarettes so that the card can only be used by the child. Place it in a Christmas card, mark boy or girl on the envelope and place it in the Christmas tree card holder in the parish hall, the cards will be delivered to the school the week of 12/14/20
2. The Town of New Lebanon is hosting a Christmas gift giving, you can contact the Town Supervisor for a person or family to buy for, she will provide ages, sizes and sex of the people, You purchase GIFTS for the recipient and take them to the Town Hall, call for a time, and they will distribute them again by the week of 12/14/20.
3. Church of Our Saviour is joining with Christ Church Coxsackie in an adopt a family gift. We will get sex, size and age by Thanksgiving and you can call Mary Young if you don't attend services to get the information. We will get these gifts to Coxsackie by 12/19/20.

**The girl is 3 years old and wears 4T clothes, shoes size 9, pullups size 4. She needs hair accessories, wipes, bath stuff, baby dolls, baby shark, and books**

**The boy is 2 years old and wears: clothes 3T, size 7 shoes , diapers size 6. Needs wipes, bath stuff, trucks, coloring books, crayons, learning toys. He loves to count.**

Checking to see if they need a Christmas tree

4. A Christmas gift to the donation of your choice, in the Parish Hall is information about The Heifer project, World Vision, and Gift of Trees. Contact Eugenia for the Marine Corp Toy drive that gives to Local children.

Seasonal changes: Beginning 12/6 we start the season of Advent. During this season, our color is purple and there are no decorations. We will be gathering on 12/20 after service to Green the church and will start having services in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve 12/24 at 7:30 pm, then each Sunday at 8am until Epiphany 12/10/20. We will have Poinsettias on the altar. We are including an envelope for flowers in each Stewardship envelope we mailed out. Members attending will find an envelope at the table on 12/6 and 12/13. Names of those we give flowers in memory of will be part of the Christmas bulletins for 12/24 and 12/27.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

**JANUARY 24,2021**

### **DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

The Annual Meeting will be most likely a “virtual event”  
We do have 2 positions open for nominations-  
Junior Warden- Mary Young has agreed to serve again  
Vestry-

## **CALENDAR**

DECEMBER 3- BIBLE STUDY 5:30 PM

DECEMBER 6- HOLY EUCHARIST 8 AM

DECEMBER 8- GOD'S WILL PROGRAM & DISCUSSION 6 PM

DECEMBER 10-BIBLE STUDY 5:30 PM

DECEMBER 13- HOLY EUCHARIST- 8 AM

DECEMBER 17- VESTRY MEETING 6 PM

DECEMBER 17- BIBLE STUDY 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 20- HOLY EUCHARIST 8 AM-- FOLLOWED BY GREENING OF THE CHURCH

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:30 PM- SANCTUARY

DECEMBER 27 HOLY EUCHARIST 8 AM- SANCTUARY

DECEMBER 31- BIBLE STUDY...TO BE DETERMINED

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**CLERGY**

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry	Daniel Herzog	Deacon Leslie Groneman
The Right Rev. William Love, Bishop	Rev. Randolph Lukas	Pope Francis
Father John	Deacon Peter	Rev. Frank Lockwood
Archbishop of Canterbury	Vestries of Christ Church Coxsackie & Church of Our Saviour	

**GOVERNMENT**

President Trump	Governor Cuomo	Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Senator Charles Schumer	Senator Daphne Jordan	Assemblyman Jake Ashby
Congressman Anthony Delgado	Tistrya Houghtling- Supervisor	
Mary Dodd	Ralph	Julian Houghtling
John & Teri Koepp	Richard Jones	Debbie McLaughlin
Levi Guimarra	Marie	Nathaniel
Heather Kromer	Dean & Rachel McCann	
Rose G	Katrina	Hailey Houghtling
Margaret	Al & Jeanne Mayer	
Eddie	Joanne Lockwood	Ron Peterson
Storm Riders	Michael	Janice C
Sue H	Cliff Myers	Theresa Hoffman
Jamie	Martin	Scott Larabee
Gail S	John	Rich D
Kenneth Duchazme	Dave F	David Curran

STANDING COMMITTEE

US MILITARY

**Covid Cases in New Lebanon & Pittsfield /Education of Disabled Children**

**SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM COV19 VIRUS**

**SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR ALL ESSENTIAL WORKERS**