

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

GIDEON'S TRUMPET MAY 2023 VOLUME 15 #2

Covid Update

The Diocese has stated that each Church may establish its own Covid protocols. Our Vestry has voted to return to the full Eucharist. We may now go to the altar for the bread and wine, however, this is optional. If you wish Father Lockwood to come to your pew, please let him know. The "Peace" will still be exchanged from our pews. No hugging for the time being. We will continue to monitor Covid activity in Columbia County and update as necessary.

Church Calendar:

All Sunday Church Services Begin at 8:30 AM

May 21 st	8:30am	Ascension Sunday Service
	3:00pm	Deanery Meeting at Christ Church, Coxsackie
May 24 th	5:30pm	Bible Study – currently studying the Book of Isaiah
May 28 th	8:30am	Pentecost Sunday Service
	1:00pm	Repair Sign in Yard
May 31 st	5:30pm	Bible Study
June 7 th	5:30pm	Bible Study
June 10 th	10- 4 pm	Library Book Sale (see details below)*
June 11 th	11-3pm	Library Book Sale (see details below)*
June 14 th	6:00pm	Vestry Meeting
June 21 st	5:30pm	Bible Study
June 25 th	3:00pm	Bike Blessing
June 28 th	5:30pm	Bible Study

SAVE THE DATE: Church Picnic, August 13th

** Library Book Sale: donated books may be dropped off at church on Wednesdays noon to 4 or Saturdays from 9-12pm. If you can help sell, let Richard Dauchy know and he will give you details. The church will also be open during the sale for those who would like to tour and learn more about the church and its windows.*

Other Activities:

June 10 th	-----	Diocese of Albany 2023 Convention via zoom Mary Young and Fr. Lockwood attending
May 26 th	9:00am	Memorial Day program at High School
May 28 th	11:00am	Memorial Day Parade, Hancock
May 29 th	9:00am	Memorial Day Parade New Lebanon, starting at Shatford Park

Programs:

Charlies Pantry: Our members give nonperishable food items and household supplies as well as support the fuel fund. A food basket for donations is located in the back of the sanctuary. Eugenia delivers the food twice a month to Charlie's Pantry for distribution. This Pantry is open to the community in need on Saturdays.

Domestic Shelters: Members give personal hygiene products for the residents of the shelter to use. In addition, this month we are collecting blankets, sheets, and towels for the shelter to use.

Animal Assistance: We are partnering with a group of young people whom Bitsy has been teaching. We are helping with their service project collecting items that might be used in an animal shelter. Food, toys, blankets, soap, brushes, and combs to name a few. The students will give these items to the Pittsfield animal shelter.

Bates Fund Raiser: The Bruce Bates family home was destroyed by fire on February 11th. We thank God that no one was hurt, but everything is gone. The Bates have been members of our parish and they and their children and grandchildren were active members. Right now, until further information can be obtained, a financial collection is being made. You may drop off a financial contribution at Mavericks in New Lebanon, send a check to the town clerk or donate on the Go-Fund-Me page set up by their son on Facebook. The Town will be opening the free store and the Columbia County Burned-out Victims Fund will be available, if needed.

Building Fund: Money Needed for Sanctuary Repairs

We plan to paint and repair our Sanctuary in 2023. Please think about donating to our Building Fund. Also, as we all know, the price of fuel oil has increased, so please keep that in mind. Thanks again for all your generosity during 2022. With your help we are continuing to provide worship and fellowship in these difficult times.

Election of the Tenth Bishop of Albany

The election is just a few months away. The Profile and Search committee have presented a slate of candidates to the Standing Committee, and they have been presented to the Diocese.

Nominees:

The Reverend Geoffrey Ward
Rector of Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church
River Hills, Wisconsin (Diocese of Milwaukee)

The Reverend Jeremiah Williamson
Rector of Grand and Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
Colorado Springs, Colorado (Diocese of Colorado)

The Very Reverend Neal Longe
Rector of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church
Amsterdam, New York (Diocese of Albany)

The Reverend Scott Garno
Rector of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
Delmar, New York (Diocese of Albany)

Basic information on the nominees can be viewed at <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/bishop-candidates/>. A number of opportunities will be scheduled for members of the diocese to meet and get to know the candidates. These will be posted on the web site at <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/episcopaltransition/> and will be announced at the morning service.

The vestry will also set a date for a parish meeting to discuss and vote on the choice we wish to have Father Lockwood and Mary vote on at the Convention on September 8th and 9th in the Cathedral.

Please take the time to look at the candidate profiles and plan to come to the meet and greet sessions. If any of the candidates have services available online for us to see, these will be announced.

Please pray the Diocesan Prayer found the back of the readings as we seek God's guidance in our decision.

Further updates will be given as information is available and will be posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall with the Standing Committee reports.

From Father Frank Lockwood

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Here we are in the first part of Spring, aka Mud Season, post Easter. The trees have already blossomed. The fruit tree in the front of the rectory has already showed the first flowers and the new branches have sprung up around the base. We have even had some way above seasonal norm temperatures as a way of teasing us with a taste of summer.

This coming summer I will be part of the team for Cursillo 77. For those unfamiliar with Cursillo, it is a faith encouraging weekend that began, I believe, in the 1970's. It is for adults and primarily led by lay people with some support from clergy. It is lay people sharing their faith with lay people in hope of encouraging a deeper faith.

Related to this is a youth weekend known as Happening. I attended when I was 17 and was on team for one when I was 18. The Happening was about teenagers speaking with teenagers about faith. Again, encouraging a deepening of faith and perhaps even a decrease of the usual shame felt by some teenagers over their faith. Not an easy task, having teenagers gathered together in one house for a whole weekend and having them remain focused on faith and not on "other things".

The Cursillo weekends are normally done as a male only and female only weekend. The design being intentional in order to promote more openness in discussions. The weekend begins on a Friday and runs through to Sunday afternoon. There are several talks, named Rollos, that are given throughout the weekend on numerous topics. There are also small group discussions and activities that take place.

Why go? Well, that depends upon what it is that you want to get out of your faith. What I mean is that I realize each person is going to have their own relationship with God and express it in such a way that is personal to them. Some people are quiet in their faith, never really sharing it or talking about it. Perhaps, even quietly studying on their own or maybe not studying at all but instead taking in what they hear on a Sunday or see in some random movie. Whereas others might be more outspoken by what they feel or more active in their seeking knowledge. Whatever it is, well...it is.

For those that perhaps want a bit more or if their faith has waned, a Cursillo weekend could be an opportunity to encourage that faith to wax. Certainly, there will be bits and pieces of information to be gained alongside differing perspectives of faith and approach to the church. If you would like to talk more, please let me know.

Also, if you have questions that might be done as a newsletter article, please let me know that as well.

In the love of Christ,
Fr Frank

Prayer for Profile and Search Committee, written by Janet Papa:

Heavenly Father, graciously guide the minds and hearts of the Profile and Search Committee as they conduct and review interviews and collect follow-up information in this phase of our search for the next Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany.

Grant them such trust in you that whatever might keep them from following the process put in place through the Holy Spirit's guidance of Christ's church will be overwhelmed by faith and love. Give them clarity and courage to acknowledge and to release into your loving hands any anxiety or fear; protect them from anger, bias, agendas, or particular expectations that threaten to distort their understanding of your will or interfere with their unity, good will, and devotion. Heal them of any wounds and enable them to discern your voice amid the voices of personal needs and concerns that would make it hard for them to hear or follow you.

We ask you, Holy Spirit, to give them humility, trust, wisdom, clarity, and your overall guidance. Give them all true discernment of your voice, your ways, and your will, in Christ our Great Shepherd, to the glory of the Father. Let them follow in the examples of faith set forth by Jesus Christ to trust you to provide the candidate whom you desire to fill this office. Lord bless and guard the candidates, so that, from among them, we will receive the shepherd who, by your power, will protect, feed and tend the flock of Christ.

Grant us all grace to obediently follow Jesus, and to receive, in unity, your chosen leader. We pray for discernment to choose a leader who hears your Word, lives your love, and keeps in the ways of your truth; who follows in the steps of Jesus, and will continue the work you have prepared for them to do, so that we, your Diocese of Albany, may bring honor and glory to your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer in a Time of Transition

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for this, your diocese of Albany. Inspire and sustain us in this time of transition.

Incline our hearts to do your will, and so direct us in your ways that the leader you are raising up to be our Bishop will find here joyful disciples, making disciples, united in faith, unflagging in hope, and steeped in mutual charity.

In your mercy, accept our repentance, and grant us peace; look with patience on our enthusiasms; and pour rich gifts and grace upon all who are entrusted with the ongoing work of your church; so that, with diligence and charity, we may discern correctly and walk righteously in your ways.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

