

Wednesday Information – November 18, 2020

Covid Update

Dear friends,

Yesterday Governor Carney introduced new restrictions to help slow the spread of the coronavirus, Covid-19. The new rules which apply to churches state that in-person gatherings must operate at a capacity of 30% with a maximum number of 50 persons.

At St. Martha's we have a capacity for 150, which means our maximum number of worshippers will be 45. At present our Sunday attendance ranges from 20 to 35 in number, so we are within the new limits.

Therefore, I am pleased to confirm that we will continue to offer in-person worship at St. Martha's. We will continue to take measures to ensure that our worship space is as safe as can be in the current situation. Those attending worship will be vetted by our ushers, who will take the temperature of everyone who attends church. In between services the church is professionally cleaned, and also sanitized.

Prior to the service I wash my hands, and before distributing communion I use hand sanitizer. Masks are worn in church, however these are removed by the readers and myself when we are speaking. The distance between speakers and congregation always exceeds the 13 foot distance required.

We invite all to attend worship, although at the moment most of you prefer to watch the livestream service at home. We are a worshipping community united in our love for God and for one another. Whichever way you choose to worship, we cherish the opportunity to worship together, which nourishes and sustains us through this current time of testing.

Here is a summary again of our protocol for those who choose to attend in person.

- * Masks must be worn. We will provide masks for anyone who needs them.
- * When you arrive, your temperature will be taken.
- * Entrance to the church will be via the large red doors on the corner of Maplewood St and S. Pennsylvania Ave.
- * Physical distancing must be adhered to while waiting to enter church and when seated. Members of the same family may sit together.
- * The Order of Service for that day, along with the readings and notices, will have been placed on the chair several days earlier. Please use this during the service and take it with you when you leave. Extra booklets will be available on request.
- * Restrooms are closed except for emergencies.
- * The Office and Parish Hall will be closed.
- * There will be music, but the congregation are not permitted to sing.
- * You will, however, be allowed to make your spoken responses, recite the Creed etc.
- * Offerings can be left in the collection plate at the back of the Sanctuary.
- * Communion will be in one kind only. The priest will wash their hands and wear a mask before distributing communion. Communicants will line up before the altar to receive the host in the palm of their hand.
- * Hand sanitizers will be available in the church.

* There will be no coffee hour after the service. However, an online Coffee Hour is provided at 11 am.

Your brother in Christ,

Father David

Upcoming events at St. Martha's

SMVBC

Thursday, **November 19th**, 3:00 – 4:00 PM. The book club is discussing chapters five and six of “Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life”, by Richard Rohr. There will be no meeting on Thursday, November 26. Book club will resume on December 3. If you would like to join the discussion please contact Rick Legeer at rlegeer@comcast.net by Thursday at 9:00 AM so you can be added to the zoom invitation.

Christ the King

Sunday, **November 22 Holy Eucharist at 9 am**. The church year ends with a celebration of the Feast of Christ the King.

Coffee Hour

Sunday, **November 22, at 11 am Coffee Hour** online will be hosted by Father David. A link will be provided in the Saturday Inspiration email.

Bible Study

Tuesday, **November 24 at 1 pm**. A study of Exodus, Chapters 20-22 led by Dianne Burlew. Meet in the Parish Hall. Masks and physical distancing required.

Thanksgiving Eve - Evening Prayer

Wednesday, **November 24 at 7 pm**. Dianne Burlew leads an in-person service (non-eucharistic) of Evening Prayer. All are welcome. Masks required.

Handbell Choir

Wednesday, **November 25, at 1-2 pm** in the Parish Hall.

Advent Bags

Advent begins on November 29, and we have Advent Bags to hand out to members between now and then. Each bag contains a booklet with a calendar of services and events for Advent and Christmas at St. Martha's, another booklet of devotional readings from Henri Nouwen, and some other goodies! The bags can be collected from the office or from the back of church.

If you would like a bag personally delivered to your address, please email the office at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or telephone 302-539-7444. A volunteer will be happy to bring one to you. Or if you have a neighbor who would like one, please ask for another.

236th Annual Convention

Saturday, November 21, 2020, via Zoom and Livestream.

9 am, Call to Order/Business. 2 pm, Holy Eucharist

Click [here](#) for more details.



In Loving Service - A Quiet Day

This is a Silent Retreat led by Fr David Beresford on the theme of the faithfulness and humility of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

**Memorial House, 54 Oak Ave, Rehoboth Beach DE 19971
Saturday December 5, 2020. From 10 am
to 3 pm. Holy Eucharist at 2:30 pm.**

Lunch will be provided. Admission is free, however donations are invited. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jaclyn Hickman by email at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or by telephone on 302-539-7444.



Watch and Pray is an online course comprising four sessions in Advent, every Wednesday evening at 7 pm, where we will explore the themes of waiting, praying, watching and receiving. "Keep awake," Jesus says. During the course we will keep our eyes and minds open to what God is saying to us in our current situation.

The course is suitable for all people and will follow the Sunday gospel readings for Advent Year B. This is an online course via Zoom - participants will need a computer or a smart phone.

Each session begins with an Opening Worship, followed by a general introduction to the topic; then there will be an opportunity for discussion of the course material. There will be a mixture of media - music, images and text. Each session will conclude with a short closing worship. The duration of each session will be around 60 minutes or more.

Dec 2 • Advent One: Hope in Times of Darkness

Dec 9 • Advent Two: A Message of Love

Dec 16 • Advent Three: A Witness to the Light

Dec 23 • Advent Four: Annunciation

For further information, please email the office at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or telephone 302-539-7444.

Maggie's 4th Annual Coat Drive

Mimi Dupont's granddaughter has begun her annual coat drive. The economic challenges brought on by the pandemic have increased needs. All coats donated will go to local charities as they have in the past. New and gently used. Adults and children of all ages. Hats, gloves, and scarves are welcome, too. Drop off locations are Selbyville Middle School, where Maggie is now a sixth grader, Next Step Learning Center in Selbyville, Coldwell Banker in Ocean View, Milton Police Department, and the Frankford Town Hall. Mimi will be glad to pick up coats from St. Martha's, if that is more convenient for donors, or call Mimi at 302-228-2755. See Maggie's flyer [here](#).

UTO

St. Martha's usually has the ingathering of UTO funds twice a year-Spring and Fall. We did not have one in the spring so our donations now will be our total contribution for the 2021 grants.

The United Thank Offering, which is an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Church, has long been a tradition of our congregation. Our funds are to help local, national and international groups through approved grants. 100% of our donations go directly to the needs of the recipients. Next year's focus is Recovering with Love and Gratitude.

In spite of all the hardships we have experienced this past year please help us to be as generous as possible. All of your gifts will be welcomed. They will be used to enrich the lives of others in need. Thank you.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ST. MARTHA'S CHURCH AND NOTE ON THE MEMO LINE "UTO".

UTO Coordinator
Bette Wade

Christmas Luncheon

Due to COVID we are postponing the 2020 Christmas Luncheon. Next year's luncheon is scheduled for December 14, 2021. A long way off but please mark the date on your calendar.

Committee Updates

Outreach

Community Food Pantry, located at Salem United Methodist Church, is looking for volunteers to help with their monthly Friday food preparation and Saturday drive thru distribution. If you can help November 20 or 21, please contact Joyce Dennis (302-732-6565) or Myra Bare (302-732-9402).

Search

The Search Committee met on Monday, November 16 to continue editing and formatting the Rector Search Page. Although this committee formally consists of 7 parishioners, all parishioners have a voice to be heard: if you feel there are certain qualities you wish our new rector to have, or perhaps, not have, or if you believe there is some important point that should be mentioned about St. Martha's or our community, please e-mail these thoughts to tbsteensr@gmail.com. Thank you.

Stewardship

As we near Thanksgiving and thank God for our many blessings, may we remember St. Martha's and be generous with our pledges.

Seashell Ringers

Rehearsals have resumed! All COVID precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of the ringers. There is a need for 1 or 2 more ringers. No experience is necessary, and we will happily train you! Our rehearsals are held every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-2:00 in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Kemper

Please give by mail or website donate button

Please continue to support our mission work by submitting your pledge to St. Martha's Episcopal Church, PO Box 1478, Bethany Beach DE 19930 or give via the donate button on the website where there is a box to note your contribution purpose: <https://www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org/make-donation-or-pledge/>.

Prayer List

Bob Bauer, Ruth Simone, Ron Sutton, Martha, Wayne Argo, Paul Stutts, Justin Bence, James Moore, Jr., Evan Ballard, Cameron Vlassis, Charmaine Zoller, Tara Sprouse, Don Louk, Joey, Sara Suerose, Nancy Moore & family, Bill Ensor, Katherine Hobbs, Joe, Nancy Reed, Leigh Alexander Loeber, Ron Pickup, William L Brintnall, Laura N. Brintnall, Cuthie Family, Janice Fritsch, Cassandra Riddle, Pauline Wise, Becky Warlow, Jean Bunker, Carolyn Clarke, Richard Hay, August Goeller, Bev and Jack Shubert, Margaret Duval, Marilyn Hoffman, Clari Hernandez, AJ Evans, Robert Hicks, Noel Tuck, Joanne Grant, Mimi Drew, John Conway, Keith Smith, Jim Lucas, Christine Mains and Lois Allen

For Our Serving Military: Quinn Barber, HM3 Kevin Murphy, Conner Warlow, Daniel Olnick

Prayer LIST – If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List please contact the office at (302) 539-7444 or email admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org. The Prayer List is a way to ask for prayer from the whole congregation for a loved one who is dealing with a stressful issue such as chronic illness, job problem, or other personal problem. Only the person's name is listed. Names stay on the list for two months unless and until renewed.

Prayer CIRCLE – These volunteer prayer warriors pray for a person who has asked for urgently needed short-term prayer for a specific purpose like surgery or an upcoming medical test. These requests are confidential. You can email prayercircle@stmarthasbethanybeach.org for Prayer Circle intercessions. You can also contact Jaelyn at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or 539-7444. Voicemail messages are being monitored and you will receive a return call during normal office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm).

Pastoral CARE –If you have a pastoral care need, please call Elsa or Carol at (732) 216-6875 or contact the office using the email address or phone number listed above.

Pastoral Care EMERGENCY – Please contact Father David Beresford at (302) 468 9062.

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Have a wonderful week!

The Rev. David Beresford, 302-468-9062, davidberesford@gmail.com
Senior Warden Ron Kerchner, 609-424-7281, thekerchners@msn.com
Junior Warden Bill Freund, 301-229-0799, wmfreund42@gmail.com
Secretary John Short, 302-829-1699, johnnyeshort146@gmail.com
David Kemper, Music Director, 267-421-4453, dc.kemper@hotmail.com
Jaclyn Hickman, Administrative Asst., 302-539-7444, admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org

