

Wednesday Information - March 24, 2021

Dear friends,

Preparations are gathering pace for our Holy Week and Easter celebrations. The Seashell Ringers Handbell Choir have been practicing for the Prelude at the 9 am service on Easter Day. The palms for Sunday have arrived and are waiting to be blessed and carried into church. Many of our members are engaged in serving, reading and preparing the church - especially the garden of Gethsemane and Altar of Repose for Maundy Thursday. There are Easter eggs to prepare, and the Easter fire, liturgy booklets to be printed, a seating plan to be created for the church during Covid time. The new Paschal candle has arrived, to be lit on Easter morning and symbolically carried into the darkened church.

There is a crackle of excitement in the church now. The light is coming, the light is coming...it occurs to me that it is two years since St Martha's opened its doors to Holy Week and Easter worship. There is a longing to hear afresh the words of salvation - our salvation, won for us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a time of blessing, as numbers coming to church are growing, and people are making their way from the dark of winter into the light of Christ's love.

How wonderful to be a part of this moment, of this movement of the faithful to receive the grace of God in word and sacrament, and to experience in part what Christ himself experienced when he traveled to Jerusalem to complete the work his Father sent him to do.

We want everyone to experience the beauty and drama of Christ's story in the liturgy of Holy Week celebration. However, because of Covid, we are restricting the numbers attending, to ensure physical distancing. That means we are having to take reservations for seating. As soon as the seating allocation is filled, then no more will be allowed in church. At present we are taking reservations for both the 9 am and 11 am services on Easter morning. As soon as they are filled, an email will be sent out advising members of this.

Because we don't want to turn anyone away, we are also planning to live-stream the 9 am service in the Lighthipe Hall. Those who turn up when we are full in the church will be offered the option to watch the service in the hall and then, at communion, to come into the church to receive the sacrament.

We are also holding a 6 am Easter Vigil, for early birds. There are no reservations needed for this service, but we will need to have an idea of how many are coming, as those who do will receive breakfast afterwards. Please let Jaclyn in the office

know if you are coming to this service. For the Vigil, we also need two more readers, so if you are able to read, please let Jaclyn know.

On Maundy Thursday, the church will remain open until midnight. At the back of church there will be a small garden and candles, and an altar on which will be placed the ciborium of the consecrated bread. You are invited to pray in silence with Jesus for as long as you are able to stay. At midnight, the Gospel of the Watch (Luke 22:31-62) is read, followed by the Collect for Good Friday. Please sign on the list at the back of church if you can devote an hour or half an hour to prayer on this evening.

Finally, our Good Friday service is at 3 pm. Communion will be given from the bread consecrated on Maundy Thursday. No reservations are needed to attend this service.

May God grant you a grace-filled and blessed Holy Week.

Father David

Join us as we worship together in person.

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28, 2021

8:00 am & 10:00 am- Holy Eucharist

If you are unable to worship in person, please join us as we livestream.

To view the livestreamed service please click the Youtube link below.





SUNDAY MARCH 28 PALM SUNDAY	8 am	Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist
	10:00 am	Blessing of the Palms and Procession of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem and Holy Eucharist
THURSDAY APRIL 1 MAUNDY THURSDAY	7:00 pm	Holy Eucharist and Solemn Watch before the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight
FRIDAY APRIL 2 GOOD FRIDAY	3 pm	Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday
SUNDAY APRIL 4 EASTER DAY	6 am	GREAT EASTER VIGIL Lighting of the Paschal Candle and First Holy Communion of Easter
	9:00 am	Holy Eucharist (entrance by ticket only)
	11:00 am	Holy Eucharist with Easter Egg Hunt

UPCOMING EVENTS

God and Us

Today, Wednesday, March 24 at 7 pm. **“God and Us”** comprises six online sessions and explores our relationship with God. There will be an opportunity to discuss the course material and the session will end with prayer.

Session Five: **The Vision of God**

Contact the office for the zoom link.

In Person Bible Study

Tuesday, **March 30** at 1 pm.

A study of the Book of Deuteronomy, Chapters 32-34. Led by Dianne Burlew. Meet in the Parish Hall. Masks and physical distancing required. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jaclyn Hickman by email at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or by telephone on 302-539-7444.

Ministerium Prayer Service

A Prayer Service will be held in the Parking Lot of St. George’s United Methodist Church on Wednesday, **March 31** @ 12 noon led by Ocean View Presbyterian Church

(Sound system available, so you may stay in your car. As in past, a free will offering will be accepted to support the less fortunate that Ministerium provides for).

St. Martha's Virtual Book Club will resume Thursday, **April 15, 3:00 – 4:00 PM**. The Club will discuss ***White Fragility*** by Robin DiAngelo. DiAngelo challenges conventional views held by many White Americans on race. Both conscious and unconscious attitudes are scrutinized, often with outcomes opposite to common thought. The book was a N.Y. Times best seller for over a year, reaching #1 frequently.



Weekly chapter assignments will be detailed shortly. ***White Fragility*** is available at Amazon (e-reader and hard copy) and other online stores. If possible check out local bookstores. To get on the Club's Zoom meeting list, contact Rick Legeer at rlegeer@gmail.com or 301-758-7539.



Outreach

Outreach is having our **Diaper Drive** during the month of March. Donations of diapers (pull-ups size 4 girls, pull-ups size 5 and larger boys) can be dropped off at St. Martha's or at Wincy Jackson's home: 18 Morgans Turn, Ocean View. Monetary donations for diapers are also welcome. Checks can be made out to St. Martha's with diapers in the memo line.

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 **April 16th or 17th**, please contact Joyce Dennis (302-732-6565) or Myra Bare (302-732-940).



Camp Arrowhead is opening at 50% this summer. Some scholarships are still available. To apply, please contact Jaclyn Hickman at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org. to receive a copy of the scholarship form. When form is completed, please send to Josie Legeer at Jlegeer@comcast.net or mail to Josie Legeer 36310 Charleston Dr., Selbyville, DE 19975.

[Camp Arrowhead](#)



From Union Wesley Mission Team

This week we received a “thank you” card from the above. It reads:

“Thank you for the \$300.00 worth of Food Lion Gift Cards. Thank you for your continued support as we feed God’s Sheep. Currently, we are giving food to 30 families, thanks be to you. I thank and praise God that you support Union Wesley U. M. Church, Food Pantry Ministry. Sincerely, Lois Mumford.”

Prayer List

Bev and Jack Shubert, Marie Hogsten, Robert Hicks, Christine Mains, Carolyn Clarke, Jim Lucas, Jane Robbert, Cathy Jordan, Aiden Custance, Robin Weaver, Sue Mantegna, Maria LaValle, Al Davidson, Ivette, Clari Hernandez, Paul Tarr, Diane and Elsa Fuentes

For the recently departed: Barbara and James Myhre

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 one month 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 Jaclyn 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.

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/>.

*Assist us mercifully with your help,
O Lord God of our salvation,
that we may enter with joy
upon the contemplation
of those mighty acts, whereby
you have given us life and immortality;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Have a wonderful week!

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