

# The Good News

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Chittenango, New York

November 2023

### Musings from a cluttered desk......

I hate that shootings are again the headline in the news. I hate that my sister, who lives in Maine, has to reach out to my other sister and I, to let us know that her family is okay. I hate that no matter how much prayer and good thoughts we send the victims way, another round of innocent people die doing what was supposed to be part of their normal daily life.

This is NOT how life is supposed to be! We shouldn't be looking over our shoulders all the time, we should be able to go grocery shopping, walking down the street, movies, concerts, our church, synagogue or mosque without fear and wondering who is going to be next.

These shootings are a symptom. A symptom of a deep psychological problem our country cannot or will not face. We have a kneejerk response to mass shootings, understandably. But kneejerk is not always what you need to go with. Banning all guns is a pipe dream. Here in New York, we shudder when we hear stronger gun laws, because ours are pretty doggone strong. But, conversely, there other states where laws are negligible. This, in of itself, causes many problems. But something that is never touched upon, is asking the right questions to this horrific problem. What is the underlying cause? We have a crisis in this country with our young men, who are experiencing depression and anxiety in overwhelming numbers. I cannot go into all the studies that show this, but it is there.

I wish I had answers. I wish I could magically make things better. I wish I could get our politicians to stop pontificating for the cameras and get down to work and find a way to bolster our Mental Health System, to find a way to reach out to these young men who fall through the cracks and aren't noticed until its too late.

So for now, all we can do is pray. Pray for peace, pray for wisdom to touch on our politicians, pray that for once they put our country first, instead of their personal agendas.

We raise our prayers in remembrance of the victims of violence, both those who have been injured and those who have been killed in cities and towns across our country. We hold their memories dear. We treasure those lives permanently altered through injury or those taken in senseless acts of violence and we pray that they might find rest and peace. May their lives continue to make a difference in our world. Amen.

(Adapted from Moral Call: A Vermont Interfaith Prayer and Remembrance and Bishops Against Gun Violence)

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The Mission of our Parish is to be an active community reflecting God's presence in Chittenango and other communities we represent.

#### **Our Services**

Sundays at 9 AM

Join us on Zoom!

Link will be posted to our Facebook page every week

204 Genesee Street Chittenango, NY 13037 (315) 687-6304 Stpaulschittenango@gmail.com stpaulschittenango.net

Robin

#### **Contact Information**

Father Leon Mozeliak Home: 315-457-1302 Cell: 315-369-8205 frleonm@yahoo.com

#### St. Paul's Vestry

Robin Weisbrod Sr Warden Communication Chair Home: 315-655-4321 Cell: 315-367-8111 rdweisbrod@gmail.com

> Judy Olmsted Treasurer

Tania Mousaw Outreach

Lynn Mozeliak Pastoral Care

Sue Gerling Jr Warden Worship

Val Travers Fellowship

Jan Lee Vestry Clerk

Amy Veator Newsletter Editor

Want to donate to St. Paul's? Not sure how to do it online?

Go to: <a href="https://cnyepiscopal.org/give/">https://cnyepiscopal.org/give/</a> click on "Give to my Parish" and look for St. Paul's Chittenango.

You will get an email stating your donation has gone thru and our Treasurer will get an email, with your name and amount given.

#### **Prayer List**

Ethel Barber, Ron Beaty, Joe Bersani, Catherine Carter, Dorrie Champlin, Barb Dayo, Ida Goins, The Rev. Charles Grover, Joan Grover, Donna Hoffman, Ed Hoffman, Roberta Kincaid, Patricia Ladd, Don Lee, Betty Lesczynski, Ed Link, Woody McAllister, Brian Mozeliak, Lynn Mozeliak, Carolyn (Snookie) Niles, Judy Olmsted, Ed Pokorny, Roe Salamone, Cathy Satimore, Pat Stucker, Ruth Williams, The Woodworth & Held families, prayers for the unknown Stage 4 Cancer patient from the laundromat and prayers for the people of Gaza, Israel and Palestine.



New Prayer List for October 2023/November 2023 has een posted on the bulletin board.

If you wish to have someone added to St. Paul's Prayer list, please contact Becky Kraus at bak092364@gmail.com / 315 382-9056 or Robin Weisbrod at rdweisbrod@gmail.com / 315 655-4321.

If anyone would like a written copy of the weekly lessons/Gospel, Psalm, and Fr. Leon's sermon, either mailed to you or emailed to you - please contact the Church, by phone or by email and let Becky know. She will drop them in the mail to you weekly.

Please email stpaulschittenango@gmail.com Or call (315) 687-6304

November is a great time to start or deepen a gratitude practice and UTO has materials for all ages and for Thanksgiving. Science shows that committing to a gratitude practice will improve your health and well-being, and what better time to take on a new gratitude practice than in November as we in the United States prepare for Thanksgiving. To help people of all ages explore their personal practice of gratitude, we've created free materials for a variety of ages and with a variety of time commitments so you can find the path that best fits your needs. For Families: • Easy Thanksgiving Tree Craft • Weekly Gratitude Journal for Families • Fill in the blank Thank You Cards • Book guides, crafts, and additional resources to help teach about the historic roots of Thanksgiving. For Individuals: • 30 day text message gratitude prompt • Weekly gratitude journal focused on wellness and gratitude For Thanksgiving: • Gratitude Conversation Dice to help generate conversations on gratitude around the table. • Prayer Cards to help ground your celebration in prayers • Place Cards to let your guests know you're thankful for them All of these resources (and more) are available on the UTO website. For more information on the United Thank Offering visit: ww.unitedthankoffering.com

# November

#### **Birthdays**

23 Robin Weisbrod 27 Ed Butler

#### Anniversaries

03 Neil & Sue Huebler 25 Leon & Lynn Mozeliak

## Ministry Team Schedule

#### November 5, 2023 Holy Eucharist Morning Prayer

Robin Weisbrod Lessons: Sue Gerling Prayers: Sue Gerling Acolyte: Ed Hoffman MIDI: Valerie Travers Coffee Hour: Vestry

#### November 12, 2023 Holy Eucharist

Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr. L.E.M.: Sue Gerling Lessons: Roberta Kincaid Prayers: Roberta Kincaid Acolyte: Ed Hoffman MIDI: Valerie Travers Coffee Hour: Please Volunteer

#### November 19, 2023 Holy Eucharist

Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr. L.E.M.: Judy Olmsted Lessons: Tania Mousaw Prayers: Tania Mousaw Acolyte: Ed Hoffman MIDI: Valerie Travers Coffee Hour: Please Volunteer

#### November 26, 2023 Morning Prayer

Robin Weisbrod
Lessons: Meg Hermann
Prayers: Meg Hermann
Acolyte: Ed Hoffman
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Please volunteer

#### **Altar Guild for November:**

Sue Huebler Becky Kraus So far in November we have 3 Coffee Hour spots needed to be filled. Can you find it in your heart to fill that spot? Maybe even join up with someone else? Homemade is wonderful, but don't let this stop you!! We love fruit, cheese, heck—ANY kind of sweets to go with our coffee!!

Thank you to those of you who have faithfully brought us goodies!!! They are ALL truly appreciated.

The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board, down towards the left hand bottom.

Thank you!!



Join us in saving Quarters and drop them in the change container in the Parish Hall.

Not able to get to the Parish Hall?
- make a donation to the church and on the memo line put Laundry Donation!!

Thank you for supporting this new Outreach program.

Faith is a rock-hewn stairway Bathed in sunshine And slick yellow leaves On a Fall afternoon Faith is the sound of rushing water And taste of damp, cool air As you descend fool-heartedly Dressed in flared jeans, too big Carrying only a travel mug of coffee And an uncharged phone Faith is the squirrels dancing On the path ahead of you And the chipmunk diving in a hole After firmly telling you off Faith is the strangled breath Of you the lazy hiker Out of shape and out of season Coming back to her cathedral After nearly a full year away Faith is telling the falls you're sorry Wedging your coffee on a rock And whispering new promises In the face of her mighty roar Faith is the stairs, the leaves The sound of water and of animals Faith is the waterfall And faith is me, it's me, it's me Coming here alone Because I finally believed I could "Chittenango Falls Presents: A Lesson in Faith" Brynn Semeraro 10/23/23 (printed with her permission)



#### A Pastoral Note from Bishop DeDe

Dear Friends, our lectionary this past Sunday, in which Exodus 32:1-14 reinforces God's covenant with the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, was perfectly timed for this moment in our world; these conflicts are not new. Over these past fourteen days we have witnessed the worst of our human brokenness. We have also experienced an outcry from around the world for peace in our time.

What is happening in the Holy Land is devastating and a horror to witness. In our own country antisemitic acts and islamophobia continue to rise. Understandably many are feeling shaken, unsure what to believe. Some are rushing to take sides. Others are advocating for simplistic solutions. The temptation to engage in blame and further dehumanization is difficult to resist. Amid the hatred, fear, oppression, and violence, we know that this is not the world we seek.

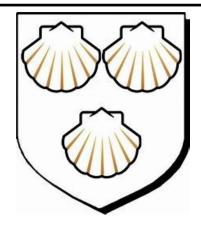
We are followers of Jesus. In each situation we vow to 'seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to strive for justice and peace among all people.' Each Sunday we repent, we turn back to God's ways and change our minds. The way of Jesus is the path, the way to the world we seek.

We are healed by forgiveness, stronger when we love, and made whole in relationship with all God's beloved people. This past Tuesday, when we responded to the request of Archbishop Housam of Jerusalem and had a day of prayer and fasting in our diocese, we took part in a global event, joining our voices with people around the world in praying for peace. We will continue to pray, to advocate for peace, and to work for justice in our own communities and our world.

In particular, I encourage us all to seek ways of offering support to our Jewish and Muslim neighbors. I also encourage us all to limit our exposure to social media and to voices consumed by fear that further divide us.

This is a time for deep listening, for humility, and compassion. Let us encourage one another and be reminded that God's love and mercy are greater than the challenges we face. I close with a passage from this past Sunday's lectionary that speaks to us today,

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9



#### Saint James the Greater Shield

Saint James the Greater James the Great was the second of the apostles to die and the first to be martyred. Saint James is the patron saint of Spain and, according to tradition, his remains are held in Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. James' emblem was the scallop shell (or "cockle shell"), and pilgrims to his shrine often wore that symbol on their hats or clothes. James was the son of Zebedee and Salome. Salome was a sister of Mary (mother of Jesus) which made James the Great cousin of Jesus.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Chittenango, New York

# We are on the Web stpaulschittenango.net

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