

# The Guardian

OCTOBER 2022

## FROM THE RECTORY

### MY BURDEN IS LIGHT


*'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'* Matthew 11: 28–30

It was wonderful to welcome so many people from St. Michael's and from our wider community to our Building Hope Open House on September 1. It was a beautiful, crisp and clear day and we enjoyed the "show and tell" at different stations devoted to each piece of the project. For our roof station, we had a sample of the copper to be used and a genuine piece of Guilford slate, just like the slate on St. Michael's current roof. We believe that the slate is original to the construction of the church in 1853; it is incredible that this beautiful, locally-sourced gift from the earth lasted so long and sheltered us so well for almost 170 years.

Getting a chance to hold the slate in my hands really impressed me — it was so heavy! I didn't realize that when we look at our roof, we are only seeing half of each piece of slate, as the slate is layered, one piece on top of another. We had a contest to "guess the weight of the slate" on the roof and Marie Lawrence won, guessing 32,400 pounds. That is 16 tons! While our building has been able to bear this weight for a very long time, we know that the structure of the building is literally bending under this burden. Of course, it will be hard for all of us to say goodbye to the slate that has sheltered us for so long; however, we must keep in mind that lightening the load that the building is holding (even with the solar panels) will help sustain the church structure and better protect the interior of the church from leaks. We hope that our building can experience the rest that Jesus promises all of us who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens.

We expect the work on the roof to begin in the first half of October — soon! We will need to live with some inconvenience and messiness while the roof is being replaced. As I learned from the last building project, the process of dismantling is messy and difficult to see in this place that is so sacred to us. But as Ecclesiastes tells us, *There is a time to break down and a time to build up*. We need to get through the breaking down in order to experience the newness of building up. We also hope to have a weekly update about what is happening with the building in our weekly eNews and on the website.

Please keep the workers and our beloved church in your prayers during this important time of renewal.

  
Mary Lindquist  
Rector



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

*Building Hope Open House on September 1*



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**THE BUILDING HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

We have been so deeply moved by the generosity of our church community in our effort to raise \$800,000 that will cover the replacement of all the roofs, the addition of heat/cool saving insulation, the installation of solar panels, and the electrification of the church and rectory through heat pumps. So far, we have received 29 pledges and raised \$704,700 towards our goal! We are hoping to receive 100 pledges and \$800,000 by October 9. If you have not had a chance to pledge yet, we sincerely hope that you will be moved to be a part of this important and inspiring project.

**FEAST DAYS IN OCTOBER**

The date of the feast and the date of our community celebrations are listed below.

- St. Michael's Feast Day is officially on September 29, but we will be celebrating it on Sunday, October 2, to coincide with the Michael Mystery Play.
- St. Francis' Feast Day is October 4, but we will be celebrating it on Sunday, October 9, to coincide with the culmination of the Season of Creation and the date we hope everyone will turn in their pledges for the Building Hope for the Earth Campaign.
- All Saints' Day is on November 1, but we will be celebrating it on Sunday, October 30.


**"MICHAEL" MYSTERY PLAY THIS WEEKEND  
SEPT 30, OCTOBER 1 AND OCTOBER 2**

This year we are celebrating the Feast of St. Michael with an all-parish mystery play, with not one, but four Michaels. With an original script and score by Paul and Susan Dedell and art direction by Finn Campman, our incredibly talented parish artists, actors, and singers bring a new vision of Michael, the

Archangel to our midst. Who was/is Michael? Explore this epic story through art, music, and vision on:

- **Friday Sept. 30, 7:30 pm**
- **Saturday Oct. 1, 7:30 pm**
- **Sunday Oct. 2, 4 pm**

You might want to make plans to come more than once!

*Note:* Children are welcome; parents are advised that the very large dragons might be frightening to some children.


**THE PLATTSBURGH STATE GOSPEL CHOIR  
RETURNS TO ST. MICHAEL'S  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 AT 5 PM**

The Plattsburgh State Gospel Choir will once again bring their sounds of traditional gospel, urban gospel, contemporary Christian music, European harmonies, and Caribbean and Afrocentric rhythms to Brattleboro. The choir has performed all over the world. The Group is delighted to visit the Brattleboro area once again. Donations will be accepted on behalf of the Gospel Choir's foundation and St. Michael's Building Hope Project. Following the concert, all are invited to a potluck supper in the Undercroft with the choir members.



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### ADULT FORUMS BEGIN AGAIN ON OCTOBER 2

#### 9–10 AM IN THE MEETING ROOM

**October 2 — Who is Michael?** Who is our patron? A saint? An angel? What does Michael represent? How does Michael interact in your life? Susan Dedell leads a presentation and group reflection on Michael with a few musical themes to boot. (p.s. What's with the dragons?)

**October 9 — TBA**

**October 16 — Diocesan Convention Update:** Come and hear from our clergy and delegates about the 2022 Diocese of Vermont Convention. At this convention, many changes are being proposed by the THRIVE Taskforce. You can get a glimpse of some of these proposed changes by watching the recorded town meetings (if you did not get a chance to attend) that can be found on the Diocese of Vermont's website.

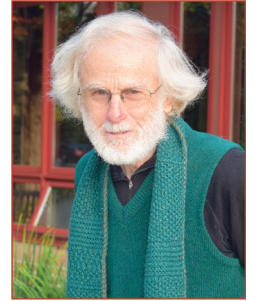
**October 23 — Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be on a pilgrimage?** We have an opportunity to find out. Come listen to members of our parish who have walked one or more pilgrim routes from the Deerfield Valley pilgrimage in Vermont this September to the Camino de Santiago route in Northern Spain, one of the most heavily traveled routes in the Christian world. Hear what it is like to take on the physical challenge as well as the spiritual challenge of such a journey. We will have an opportunity to ask your pilgrims how such a trip has impacted their spiritual lives. *Nancy Ames leads.*

**October 30 — Celebrating the Saints** — All Saints Day has a special poignancy for St. Michael's this year as we have lost so many elders in the last year. Please come as we explore the deeper meaning of All Saints Day as well as share memories of those whom we love and see no longer. *Led by Mary Lindquist.*

STM

### GIVING THANKS FOR PARKER

Parker Huber was a faithful member of St. Michael's contemplative Christian ministry, as well as a deep friend to many in St. Michael's neighborhood. Parker's friends and community are invited to a Quaker-style gathering at Scott Farm (707 Kipling Rd, Dummerston, VT) on Tuesday, October 4, (St. Francis' Feast Day!) from 3–4:30, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.



STM

### ST. FRANCIS DAY BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

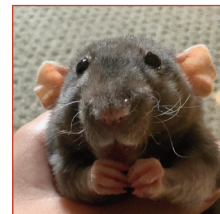
All people, creatures and critters are invited to a special celebration in thanksgiving of our pets and animals!

**When:** Sunday, October 9, 2022, 4 pm

**Where:** The Rectory Lawn (across the parking lot from St. Michael's, 18 Bradley Avenue, accessible entrance available on Bradley Avenue).

**What:** A brief time of singing, readings and prayer, followed by a time of blessing each pet individually.

**Who:** You, your pet or a picture of your pet, or a stuffed animal, plus your animal-loving friends and neighbors!





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**THE SEASON OF CREATION  
& ST. FRANCIS DAY**

As the culmination of the Season of Creation, we will celebrate St. Francis Day on Sunday, October 9 and we will welcome a special preacher, St. Michael's parishioner Kim Peavy.

Kim Peavey and her husband, Frank Hunter, have been farming together and with draft horses for nearly twenty-two years, nineteen of those living and farming full time in Westmoreland, New Hampshire. Kim grew up on a family dairy farm in central New York State and studied literature, theology, and environmental issues before returning to her farming roots. Kim's essays and poetry have appeared in various periodicals, and she also writes the monthly column Farm Talk, (<http://www.hillsidespringsfarm.com/blog>) on farming and sustainability.

**CURATE'S CORNER  
MUSINGS FROM YOUR RESIDENT  
ITINERANT**

Amidst some pockets of pure recreation like a first pontoon ride on the Mississippi River, my summer was also one of immersion in other parts of my life of ministry — a bit of writing, facilitating a day of formation for a handful of congregations in Minnesota, spiritual companionship with intentional communities, and beginning to get to know our larger diocese.

Through all this, Paul's image of the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12–27) has emerged as a guiding image for this year of ministry and reflection that is now underway. The body has many members, says Paul. The foot cannot say, 'Because I am not a hand I do not belong.' However, neither can the eye say to the hand, 'I have no need of you' because you are not like me. Most of us understand what Paul is saying as a mental concept. But how truly do we get to experience it viscerally as we participate in the life of the church? Especially for those of us in thriving contexts, I think the answer is 'not very often.'

So I consider myself pretty lucky that my work allows engagement with so wide a swath of this Body's members — the many forms that 'church' takes broadly in this time as well as the many groanings of ministry within our particular diocese. Alongside that great privilege, I also feel a sense of excitement and responsibility to share little glimpses of that within our parish community in this space from time to time.

Even in the midst of our many vibrant initiatives here at St. Michael's, we are invited to remember that we don't belong to ourselves alone. Our missional life shows that we know the world needs us. But our diocese and the larger church have need of us. This is our most immediate body. We, too, have need of others: the new expressions that remind us what this is all about and all those small grains of wheat in the diocese and church around us — parishes of twenty... ten... six... just up the road who appear to be falling into the ground and dying, yet all so that the harvest of God may continue.

There are so many other experiments I'm already learning about in the body of DioVermont. I hope that as I continue to listen, learn, and experiment, some of you will also feel called to join in discovering what may be received, and what we are called to offer, by being even more fully connected with our fellow members.

**SACRED LOSS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP  
OCTOBER 11 — NOVEMBER 15, 5:30–7 PM**

This grief support group, which is for parishioners who have experienced any type of death or loss of a loved one, will meet on Tuesday evenings for six weeks from 5:30–7 pm, October 11 through November 15, in the Meeting Room. This group will provide a sacred, safe, prayerful and confidential space for people to express their grief and gain support from each other.

The Rev. Deacon Lars Hunter will facilitate the group. Lars is the Bereavement Program Coordinator at Brattleboro Area Hospice and he brings a history of

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pastoral care and grief support to those who are experiencing loss.

To register or for more information, please contact Mary at [mary@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:mary@stmichaelsvermont.org). Please note that this group is limited to ten participants, so register early if you want a space!



### ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE WEDDING! OCTOBER 22, 1 PM AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Susan Nichols and The Reverend Deacon Darcey Mercier will be celebrating their nuptials on Saturday, October 22 at 1:00, here at St Michael's. They are inviting all to attend and asking people to wear a splash of rainbow for the ceremony. No gifts are necessary, but if people would like to bring finger foods for the potluck reception, that would be great! Please be in touch with Megan Buchanan ([mbuchanan@hotmail.com](mailto:mbuchanan@hotmail.com)) or Rosie Wojcik ([rosie@wojnet.org](mailto:rosie@wojnet.org)) to coordinate. And please remember to wear your mask. They would love to celebrate with you all!



*Darcey (left) and Susan (right)*



### ALL SAINTS' DAY CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

*I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.*

— Paul's letter to the Ephesians

On October 30, St. Michael's will celebrate the Feast of All Saints at both the 8 am and the 10:15 am services. During these services, we will remember those saints who have gone before us and loved ones who have died, as well as recognize ourselves as those 'saints' who have been called to follow Jesus with our whole selves. On this day, we will remember in our prayers those who have died during the last year.

- If you have people you would like to be named in the prayers who have died in the past year, please add them to the book in the back of the church.
- If you have pictures of loved ones who have died whose lives you want to give thanks for, we will provide a table in front of the altar as a visible reminder of the saints who have come before us for worship that day.
- Because this is a major feast day, we will have incense at the 10:15 am service.



### HOW ARE YOU CALLED?

Each month, we'll print a write up of one of St. Michael's many ministries and initiatives not only to keep you posted on who's doing what in the parish, but also, perhaps, to spark your interest in becoming involved in a particular realm.

Over the next several months you'll hear about Adult Forums, Altar Guild, Becoming Beloved Community, Buildings and Grounds, Building Hope, Choir, Christian Education, Loaves and Fishes, Outreach, Pastoral Care, Refugee Ministry, Social Justice, Stewardship, and other opportunities



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to become involved. This month, meet the Communications Team.

The Communications Team formed in January 2021 in an effort to get the good word out about St. Michael's Episcopal and about the good works we engage in — on so many fronts. At monthly meetings we review what is happening in the near and distant future that could warrant a boost either internally or within a greater circumference. A team of four at this point — Rosie Wojcik, Jeanie Crosby, Mary Lindquist and Annie Landenberger — works to ensure that ample and appropriate coverage appears on social media; through features, releases, PSAs/calendar listings in broadcast and print media; and in various PR materials. We welcome writers and graphic designers. Interested? Write Annie at [verbatimvt@gmail.com](mailto:verbatimvt@gmail.com).



### DANIEL DOBSON'S SUPPORT FOR REFUGEE MINISTRY

As many of you know, Daniel was instrumental in bringing the refugee ministry to St Michael's. Even as his life moved toward its close, he continued and

repeated his commitment to both. It had been his desire to leave a legacy gift for that purpose. His daughter, Ann Dobson, understood his interest and carried out his wishes with a \$30,000 gift to the Refugee Ministry from his estate. The gift is surely from Daniel, but Ann deserves recognition for following through with his desire. In his honor we have named the project the Dobson Refugee Ministry and the supporting fund is now The Dobson Refugee Ministry Fund.

This gift is both an opportunity and challenge to the Refugee Ministry. The opportunity is clear—the gift enhances substantially the resources available to carry the ministry forward. The challenge is that the gift also puts before us the need to take seriously the level of commitment Daniel had to the work and continue to honor and match it.

We are thrilled by both the opportunity and the challenge aspects of this gift and for the memory Daniel leaves of himself with us. We remember him fondly and treasure the time he was with us as much as the work left behind for us to continue.

### *St. Michael's Welcome Kids Sunday*





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**DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR SHELTER MEALS MINISTRY**

The new Groundworks Shelter is open again on South Main St. in Brattleboro, and the parishioners of St. Michael's are once again invited to participate in providing meals to the homeless men and women of Brattleboro who stay there. Benson Bobrick and Liz Vick will be coordinating the enterprise and will arrange for the prepared food, hot or cold (as it will be served), to be picked up from parishioners in the St. Michael's parking lot and delivered to staff at the Shelter.

As we did last year, we will be providing a full dinner to the Shelter for 34 on the 2nd Monday of each month, from October through April. Volunteers will prepare their own chosen part of the meal at home: a pasta or lasagna dish; a salad with dressing; a dessert; bread & butter; milk. The milk, of course, can be purchased. The bread can be home-made or purchased, as well as the dessert. Please feel free to team up with someone else for the main dish so each makes half.

For those who need them, we will have disposable pans or containers available in a storage closet in the church kitchen. It is best not to use your own pots or pans in delivering the food, as they will be hard to retrieve. Our Monday dates for the coming 7 months will be: Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, and Apr. 10. If you have any questions, please call or email Benson or Liz. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with one or more meals can either

- sign-up on the monthly schedule sheets on the table in the church Common Room,
- or email or call Benson or Liz directly at the contacts below.

We are so grateful for your loving kindness and generosity!

Benson Bobrick shiloh98@sover.net (802) 254-6175,  
Liz Vick ebethvick@gmail.com (802) 254-7060

*Michael Mystery Play Mask Construction*



*Annual Picnic*





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## SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE VESTRY

The September meeting of St. Michael's Vestry opened, as our meetings always do, with prayer, reflection and discussion, this time led by Rosie Wojcik. Prompted by the passing of Queen Elizabeth and focused on the importance of making space for truth telling, Rosie asked us to consider "How do we react to loss of a known power structure even if flawed?" The prompt Rosie shared is this remarkable poem by Leslé Honoré that sparked pithy dialogue.

*"May the winds of independence blow over all  
Black nations colonized by the monarchy"*

—Nicole Waddington

*May our memory and nostalgia  
Never cloud the truth  
May we hold in tension  
Our entertainment  
Our fascination  
Our indoctrinated fairy tale culture  
With the legacy  
Of colonization  
Imperialism  
The transatlantic slave trade  
The sun that never set  
On oppression  
May we separate the crown  
And the woman  
And as we bury an era  
May we never bury  
History  
Truth  
Freedoms and reparations yet to be received  
God Save The Queen*

We heard Treasurer Bruce Lawrence's report on August income, expense, and pledge performance which, given that we are 66% through the fiscal — and calendar — year, shows us on track with projections overall. Bruce also presented the auditors' report which was approved by the Vestry.

In the Rector's Report, Mary noted that Horizon Preschool is now renting both the Nursery and the Sunday School rooms upstairs in addition to their downstairs spaces. Horizon did a fine job of redoing and preparing the rooms, Mary notes. The Parish will still use these rooms on Sundays and, perhaps, at other times when a Parish event warrants the offering of child care. A new rental contract was presented to the Vestry and approved. The added rental will bring another \$1000 a month for the Parish.

Mary expressed appreciation for the Vestry's hard work both for the picnic at the generous McGinns' place on Spofford Lake and with the Building Hope Open House. She also noted that the Season of Creation — a time for people of faith to renew their relationship with God and all creation through celebration, prayer, and action — runs formally through October 9, though its spirit will endure. In addition, she noted the upcoming Winged Production's presentation of Michael, a music/theatre/puppetry production that explores the epic story of St. Michael.

Performances are Friday and Saturday Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at 7:30 and Sunday Oct. 2 at 4 pm.

Finally, Mary reported that changes in the structure of the Diocese of Vermont are in the offing. Named the Thrive initiative, it is focused on reorganizing and downsizing while making best use of resources in light of decreasing assets.

In the Warden's Report, I noted that we'll be starting work soon on the revamping of the Common Room — a space in which it's intended that we display the history of St. Michael's including its relationship to Bishop Hopkins — redo the photo walls, allow space for updates on current projects such as Building for Hope and, in general, create a warm and welcoming feeling for all who enter. We could use some design and writing help for this project. If interested, please contact me or Mary. Due to absences, we didn't receive a report on the September Vestry Listening Corner but

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one Vestry member recounted good feedback/input she'd received from a parishioner on the Building Hope project. It's important that parishioners know that they can contact any Vestry member with a concern or question. Our names and contact info appear at the end of this publication. I also reported that, starting in this issue, we'll print a write up each month of one of St. Michael's many ministries and initiatives, not only to keep the Parish posted on who's doing what, but also, it's hoped, to spark interest in your perhaps becoming involved in a particular realm.

Under Committee Reports, Mary reported that the Capital Campaign is going well. Brochures and pledge cards have been sent and \$690K of the \$800K goal has been pledged by 27 individuals as of this writing. The aim is 100 pledges. Alan reported new developments in the project one of which is Ron Bell's analysis showing that all roofs can structurally bear solar panels. Mary has met with contractors regarding anticipated impact of the project on the nursery school and on parish life as a whole. Alan added that the Building and Grounds committee will be putting up temporary fencing in the Rectory yard for nursery school play space and it was assured that Phoenix Roofing will wrap all work up at the end of each week to ensure a safe campus for Sunday worship. Phoenix will start work on the new roof by mid-October.

Steven began the report on the refugee ministry by saying that unexpected circumstance has necessitated his stepping back from the ministry's work. All thanked him. Nancy, who has stepped into the leadership position left by the unfortunate passing of Daniel Dobson, reported that the Ministry's work is going well. A volunteer recognition event will be held September 22 and it's noted that the vast majority of volunteers in the Brattleboro area are from St. Michael's. The learning yielded by

engagement with our refugee families is vast, Nancy reports. For a number of reasons, each family is quite different; each warrants individualized attention. Many are struggling with limited resources, she adds. "It's an up front and personal look at what it is to be poor." "America is hard," one of our family's men said. "This is an inside view of struggle," Nancy adds. "We operate with a lot of faith."

David then reported on the Mission and Outreach Committee's work noting the ongoing aid and support we give to the Haitian orphanage outside of which, as of this writing, conditions are horrific. The Mission and Outreach ministry welcomes input from parishioners to guide their work toward similar entities — home and abroad — in need of funding, volunteers, or both.

Upcoming. The Blessing of the Animals will be October 9, Darcey Mercier and Susan Nichols will wed October 22, and October 30 will be the All-Saint's Day service.

Steve closed our time together with this 16th century prayer:

*God be in my head — and in my understanding  
God be in my eyes — and in my looking  
God be in my mouth — and in my speaking  
God be in my heart — and in my thinking  
God be at my end — and in my departing.*

Respectfully submitted,  
*Annie Landenberger, Sr. Warden*

PS: A personal experience I want to share: I had signed up for automatic monthly payment of my annual pledge — or I thought I had done so. I hadn't been checking my bank statements carefully enough, though, and, long story short, the deductions weren't being made. Happy that I checked, I caught up with payments and *successfully* enrolled in the auto pay.



## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER

To see all the readings for each Sunday,  
go to <http://www.lectionarypage.net/#october>.  
You will find there the collects, lessons and psalms  
for each Sunday and feast day.

## OCTOBER 2022 CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

October 4	Nancy Ames
October 5	Valerie Abrahamsen, Joao d'Alcaravela
October 6	Ori Johnson
October 9	Judith Reichsman, Keira Caponcelli
October 10	Janet Cramer
October 11	Brendan McElhinney
October 12	Christy Fritz
October 14	Liz Harrison
October 15	Joanna Brown
October 16	Judith Junkins
October 17	Dana McGinn, Jack Lilly
October 18	David Birri
October 21	Mary Lindquist, Ed Sbardella, William Boggess
October 24	Lifei Osborne
October 25	Karren Meyer
October 29	Steve Harrison
October 30	Melanie Boese



## ANNIVERSARIES

October 1	Christine & Richard Gauthier
October 8	Larry Earle & Jay Pomponio
October 9	Heddy & Zsolt Pomazi
October 11	Louise LaChance & Aldrich Wright
October 22	Anita & Jim Crosson

## LEADERSHIP

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*The Guardian* is published monthly by St. Michael's Episcopal Church. News items, announcements, articles, etc. should be submitted to [jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org) by the 15th of the month for consideration.

**The Guardian mailing list:** Contact Jeanie Crosby with address changes or requests to be added or removed from *The Guardian* mailing list. [jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org) or 802-254-6048.

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# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## The Guardian

a Christ-centered community of practice awakening to the abiding presence of God



### OUR WORSHIP TOGETHER

SUNDAYS	8:00 am	Quiet service of prayer and Eucharist
	10:15 am	Prayer, music and Eucharist.
WEEKDAYS	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (online)
WEDNESDAYS	11:30 am	Centering Prayer (in-person)
	12:00	Eucharist (in-person)
THURSDAYS	5:30 pm	Contemplative service (in-person and online)
SATURDAYS	8:00 am	Centering Prayer (in-person)