

The Guardian

JANUARY 2024

FROM THE RECTORY

YOU ARE GENERATING!

Yesterday as I departed through our backyard to take Juniper, our dog, for a walk, one of the contractors who was working on the rectory solar panels yelled, “You are generating!” Well, I’m not sure I’ve ever heard these words directed at me before. I turned around and walked back to speak to him. He was standing in front of an electrical meter and a solar inverter pointing to a screen with numbers. He explained to be me that the rectory solar panels were generating energy from the sun that was helping to generate electricity for our home. Wow! I had no idea how exciting it would be to witness this process and think about how through the magic of technology we were using the sun’s own gift of energy to give power to our home. In addition, Jeanie told me last week that Dead River Heating Oil had come to fill our oil tank, and they were only able to fill one gallon because we had not used the oil since the heat pump system was installed last spring. Amazing!



We began the practical construction part of the Building Hope Project over a year ago, and it is so satisfying to see all that labor come to fruition. The church’s solar system should be generating in the next couple of weeks — Hallelujah!

Speaking of generating good things, St. Michael’s will be celebrating some special Sundays in January:

- On January 7, we will be celebrating the Baptism of Jesus Sunday with a baptism! We will be **baptizing Jonah/Xiao Yi Osborne**, brother of Zhong Yi and Mei Yi at this service.
- On January 14th, we will be recognizing **Martin Luther King Sunday** and celebrating another baptism! Adwoa, who has been ordained as a priest for over a year, will be presiding at her first baptism, the **baptism of Ocean Leitermann-Long**. Ocean was baby Jesus at Christmas Pageant last December. Adwoa will also be our preacher for this special celebration.
- On January 21st, we will be celebrating **Religious Life Sunday**. In 2022, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church approved the celebration of Religious Life Sunday for the third Sunday of Epiphany. Religious life includes monastic and other special Christian communities that exist throughout the Anglican Communion. For this Sunday, we will offer special prayers and an Adult Forum. And please read Br. John Michael’s article in this issue of the *Guardian*, “A Franciscan in the Wild.”
- On January 28, we will hold our **Annual Meeting**. For this meeting, I will do an annual address/sermon at both services and we will gather for a festive lunch after the 10:15 am service to reflect on the blessings of 2023 as well as look forward to our ministry and mission in 2024.

Mary
Mary Lindquist
Rector

NEWS OF THE PARISH

**EXPLORING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CLASS BEGINS ON JANUARY 3**

Are you new to the Episcopal Church? To St. Michael's? This winter, Mary Lindquist will be offering a six-session class on Wednesday afternoons, beginning on January 3 from 4–5:15pm. In this class, we will explore the history, theology and spirituality of the Episcopal Church and the Christian faith in general.

The class is open to anyone interested in learning more about how the Episcopal Church lives out its Christian faith. Although the class is especially suited for those seeking to be baptized, confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church, it is open to all who want to brush up on their knowledge or those who are just curious.

Please email Mary if you are interested in attending at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org, or call the church office at 802-254-6048, ext 104 by January 1. This class could be in-person or on Zoom depending on participants' preferences.

**ADULT FORUMS FOR JANUARY**

The Adult Forum meets every Sunday from 9–10 am in the Meeting Room. All are invited!

**January 7: “A Science of Consciousness:
Pneumatology for a New Millennium” —**

Parishioner Shiva Shankaran shares about his book. Shiva writes, *This is a book I had been wanting to write for years before actually beginning the project based on a desire to share a lifetime of accumulated knowledge and wisdom. It proceeds from a major insight or cognition into the nature of our world and reality that is here expressed as a Theology of Holy Spirit that breathes new life into the experiential basis of the Judeo-Christian West, to form a bridge between Christian and Vedic philosophy, which has been a profound influence for me.*

January 14: “A Conversation with Ed McCatty” —
In honor of MLK Sunday, we have invited parishioner Ed McCatty to share stories about his life and

connection to Martin Luther King. Ed attended seminary at the Episcopal Divinity School in Boston, but ultimately went on to serve as a teacher.

January 21: “Religious Life Sunday” — What is religious life? Is it reserved for people who are in a religious order? Or live in a monastery? Or take vows? St. Michael's former Assistant Priest, Duncan Hilton, will return to speak about his current ministry curating a website, podcasting and offering online prayer called “Religious Life” <https://duncanhilton.substack.com>

January 28: TBA

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE
JANUARY 15**

Martin Luther King, Jr. said *“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”*

In this spirit, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service. So many of you in our St. Michael's family already choose to serve others, year round, in St. Michael's Ministries as well as in many local, national, and international efforts. In the spirit of this holiday about service in community, you may wish to spend a few hours working on different tasks or with different people from those you encounter the rest of the year.

Local partners including FoodWorks, Loaves and Fishes, Carry Me Home, and ECDC are working with St. Michael's Outreach Ministry to create one-day service projects on or near January 15. After Christmas, we will share information in the weekly announcements about these and how to sign up. It's not too late, if you're part of a group who would like to invite volunteers for a project: if so, and with any other questions, contact Alix Fedoruk at alixf@mac.com or 802-355-2256.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

The Outreach Ministry is again running our annual **B.O.B. (“Bag of Basics”)** Drive to collect non-food, basic necessities badly needed by people with limited means. Please bring items from the list below, in reusable or paper shopping bags, and place in the designated area in the Undercroft by January 15. We will deliver collected items to Loaves and Fishes, St. Michael’s Prison Ministry, and FoodWorks.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

Acetaminophen (Tylenol), cold remedies (e.g. Dayquil, Nyquil, Emergen-C, throat lozenges), band-aids, deodorant, diapers, wipes, shampoo & conditioner, shaving cream, soap, paper towels, toilet paper, toothbrushes-toothpaste-floss, dish liquid, laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaner, new men’s clothing items: white T-shirts, white socks, boxer briefs, socks, mittens, hats. Note that clear containers are best for Prison Ministry items.

THANK YOU!

BUDGET REVIEW MEETINGS, JANUARY 21 9 AM AND AFTER 10:15 SERVICE

St. Michael’s draft budget for 2024 will be available by mid-January for your review. Those of you who would like the opportunity to meet with our treasurers Tom Cain and Gwen Mousin, hear an overview, and ask questions prior to the Annual Meeting are invited to a choice of two budget meetings on Sunday, January 21. The first meeting will be at 9 am in the Undercroft, especially for 8 am folks and for anyone else able to attend at this time. A second budget meeting will be offered following the 10:15 am service in the Meeting Room.



PARISH ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

It is January and time for the Annual Meeting! Although we have held this meeting on Zoom for the

last three years, we decided to hold a hybrid meeting this year. This means that we will be in-person, together, in the Undercroft after the 10:15 am service; we will offer participation (and voting) through Zoom if you would like to attend from your home.

For Coffee Hour that day, we will have bagels and crème cheese, fruit, cheese and sweets. So please plan to stay for a light meal and a time of reflection and thanksgiving for the tremendous year of 2023 in the life of our church.

During this meeting, we will view our annual slide show, hear reports, elect three new members of the Vestry, and elect delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Childcare will be available.

The Annual Meeting is an important overview of the past and future of our ministry together. Please make every effort to attend!



Celebrating Ruth Tilghman's Birthday at Loaves & Fishes

NEWS OF THE PARISH

A FRANCISCAN IN THE WILD, BY THE REV. BR. JOHN MICHAEL LONGWORTH, OEF

The Reverend Brother John Michael Longworth, who lives in Rutland, is a member of St. Michael's Church in the Cloud.



January 21 is Religious Life Sunday in the Episcopal Church. We celebrate people who make a lifelong commitment to share their lives with other Christians to deepen the practice of their faith. This happens in residential communities and in dispersed communities where the members live in their local community, but share a life and spiritual practice.

As a life professed member of a Franciscan Order, I wanted to share a little bit about what that life looks like.

Life under a monastic rule is not distinct from the life of all the baptized, and it may include people with a wide variety of vocations.

The three core elements are: shared spirituality, a commitment to each other, and a commitment to a rule that shapes and informs the way we live out our Baptism together.

I make time each day for the daily office, for meditation and centering prayer, and to nurture relationships with my fellow siblings. My religious commitments are expressed in my work, ministry, and how I participate in my local community.

The question comes up, both inside and outside my community:

What do life professed do?

Surely this question could be answered by pointing to any number of tasks that are the work of the Order:

Formation, Communication, Joint Committee, Servant Council, Bearing greetings and love to other Orders, etc.

We could point to our rule, our reports, our life of small gatherings, retreats, and the week of monastic residence at the annual Chapter & Convocation.

All of these things are true.

I would like to suggest that as Franciscans, we also embrace a common task that will be embodied in as many different ways as we have siblings:

We exist to provoke the conscience of the church and the world both through our unashamed proclamation of a Loving God and our fearless demonstration of that love to our neighbors. We are called to be so small that we could never make a difference and so foolish that we are bound to make a dent. We are called to be hopeful in the mud puddles, joyful in the pouring rain, and grounded in God when all hell breaks loose. We are here to volunteer to be taken next. We are here to let others have the megaphone and we will skip to the margins of the crowd to put ourselves between harm and our neighbors. We are here to love each other without shame and to trust that our Spirit-Chosen family is a testimony to the powers that would splinter us into struggling households. We are here to be as wildly and unreasonably in love with God, as God already is with us.

As I “work out my salvation with fear and trembling” as Philippians 2:12 advises, I am grateful that I have such a beautiful chosen family to share in that adventure. I pray that if you feel drawn to explore your baptismal vocation in this way, that you take time for conversation with one of the beautiful communities that is walking that way.

For more information about the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans, you can visit www.oeffranciscans.org. We owe our existence to the generous compassion of the Anglican Franciscan Communities: <https://tssf.org/> <https://www.ssfamericas.org/> <https://www.communitystfrancis.org/>

ST. MICHAEL'S WOMEN'S RETREAT IS BACK — MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

“COMING INTO OUR WHOLE AND HOLY NAMES”

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 9 AM–4 PM,
HALLELUJAH FARM RETREAT CENTER**

Please mark your calendars for a day-long Women's Retreat at beautiful Hallelujah Farm in Chesterfield, NH on Sunday, February 24 from 9 am–4 pm. The retreat will be a day of conversation, art, gentle movement, music, and prayer.

Together we'll explore the power of naming, through the stories of our own naming and through the stories of people, places, and animals that we may have named. We'll consider John 20:11–16, when Mary Magdalene does not recognize the risen Jesus until he speaks Mary's name. Also central to the retreat is Isaiah 62: 2–5, when the people take heart in this hope: “You shall be called by a new name [. . .] you shall no longer be called forsaken [. . .] but you shall be called My Delight.”

This retreat will be led by Kim Peavey. Please register by emailing Mary at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org. A donation of \$25 is requested to help cover lunch and facility rental.



TEAM HOLY WEEK

Last year, we had a wonderful time coming together to help craft and carry-out our Holy Week Services. Please note that Easter lands early on the calendar this year, March 31, and we will begin our Team Holy Week organization during Lent, which begins on February 14, Ash Wednesday. Please mark your calendars if you would like to participate.



VESTRY CANDIDATES

MARGERY MCCRUM



I am honored to be a candidate to serve on the Saint Michael's Vestry. I first came to this church in the early 2000s, giving in to the persistent ministrations from our then-Choir Director, Susan Dedell who kept saying, “Come sing with the St. Michaels choir.” And so I did.

A few years back, I joined Mary's class on the history and structure of the Episcopal Church that ultimately led to my confirmation and joining the church. The course opened my eyes to the history of this denomination. I feel connected to those who have gone before us, who, for over two thousand years, wrestled with, suffered for, and shaped this religious tradition. Today, I welcome the vigorous dialogue and discussions of difficult current issues that are thoughtfully and spiritually considered and encouraged in this community and the wider church. The world needs our boldness, our devotion to and faith in a higher power, our love.

I warned Mary that I am a bit of an introvert and less of a doer than many of the current vestry members. She said that was OK! I am a member of the pastoral care committee and a regular member of the choir, and several times during the year I am intercessor for the prayers of the people.

For many years I was an anesthesiologist at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and subsequently on the staff of the Brattleboro Retreat. Most recently I practiced integrative medicine and non-pharmacological pain management at Sojourns Community Health Clinic in Westminster, Vermont; I retired in 2019. Currently, I teach voice privately and through the Brattleboro Music Center. I moved to Brattleboro when I was in eighth grade; my parents both taught at BUHS. I married George Moore December 2020, here at St Michael's with Mary officiating and my daughter

NEWS OF THE PARISH

Cassandra, a close friend, a Zoom audience, and a bat that flew around the sanctuary like the Holy Spirit come to bless our marriage! I've left Brattleboro several times, but I've always come back. This is my home, and St Michael's is my church home.

CHRIS MEYER

I have been coming to St. Michael's for the past two years (with Patty Meyer who was recently the interim music director). Prior to that we were members of the Guilford Congregational Church. Prior to that in the 1990s, we were members of St. James' Episcopal Church

in Cambridge, Massachusetts. We have lived in Guilford since 2000. I am a local physician (Internal Medicine) and have worked in this area for my entire professional life. While at Guilford Church, I was the church treasurer for two years and taught "Sunday School" for years when my children were young. Outside of church and work, I am an avid painter/drawer, delight in board games of all sorts, and tend to our home garden.

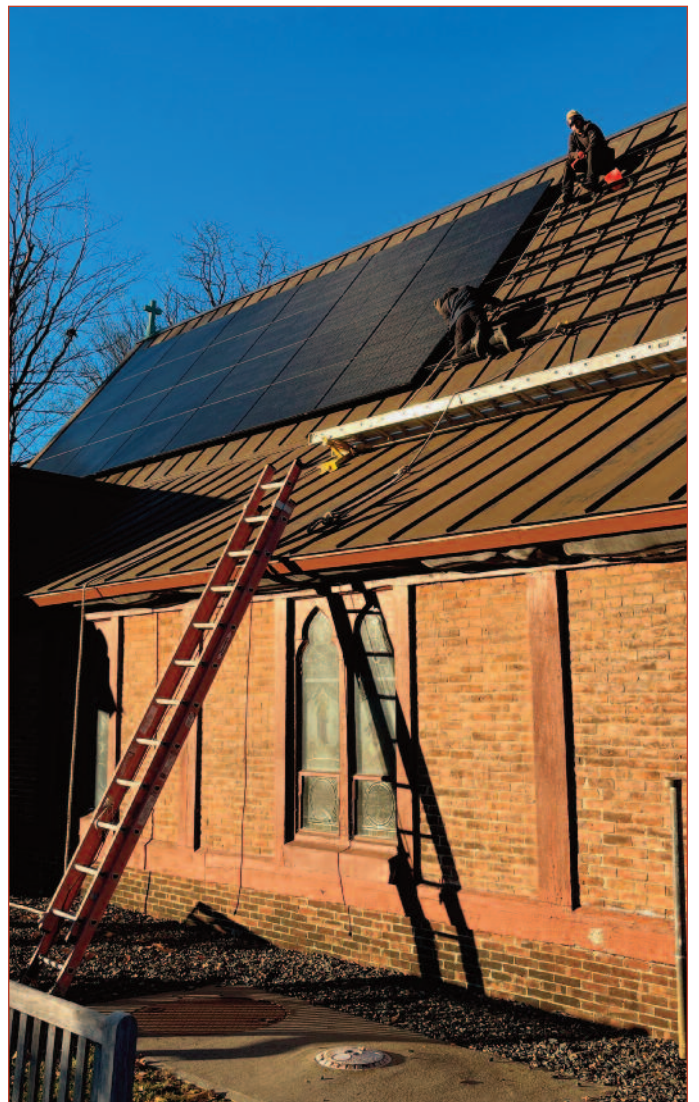
I am nourished spiritually by the liturgical approach of the Episcopal Church, have greatly admired Mary and adwoa's honest wrestling with our scriptural heritage, and am enjoying being part of a Foyer group. I hope, as a member of the Vestry, to be of service to our community in our Christian journey together.

JOHN SPOONER

I grew up in a rural farming town in northern Montana. After law school, I moved to New York City, where I worked as criminal defense attorney and as counsel for a small housing agency. For 30 years, I served as an administrative law judge at

the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearing. I retired in 2020, and my husband Craig and I moved to Brattleboro in 2021. We joined St. Michael's in 2022. I am a member of the choir and assist with the music library. Craig and I assisted with the tag sale last spring, where we got to know many of the wonderful caring people who make St. Michael's such an inspiring place to worship. I would be honored to serve on the Vestry of St. Michael's and to be able to contribute to its mission and to its inspiring example of generosity, compassion, and fellowship.

STM



Solar panel installation

NEWS OF THE PARISH

COMMUNITY AND VITALITY

Adwoa Wilson

Some of you may have read in *The Mountain* — our diocesan newsletter — that the Diocese of Vermont received a Lilly Endowment Inc. grant to help fund the development of Communities of Vitality. This exciting new initiative is emerging from conversations that Bishop Shannon and I have been having about the peculiar quality of community and vitality in the Green Mountain Online Abbey (The Abbey) as well as the community and vitality in this rich place, St. Michael's.

Why is it that St. Michael's could not only survive but grow during the pandemic? Not only grow in itself but take on three major initiatives — Beloved Community, Hope for the Earth, and the Refugee Ministry? Why is it that The Abbey, developed by Bishop Shannon as a stopgap measure at the beginning of the pandemic, continues to pray daily and to grow in love and pastoral concern for one another across the many miles and Zoom waves of the state?

Having been both a parishioner and clergy in both places, I believe the vitality of these places has come from spiritual practice shared together, including practices of mutual vulnerability that have developed through discernment, study, covenant and prayer groups. You may notice that these forms of spirituality are all ventures that we've embraced in the last several years at St. Michael's. Over this past year, while I was serving here 1/3 time, an additional 1/3 was spent exploring how to bring these practices to the Abbey so that people across the state who do not have full time clergy presence (that's 38 of the 43 worshipping communities here!) could still experience the vitality and growth that comes from sharing spiritual life together.

The Communities for Spiritual Vitality provide a context through which I will continue this work. These Communities will gather together and focus attention on the spiritual renewal of lay leaders from parishes that are underserved by clergy in both our diocese and the Diocese of Massachusetts. Over the next five years, the "Communities" program will cultivate lay leader networks, curate spiritual and liturgical resources for these leaders, and advocate spiritually grounded parish governance.

I wanted to share this news with you, asking you for prayer as it gets underway. Also, if you run into Jeanie, I also ask that you congratulate and celebrate her as well. In addition to the myriad tasks she holds here at the parish, she offered *endless* emotional support, wisdom, and practical direction to me in the spring of 2023 as I wrote the grant.

Rest assured, I will remain as the assistant priest at St. Michael's for one-third of my time, growing in that role under Mary's guidance. Directing the "Communities" program will account for two-thirds of my time under the supervision of Bishop Shannon. The \$1,168,000 Lilly Endowment Inc. grant enables that two-thirds Communities position for the next five years. And because of the generosity of this place in developing a one-third time budgeted position, this means that I now have full-time employment (relatively) close to home.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A huge THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the 2024 Stewardship Campaign. We have received 129 pledges for a total of \$282,396. We had a large stretch goal this year of 140 pledges for a total of \$322,000. While we were not able to reach our goal, 48% of you did increase your pledge, which is tremendous. We also recognize and appreciate all the ways you participate and give of yourselves to our many ministries. These gifts of time, attention, love and treasure, by the Grace of God, allow us to be the Body of Christ called St. Michael's.

Those who have pledged are:

Valerie Abrahamsen	Susan & Paul Dyer	John & Pamela Lent	Joan Pinilla
Greg & Kelli Allen	Larry Earle & Jay Pomponio	Mark Horton & Heather Lesage-Horton	Annamarie Pluhar
Becky Anderson	Thomas & Ann Ely	Gregory Lesch	Nicholas & Dorothy Porter
Laura Andrews	Don Erwin & Mary Abell	Jeffrey Lewis	Jared Rediske
Anonymous — 11	Tom & Barbara Evans	Laura Lewis	Judith Reichsman
Ron Autenrieth & Barbara Lee	Steve Faure & David Treadwell	Jack & Margit Lilly	Linda Rice
Susan Avery	Elizabeth Fisher	Mary Lindquist & Kurt Johnson	Jesse Ridgway
Betsy Morgan Bates	Talley Summerlin & Elizabeth Freese	Ray Lindquist	Susan Ruggles
David Baxendale	Paul & Pam Gallagher	John Linscheid	Ed & Jane Sbardella
Thaddeus Bennett	Susan Gantt Kubert	John Michael & Sara Longworth	Shiva Shankaran
Diana Bingham	Lloyd Graf	Paul Love	Renee Skwirz
Anne Black	Steven Guerriero	Robin Manning	Peter & Jean Smith
Lindsey Boss	Karen Guthrie	Leigh Marthe	Miranda Smith
Anne Brewer	Carolyn Hammarlund	Alan & Judith McBean	Lise Sparrow
Janet Brocklehurst	Craig Hammond & Liz Vick	Ed McCatty	John Spooner & Craig Irvine
Anne Wilmott Brown	Elizabeth & Ian Harrison	Judith McGee	William Stearns
Megan Buchanan	Steve & Laurel Harrison	Dana & Kate McGinn	Marcia Steckler
Frederick Bump	Christine Hart	Christopher & Patty Meyer	Cherolyn Stimmel
Andy & Elise Burrows	Susan Heimer	Steven & Karren Meyer	Douglas & Ann Switzer
John Byrnes & Kiersten McKenney	Carol Hesselbach	Anne Montgomery	Lydia & Eben Taggart
Christopher Chapman	Vince Johnson & MJ Woodburn	George Moore & Margery McCrum	Carolyn Taylor-Olson
Merribelle Coles	Jenny Karstad	Brian & Joyce Vining Morgan	Nan Tierra
Janet Cramer	Charlene Kemp	Gwen Mousin	Ruth Tilghman
James & Anita Crosson	Ann Landenberger	Linda Neilson	Nancy Turgeon
Charles & Elaine Curry-Smithson	Jeanette & Chris Landin	Whitney Nichols	Elaine Wolcott
John Daly	Daniel LaPenta & Janice Paran	Rebecca Olmstead	Judy Walker
Judy & Jack Davidson	Bruce & Marie Lawrence	Ladd & Lifei Osborne	Christopher Wesolowski
Ricky Davidson	Dyana Lee	Kim Peavey	Phillip & Susan Wilson
Dorothea Degutis	Carol Leitch	Robert Peoples	Matthew & Rosie Wojcik
Imogene Drakes			Cliff & Wylene wood
			Aldrich Wright & Louise LaChance

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

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

JANUARY 2024 CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

January 2	Robert Peeples
January 5	Andy Burrows
January 7	Carol Blanchard
January 15	Bruce Griffin
January 18	David Mattocks
January 19	Pam Carr
January 20	Miranda Smith
January 21	Linda Neilson, Lily DeLeon, John Spooner
January 22	John Carnahan
January 23	Julie Cogliano
January 24	Melia Allen
January 25	Ed Doty
January 26	Rebecca Olmstead, Andachew Mousin
January 28	Gwen Mousin
January 29	Paul Dedell
January 30	Megan Buchanan
January 31	Linda Parker

ANNIVERSARIES

January 25 Neil & Anne Montgomery

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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. (in-person and online)
WEEKDAYS	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (online) and Tues.–Thurs. in Chapel
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)