



The Good News

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Chittenango, New York

April 2023

Love your neighbor as yourself

Inside This Issue

- 2| Prayer List
- 3| Anniversaries & Birthdays
- 3| Ministry Schedule
- 4| Vestry News
- 5| Holy Week Schedule
- 5| Easter Sermon

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.net

I was reading a book about "Becoming Behavior" - the idea being that the Biblical role of a woman was encapsulated in Titus 2: 3-5, also found in Proverbs 31. The author was going to go through and examine the nuances of the words. I get what this author is trying to accomplish, I'm not too certain I agree with all she has to say.

BUT, there is something she wrote that struck a chord with me. She was talking about how she and fellow members of her church descended on a restaurant, how the waiter was a bit absent minded, and had messed up some orders. How they all were understanding and left the young man a good tip. As they were in the parking lot saying their goodbyes, the young man left, called out to them something to the effect of "I'm outta here" and she went over to him to invite him to their Sunday service. It occurred to her that if they had treated him badly - be-rated him over messing up their meals, left him a lousy tip and then invited him to their church - they certainly would never see him. Why? Because by their behavior, he would have judged their church and would not want to go there.

This is so true. WE, all of us at St. Paul's, are representatives of our Church. How we treat others in Chittenango is watched, talked about, compared to.....yes, we are human. Yes, we can make very big mistakes. But if you TRY your best to live a life of love, like our Presiding Bishop asks us to, it is seen. It is noticed. It is remembered.

And this "becoming behavior" not only goes outside our building, but inside too. When you feel that feeling of ire or impatience because someone isn't doing, acting, behaving the way you think they should - STOP, breathe, relax and remember, that this too shall pass. There is nothing that goes on at St. Paul's that is worth working yourself into a tizzy over. Stop, Breathe, Relax - Let Go, Let God. It is how we will survive, get along and bring new members to our beautiful little Church.

We have some fun things coming up, one being the Sip and Seek, April 20th at 7:00 PM. There will be Wine, Coffee, Soda and Water available. It is a really fun experience. Everyone should try it!! We also will be having a Potluck or Dish to Pass coming soon!! Lynn Mozeliak and Val Travers are in the planning stages and will let us know soon the details. I for one, cannot wait!!

I cannot believe that it is already April, that Winter is pretty much over, that our Spring flowers are peeking out from under the leaves. I do love this time of year. ReBirth, new beginnings, a fresh start.

Continued on Page 5

Contact Information

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
204 Genesee Street
Chittenango, NY 13037
(315) 687-6304
stpaulschittenango@gmail.com
stpaulschittenango.net

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

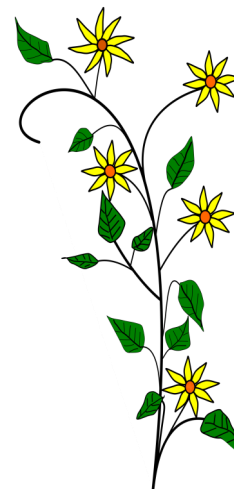
Val Travers
Fellowship

Jan Lee
Vestry Clerk

Amy Veator
Newsletter Editor

Prayer List

Ethel Barber, Catherine Carter, the Rev. Charles Grover, Joan Grover, Donna Hoffman, Ed Hoffman, Patricia Ladd, Betty Lesczynski, Ed Link, Burt Luther, Mary Jane Pokorny, Michael Weisbrod, Ruth Williams



New Prayer List for April 2023/May 2023 has been 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

About St. Paul's

The earliest record of Episcopal Church services in this vicinity was 1816 when St. Stephen's Church of Perryville was incorporated. At that time Chittenango was little more than a gathering of frame and log houses. From 1816-1832 rectors from St. Stephen's held missionary services in Chittenango.

Around 1849 a few gentlemen who greatly admired and revered the beautiful services of the Church, agreed to make an effort to have services occasionally held. By the spring of 1855 services began to be held regularly once a month in the Bethel. St. Paul's was officially organized as a parish on June 18, 1855. St. Paul's church was built in 1865 as a Gothic Revival-style structure. The lot, building, furniture and windows cost \$5000. The building was completed in less than six months. The first service was held in the church on Easter Day, April 1, 1866.

On May 12, 1866 the church was consecrated by Bishop Coxe. It was added to the U.S. National Historic Register of National Places in 1996.

April

Birthdays

02 Lynn Mozeliak	18 Joan Grover
04 Michael Furtado	25 Sue Huebler
14 Sue Gerling	

Anniversaries

25 Mike & Joanne Furtado

Ministry Team Schedule

**April 2, 2023,
Palm Sunday
Holy Eucharist**

Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr.

LEM: Judy Olmsted
Lessons: Sue Gerling
Prayers: Sue Gerling
Acolyte: Ed Hoffman
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Vestry

**April 7, 2023,
Good Friday, 7pm
Prayer Service**
Robin Weisbrod

Lessons: Judy Olmsted
Passion: Robin Weisbrod
Acolyte: Ed Hoffman
Coffee Hour: N/A

**April 16, 2023
Morning Prayer**
Robin Weisbrod

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

**April 30, 2023
Holy Eucharist**

Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr.

LEM: Judy Olmsted
Lessons: Claudia Jensen
Prayers: Claudia Jensen
Acolyte: Ed Hoffman
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Please volunteer

**April 6, 2023,
Maundy Thursday, 7pm
Holy Eucharist**
Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr.

LEM: Judy Olmsted
Lessons: Robin Weisbrod
Prayers: Robin Weisbrod
Acolyte: Ed Hoffman
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: N/A

**April 9, 2023,
Easter Sunday, 11:30AM
Holy Eucharist**

Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr.

L.E.M. Judy Olmsted
Lessons: Sue Gerling
Prayers: Sue Gerling
Acolyte: Ed Hoffman
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Please volunteer

**April 23, 2023
Morning Prayer**
Robin Weisbrod

Lessons: Becky Kraus
Prayers: Becky Kraus
Acolyte: Ed Hoffman
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Becky Kraus

Altar Guild
Meg Hermann
Mary Jane Pokorny
Weisbrod

Continued from Page 1

And don't forget to share with anyone that you know, that May 13th, is the Blessing of the Bikes! Bishop DeDe will not be able to be with us this year, as she is on Sabbatical, but Fr. Leon will be doing the blessings. This is such a fun event for us, love looking at the bikes!

Thank you to all who help to make St. Paul's such a special place. You are more appreciated than you know.

Robin Weisbrod
Sr. Warden

At the March meeting of the Vesty,
the following financial information was shared:

Balance forward: 19,157.26
Income: 6,966.10
Expenses: 3,685.00

The Building Fund has \$8000 as of this date.

The Vestry agreed to rename the Wine and Wisdom to Sip and Seek, we discussed going to a local Laundromat once a month, offering Quarters, Laundry Detergent and Dryer sheets to anyone who is there during the hours that will be posted. Robin will be contacting one of the local Laundromats and seeing when we can start this new Outreach project.

Don reported that we passed our Fire Inspection!!

Once Tuesdays in the Park resumes, Tania and Pat will be setting up a booth, and selling Raffle Tickets and handing out information about St. Paul's.

There will be a Safe Church training coming up at some point in time. Fr. Leon will let us know more as he learns more.

Next meeting is April 20th.



Holy Week Schedule

2 Palm Sunday - ● 9am St. Paul's	3 Monday in Hol ● 6pm Girl Scout	4 Tuesday in Hol	5 Wednesday in I ● 10am Bible S ● 12pm Holy Co	6 Maudy Thursd ● 7pm Maundy	7 Good Friday ● 7pm Good Fri	8 Holy Saturday
9 The Sunday of ● 9am St. Paul's	10 ● 6pm Girl Scout	11	12 ● 10am Bible S	13 ● 7pm Madisor	14	15

Now What?, Great Vigil of Easter (A) – 2014

*April 19, 2014
Anjel Scarborough*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OK. Now what? This is the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But what does “resurrection” mean? If I were to ask you to define it, how would you?

Humorist David Sedaris ran into this dilemma while living in France and attending a language class with other immigrants. In his book “Me Talk Pretty One Day,” he writes:

“It was Easter season and a Moroccan student, a Muslim, raised her hand and asked in French, ‘Excuse me, but what is an Easter?’ The teacher called upon the rest of the class to help explain. The Polish students led the charge to the best of their ability. ‘It is,’ said one, ‘a party for the little boy of God who called his self Jesus ...’ she

faltered and swore, and one of her countrymen came to her aid, ‘He call his self Jesus, and then he die one day on two ... morsels of ... lumber.’ The rest of the class jumped in, offering bits of information that would have given the pope an aneurysm. ‘He died one day and then he go above my head to live with your father.’ ‘He weared of himself the long hair, and after he died, the first day he come back to say hello to all the people.’ ‘He nice, the Jesus.’ ‘He make the good things and on Easter we be sad because somebody make him dead today.’”

Part of the problem was a lack of vocabulary, Sedaris noted. Words like “cross” and “resurrection” were not available to them, and the nuances of theology in the face of limited vocabulary were frustrating. And so Sedaris writes:

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5

“Faced with the challenge of explaining the cornerstone of Christianity, we did what any self-respecting group of people might do. We talked about food instead. “‘Easter is a party to eat of the lamb,’ one Italian explained. ‘One may too eat of the chocolate.’”

Part of what makes resurrection so hard to talk about is that it is an experience that transcends all logic, rationality and common sense. Dead people don’t come out of tombs. Do they?

The gospel accounts of Jesus’ resurrection do not document the actual moment when it happened. We don’t have an eyewitness account of Jesus sitting up, removing the burial shroud, stretching, taking a look around, pushing the stone away and walking out. Even in Matthew’s account, where the angel rolls the stone away, Jesus’ body is already gone! All the gospels tell us is that the women come and find an empty tomb.

We cannot really know exactly what happened. Resurrection is not the revivification of a corpse – it is not the zombie apocalypse. It is an experience of the death of one way of life and the birth of something completely new – a complete game changer.

What we *can* say is that the early Christians who experienced the risen Christ were so transformed by it that their lives completely changed. Paul, who went from persecuting the Christians around him to being a champion for Christ, is just one example. Those who experience resurrected life are swept up by this profound and loving experience so much so that their whole world turns upside down in a way that brings life rather than death.

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?” ask the men at the tomb, “He is not here.” The same question is true for us: “Why do we seek the living among the dead?” We, by our nature, have a hole in our soul. This hole is a longing and desire for the

transcendent God who lifts us out of our finite mortal bodily existence – this tomb, if you will, that we live in – and brings us into a greater life of love and light. We ache for this with every fiber of our being. But as humans, we try desperately to fill the hole in our soul by seeking holy transcendence in many ways that are nothing more than lies and dead ends. It is false transcendence that seeks the living among the dead.

We seek the living among the dead in our frantic rush to wealth and material comfort – the lure of consumerism. “How much money is enough?” someone once asked billionaire John D. Rockefeller. “Just a little bit more,” he replied, with a smile.

That “just a little bit more” is the bane of our lives. We keep imagining – if our income is rising – that the next plateau of income will be the place where we’re truly happy, but no sooner do we achieve it than we’re looking upward to the next rung on the ladder.

Conversely, if our income is going down, we’re often driven to despair, imagining all sorts of dire consequences – when the reality is, most of us have as much as we truly need to live, and then some. We falsely believe our possessions or our economic security will transcend and lift us out of our mortality, but it is a lie, a dead end.

Another place where we seek false transcendence is in the addictive pursuit of pleasure. Alcohol, gambling, tobacco, drugs, obsessive sexuality – even the more socially acceptable addictions of overeating or obsessive dieting – all of these ultimately lead away from communion with God and condemn us to death. Psychologist Gerald May has written extensively on addictive behaviors from the standpoint of religious faith and spirituality. In his book “Addiction and Grace,” he writes: “Addiction is the most powerful psychic enemy of humanity’s desire for God.”

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

Seeking transcendence through the addictive pursuit of pleasure robs us of our humanity and our spiritual

freedom. It is the vain attempt to substitute pleasure for joy. It is a parasite attaching itself to our native desire for inner, spiritual fulfillment – for experience of the real transcendent communion with God – and if there's no intervention, in the end it will destroy us. Why do we seek the living among the dead?

But there is another way: "He is not here, he is risen." Christ's experience of resurrection is not just his own; it is ours too, for resurrection is an invitation to new life. But the difficult and painful thing is, resurrection begins with death. To know it, you must die.

To know resurrection before your physical death, something in you has to die and likely what needs to die is how you have been seeking the living among the dead. Maybe it's the death of the false security of your career that crashes down around you in a downsizing. Maybe it's the loss of your physical health that you had hoped would go on forever. Maybe it's the realization that your addiction has destroyed your humanity and robbed you of life. Maybe it's the death of a dream or someone you hold dear. To know resurrection, you have to experience this death and deal with the loneliness of failure and grief, the humiliation of defeat, the soul-shattering reality of all you cannot control. You have to let go of any illusion that life as you once knew it is possible. And this isn't something we want or wish for anyone, because the initial cost is so high.

But on the other side of death, Christ is there with an invitation and a promise: There is a path to a new and different life. On this side of death, the promise of a different life is no consolation. It's too frightening and certainly not worth the crossing over of suffering to attain. But once you're there facing death and there is no turning back, resurrection makes living possible again by forging a path of life given by God who is the author of Life itself.

There are a few things you need to remember about resurrection. First, it is an invitation. Resurrection cannot be forced upon you. Christ bids you come, but you must make the choice to say "Yes!" to his invitation. Resurrection will require you to do something. What that is, no one else can tell you, as it will be as unique as you are. But listen for that invitation, and dare to say "yes," and you will begin the journey to a new life.

Second, resurrection begins tentatively and with great ambiguity. We experience it as disorienting and confusing – just as the women at the tomb experienced it. We don't really know what to make of it because life has changed so dramatically that we aren't sure about anything. We may not even want the resurrected life initially because we don't know how to live it yet and this new life can feel a little intimidating. That's OK; trust it anyway.

Finally, resurrection is incremental – it is a process, not an event. It takes time! Life returns one breath at a time, and it does not erase the wounds of our past – it lives alongside them. The resurrected Christ still bore the nail marks, and so will you, whatever your particular nail marks are. Resurrection invites you to release death instead of holding onto it. We may never feel ready for resurrection, but the living Christ is not content to be locked in the tombs of our misery.

Christ is alive, and he is inviting you to a resurrected life. Language will always fail to capture what this means; the experience of resurrection is so much more than mere words. But the experience is what makes joy, life, serenity and peace possible in an anxious and uncertain world.

The risen Christ is with us – always. And if you are experiencing death and feel you are in the darkness of the tomb right now, Jesus promises that there will be life on the other side for you and for all of us.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sermon/now-what-great-vigil-of-easter-a-2014/>

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Chittenango, New York

We are on the Web
stpaulschittenango.net

Forwarding Service Requested



The Good News

The April 2023 Newsletter of

St. Paul's of Chittenango

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