

# August 2021



## Thoughts in Print

This morning I find myself cautiously optimistic about the next few weeks as we prepare to relaunch a more normal ministry schedule this coming September. This is only possible because of those of you who have faithfully heeded the call to care for both self and neighbor by getting vaccinated and following appropriate guidelines as we continue to live into this seemingly never ending Pandemic. I am optimistic because of the energy and commitment of so many of you to Holy Cross and our ministry together for both ourselves and the community around us. But I am humbled by the reality that we are not completely out of the woods yet. Through it all we have found ways to be God's hands, feet, and voice to each other and to those in need even as we have had our struggles and challenges along the way as individuals and as a church. We have seen many stay connected as best they can, we have seen a few wander off, and yet we have seen some new folks connect - especially as we have expanded our presence on Facebook with the broadcasting of our worship services and with our continued support of the community around us.

I am struck today by the following passage from Matthew 28: 19-20: *"<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* and how these last months have really and truly helped me to rededicate myself to this command. I wholeheartedly believe we are being called into a new day for all of us Holy Cross, one that may look and feel in some ways as it did in the very early days of our history when there was no building but only community with a commitment to faith and to building something to the glory of God and the mission to share and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe we are called to walk boldly into our 60th year and beyond, not only focused on being together, but focused on this passage from Matthew with an emphasis on the very first word "GO!" Go and visit, go and tell, go and share, go and invite, go and serve, go and praise, go and worship, go and make our faith known... Just "GO!"... and as we do we'll be making disciples, and baptizing, and teaching, and... and... and... and Jesus will go with us each and every step of the way - to the end of the age - whenever that may come.

Just exactly what all of this will look like will be up to us - TOGETHER - to discern. But this Pandemic has provided us with one positive - the opportunity to focus on what matters and to ponder new possibilities. I look forward to the journey we will share together as we celebrate who we have been and who we are being called to be!

Peace - Pastor Sue



It's been almost a year since we said "hello" to Vicar Garth. Now it's time for us to say "good-bye". Garth's last official day with us is August 15th. A combined celebration with St. Paul Church (at 130 Cable Avenue in Beachwood) is August 12th beginning at 5:30 PM in the St. Paul Fellowship Hall. Reservations are required as space is limited. There is sign-up sheet on the bulletin board OR call the church office at 732-255-4455 to reserve a spot.

## WORSHIP SERVICES - New times! New Spaces!

Because of the lifting of many of the Covid restrictions, the church council has made the following changes.  
(These changes apply to both Saturday and Sunday worship services.)

### Service Times

- The Sunday 10:45 AM Facebook worship is discontinued.
- Beginning Sunday July 25, ALL worship services will be in the Sanctuary.  
Saturday worship services remain at 5:30 PM  
Sunday worship services will be at 10:00 AM



### Communion

- Communion will be at the rail using bread and pouring chalices only. The common cup will NOT be offered until further notice.
- The wafer/grape juice combo cups will be on the same table as the communion cups for anyone who feels uncomfortable taking communion using the bread and wine. Pre-filled cups with white grape juice will still be offered in the communion trays.
- Individual disposable communion cups will be used.
- All communion assistants must wear masks—NO exceptions!

### Social Distancing

- The last 5 rows at the back of the sanctuary will be roped off for people who prefer being more socially distanced.

And last (but certainly not least), regular coffee hours will resume in the fall.

*Thank you for your continued support at keeping Holy Cross a safe place to worship!*  
(The Worship and Music Committee)



### NEW WORSHIP SERVICES FOR FAMILIES

Beginning Sunday Sept. 19 and every first and third Sunday thereafter, we will have a 9:00 AM Family Service. Included in these interactive services is confession, a special children's sermon, communion, and a song (or two), etc.

The first Sunday of the month will be geared for younger children (preschool through kindergarten) and the third Sunday will be geared more for elementary children. Brian Morgan has agreed to teach songs on the third Sunday. After worship there will be a craft for the families in Founders' Hall (by the church kitchen) to coincide with the lesson of the day. (No "regular" Sunday School is scheduled at this time.)

**All are welcome! Please join us!**

### Save the Date - - Sunday, Sept. 12

God's Work, Our Hands Day at Holy Cross immediately following worship. Special Coffee Hour/Bag Lunch.  
Projects to be announced.

**Also**—Blessing of the Backpacks  
for all those heading back to school



## Assisting Opportunities



### Communion/Worship Assistants and Ushers

Now that we have returned to worshipping in the church sanctuary, communion, worship assistants and ushers are needed.

Please sign-up on the bulletin board.

*(Please note - ALL communion assistants are required to wear masks.)*



### **Welcome Plentiful Plates to Holy Cross— our new Ministry Partner!**

They will be using the PC kitchen to prepare meals for those in need and helping us with some of our ministries – such as the Thanksgiving Dinner, etc. If you're interested in volunteering, see Pastor Sue or one of the folks from the Outreach Team.

Check out their website at <https://www.plentifulplates.org/>

Or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PlentifulPlates/>



Wednesday Evening  
Bible Study with Vicar Garth  
7:00 PM

"Abrahamic Faiths –  
Part 1, Judaism"



July 21 – Our Returning to Ehad .דחד

July 28 – Faith Traditions and Observances

August 4 – Discussion / Q&A

with Rabbinical student Jason Mark

We will meet virtually through Zoom at 7:00 PM.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89521545527?pwd=T0w3T2hWSitHb2ttK3NaeS9EbEdTQT09>

Meeting ID: 895 2154 5527

Passcode: 075655

### CHOIR NEWS

- ◆ Sanctuary Choir—first practice on Thursday Sept. 2nd at 7:30 PM with first performance on God's Work Our Hands Sunday, Sept. 12th. For more info, contact Jean Heidorn.



- ◆ Handbell Choir—first practice on either Wednesday Sept. 15 or Sept. 22 with a new time of 6 PM. (Time change is due to having bible study via zoom at 7 PM on Wednesdays) For more info, contact Carol Capor.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ♦ Did you know that the cross over the Altar in the Sanctuary weighs over 300lbs and is made of railroad spikes from Jersey Central Railroad, built by Pastor Freyberger and 3 congregation members...
- ♦ Did you know that the floor in the organ chamber was all individual pieces donated by more than 100 members of the church...

Generous members provided many other pieces and parts making the job far less costly... The organ is probably the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the state with just under 5000 pipes...



### CHURCH WORKWEEK

#### Annual Workweek

August 16th - 20th

Many hands are needed to help spruce up the church building.

There are plenty of projects planned - both inside and outside. Even if you can only spare a few hours, WE NEED YOU!

There is something for everyone to do (we'll even feed you!).

Contact MaryAnn Petersen if interested.



#### Calling all 7th and 8th Graders!!

If you are entering 7th or 8th grade this fall and would like to participate in our Confirmation Programs (called Lu-

ther's Rookies), please contact Pastor Sue as soon as possible at [sjones@holycrosstr.com](mailto:sjones@holycrosstr.com) or 732-255-4455.



#### Congratulations to our Graduating High School Seniors

who participated in the Blanketing service last month! We are proud of each and every one and will hold them in prayer as they move into this next chapter in life and faith: Jillian Ferone will be

attending Ocean County college in the fall, studying liberal arts; Alek Duriske will be attending

Monmouth University, majoring in Health Science and pursuing a career as a Speech

Pathologist. It will be a challenge for him but a very worthwhile pursuit; Maddy Brown will be

attending Ocean County College to begin her college journey. She plans to become a Nurse

Practitioner in emergency medicine; Julia Coombs will be attending the University of Maine.

She was accepted into their honors program and will be studying microbiology. She will also

be running cross country for the school.



All youth and their friends entering 8th through 12th grade this fall are eligible to participate in the Youth Gathering next summer. If you are interested, you need to confirm your interest no later than Sept. 12th. Planning team coordinators are Janis Provost ([janis1455@aol.com](mailto:janis1455@aol.com)) and Pastor Sue ([sjones@holycrosstr.com](mailto:sjones@holycrosstr.com)).

Please contact one of them or call the church office (732-255-4455) to confirm your

interest or get more information. Additional information will be provided in a mailing soon.

**2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING**

JULY 24-28 | MINNEAPOLIS, MN



### 2021 Who's Who on Council

<b>Pastor Susan Jones</b>	732/349-5108 (h)
<a href="mailto:sjones@holycrosstr.com">sjones@holycrosstr.com</a>	
<b>President, Bev Prima</b>	732/664-3350
<a href="mailto:beverly.prima@pr1mabuilders.com">beverly.prima@pr1mabuilders.com</a>	
<b>VP, Diane McCabe</b>	908/421-4488
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<b>Treasurer, Pam Walter</b>	732/585-6453
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<b>Secretary, Kenn Kerr</b>	732/408-6363
<a href="mailto:kennkerr75@gmail.com">kennkerr75@gmail.com</a>	
Constitution/Bylaws, Mutual Ministry	
<b>Bookkeeper, John Kane</b>	732/674-8642
<a href="mailto:jkane1620@gmail.com">jkane1620@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Maddy Brown</b>	609/548-6996
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Family Faith Formation	
<b>Maija Cullen</b>	732/232-2031
<a href="mailto:magic357951@yahoo.com">magic357951@yahoo.com</a>	
Family Faith Formation	
<b>Valerie Horlacher</b>	732/984-8716
<a href="mailto:horlachervalerie@gmail.com">horlachervalerie@gmail.com</a>	
Discipleship	
<b>Janice Hutchison</b>	732/276-8074
<a href="mailto:jjhutchison47@gmail.com">jjhutchison47@gmail.com</a>	
Fellowship	
<b>Laurel Reis</b>	609/709-8613
<a href="mailto:laurelreis71003@gmail.com">laurelreis71003@gmail.com</a>	
Worship and Music	
<b>Nikki Schley</b>	732/573-9634
<a href="mailto:Schley33@aol.com">Schley33@aol.com</a>	
Community Outreach	

## TOMS RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT



**COME ENJOY A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE  
OUR COMMUNITY, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS**

**HUDDY PARK 5:00-9:00 PM**

**FEATURING - TR UNITED AROUND THE WORLD IN TOMS RIVER**



**CHECK OUT OUR  
FIRST RESPONDER DISPLAYS**  
MUSIC BY DJ TONY TUNES

### **National Night Out / Toms River United Around the World**

The Holy Cross Discipleship Team will have a booth at the event. Come on out, have some fun and say Hi!



### **Blood Drive Results**

53 units of blood was collected  
Thanks to Eric Corbet, Larry Akins,  
Mike Cushing and Bruce Elsbree  
for their help with the drive.



### **Summer Office Hours**

The church office is  
open Mon. thru Thurs.  
9:00 - 2:00.  
*Closed Friday*

**Council Meeting Visitors** - Congregation members are welcome to participate in our monthly Congregation Council meetings by contacting either Bev Prima (Council President - [beverly.prima@pr1mabuilders.com](mailto:beverly.prima@pr1mabuilders.com)) or Kenn Kerr (Council Secretary - [kennkerr75@gmail.com](mailto:kennkerr75@gmail.com)) at least one week prior to the meeting. Visitors must state their reason for their desire to attend and be able to participate via ZOOM. Council meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM.