



ST. PETER'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

302 MERCHANTS AVE.  
FORT ATKINSON, WI 920-563-3889



## BISHOP LEE'S VISITATION: RECEIVED AND REDEDICATED

Even though we are in that long stretch after Pentecost, Sunday, July 24 felt like a sacred visit during this Ordinary Time. We were blessed to have Bishop Jeff Lee and Deacon Karen Buker celebrate with us. Jolene Cannon and Angie Hoffman were accepted into the Episcopal church which included the Presentation and Examination of the candidates as well as the Renewal of Baptismal Vows for everyone. Rededication of the Parish Hall took place following the service along with cake and fellowship. It truly was a day of rejoicing.

*For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building. 1 Corinthians 3:9*

The gospel reading was about the disciples asking Jesus how to pray. Jesus gave them the words to Our Lord's Prayer. Bishop Lee's sermon focused on those deep prayers we sometimes feel go unanswered or those times when God seems to have abandoned us. Our prayers are often prayers of petition, and at times we take them for granted and don't really examine what we are asking for, much like singing the words to a familiar song, not thinking what the words mean or even singing the wrong words. We are reminded that Jesus's petition to God to let the cup pass from him, to spare his life, went unanswered. Mature prayer requires a dance with God; we must cooperate, act, respond, develop a relationship. We may beg, bargain, wrestle, and may not get what we want (and many times that is a good thing), but over time, we will be changed. God will rearrange us! We learn to live with arms open like Jesus on the cross.



- By Angie Hoffman-

## FROM RECENT SERMONS

### July 31

*Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities. All is vanity.*

Ecclesiastes 1:2

The author of Ecclesiastes probably felt the way we often do, especially now, when so much seems wrong in the world. All is pointless, meaningless. We may wonder, *Was it worth it all? Were my prayers heard? Were my actions useless? Where is God in all this?*

But everything matters! Our actions affect those around us. We may make a difference, even if it is the life of one other person. Our actions affect our soul. Jesus's words, *Peace I leave you; my peace I give to you.* "Let not your heart be troubled," may not be so much a feeling but rather a choice we need to make over and over. So, whatever is good for your soul, do that!

### August 7

Keep the Faith

Have assurance of things unseen. Do not lose heart when you wrestle with faith but be obedient to God. Love your neighbor without passing judgment, offer kindness, reflect on your own sins, consult scripture, tradition, reason, experience and share your faith stories with others. Remember, Jesus never leaves you.

### August 14

*I have come to bring fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled. Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. Luke 12:49*

When reading scripture, it is important to remember it is not always about us. These words were most likely about prophecy fulfilled. John the Baptist spoke of another who would baptize with spirit and fire. At Pentecost, the flames rested above the people and they were given powers to prophecy. The church has propagated through divisions. Yes, we are different, but we are the same in our love for God. We pray that we can be one by following Jesus's example of radical acceptance of all. Allow the Holy Spirit to burn inside you and share your faith by being a follower of the Way of Jesus through loving kindness.

### August 21

*Come to me, all you labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11: 28-30*

Jesus's yoke: authenticity, service to others, humility, and love. It is essential that we remove the pointing of our finger. We must not judge others. In the end, Jesus will want to know how we loved. Remember to THINK before speaking. Will our words be True, Helpful, Inspirational, Necessary, Kind?

### August 28

Don't give the Pharisees a bad rap, for we may be more like them than not, just trying to follow our religion the best we can, devout in our beliefs.

We are never in "last place" in God's eyes. Everyone is invited to the table of Jesus. Give your life to God and walk in the way of love. Give because it is the right thing to do, not because you expect to receive something in return.

We are all outcasts in our own way, gathered at the table, hungry.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Our first evening Women's Fellowship meeting was held August 16, 2022 at the Knox home. Ten ladies attended. A light dinner of hotdish, salad, rolls and zucchini bread was served. An expectation of lasagna did not result in disappointment but instead turned into a deep discussion resulting in the wisdom that one person's lasagna is another person's hotdish. Other topics covered were far reaching and just as fun.



Interest, excitement, and appreciation for the Women's Fellowship meetings has been overwhelming. Offers to help with food have come in. And so, it is our hope to be able to continue them about once a month.

We had another meeting at the rectory on Wednesday, September 14. Fun was had by all!

-Terrie Knox-

## PARISH HALL WALL HANGINGS



I was reading the Jefferson County Union one day when I saw an article about the Lorine Niedecker mural downtown being painted by Jeremy Pinc. The article identified him as an MFA student at UW and a former Oak Park, Illinois resident. Joleen and I used to live in Oak Park (for 30 years) and I was pleased to learn that Jeremy was a graduate of Oak Park River Forest high school from which our daughter, Sarah, graduated in 2015. I went downtown and interrupted his painting to meet him and let him know about our shared connections. That day I asked him if he

would consider a commission for our church since the echo in the undercroft was causing some people distress. To my joy Jeremy accepted. Now we have a nationally famous artist's work in our church.

- Bill Cannon -

**Here is something the Artist wrote to explain his process in the creating of these tapestries:**

I am the artist who did the artwork Bill commissioned, and I would love to tell you a little more about it. At the time that I received the commission I was studying early Renaissance art and philosophy. Of particular interest to me was the sculptor Aostino di Duccio and the paintings I made are based on bas-relief sculptures he made in the 1400s. This was a time period of vastly shifting world views. The Middle Ages were coming to a close and there was a rebirth of interest in the arts (among other things). Although Duccio lay more on the medieval side of this divide I have always found his artwork to be timeless, and to transcend the shifting ideologies that were prevalent during his life. My paintings were intended to be a hymn to life and a positive affirmation of the beauty we can all find if we cultivate our better selves. These are the qualities I find in Duccio as well and I think that attitude is applicable in any time period.

I hope this resonates with you and if you have any additional questions feel free to ask!

-Jeremy Guzzo Pinc-

In her poem, "Shallow Waters Are Not Safe," Angela Hoffman reflects on what it means to delve into one's soul. This poem was first published in *Agape Review*.

### **Shallow Waters Are Not Safe**

The greatest danger is to remain at the surface  
believing no harm is done there, that you are safe.  
This place breeds untruth, disguises desire, pain.  
It is there that you go through the motions  
until they no longer matter.

Dive deep, where hearts are broken, falling apart  
where darkness is divine  
where love is stronger than fear  
where you can hang only onto faith  
where you can grab onto the Other  
rise back up, gasping for life.



### **NEW KEY DISTRIBUTION PROCESS**

St. Peter's has always had a warm welcome for those who need a place to worship, a place to pray, a place to meet, and a place to work. As a result, there have been many keys given out to many people, some of which have never been returned. After many, many years, we have lost track of the number of keys that are out and who has them.

After a detailed discussion of the situation, the vestry noted that it has been decades since the church has had new keys for the doors and there is no record of how many keys have been made or who has them. Thus, the vestry has determined that the outside doors of the church will get new locks and keys.

A new Building Use Policy will be put into place with the new keys. In an attempt to keep track of who has keys and to inspire some accountability with their use and return, there will be a deposit required of \$20.00 for members and \$50.00 for non-members when the new keys are issued. Your name and contact information will be necessary as well as a second contact person in case we are not able to reach you.

You will be kept informed as to when this will take place. If you will be needing a new key, please inform Barb in the office so an estimate of numbers can be determined.

### **FLAT SCREEN TV NEED**

Our TV that we have had for many years and have benefitted from its availability for watching Bible/Book study teaching on DVD is now not working. If anyone has an extra Flat Screen TV that is an extra and would like to donate to the church, we would love to have it.



## WOMAN'S MINI WEEK

I gathered with 68 women at Camp Lakotah (formally known as Camp Webb) in Wautoma for four days from August 7-10. This holy place was owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee for many years before becoming independently owned. Although it evolved over the years, Mini Week remains much the same as was originally intended since 1977. The mission is to offer refuge, friendship, relaxation and fun for women.

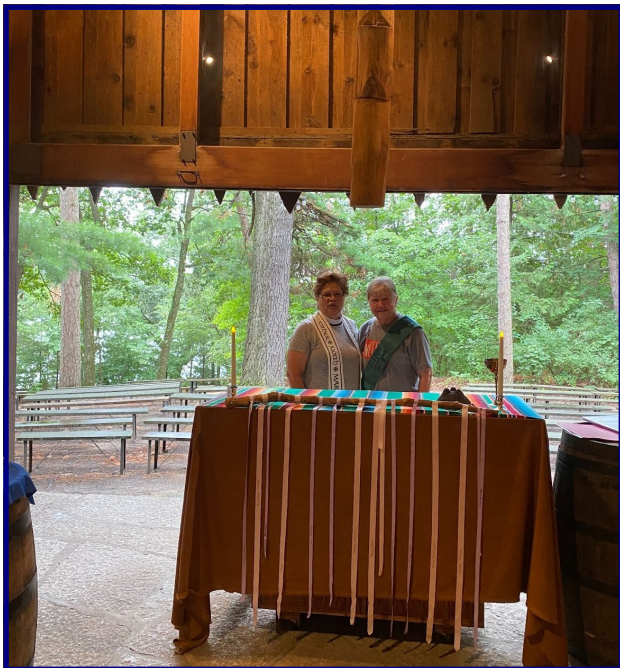
We laughed, cried, contemplated, prayed, meditated, swam in the lake, canoed, worshiped, shared Eucharist and meals, danced, connected with nature, sang around the campfire, walked the holy grounds, made memories, and made new friends.

Some of the activities I personally took part in included weaving with nature, henna tattooing, making Anglican rosaries, smudging, book discussion, and making a sea glass wind chime.

We all brought personal hygiene items for this year's Service Project. Women were then able to take a share of the items we packaged for distribution in their communities. I brought several home to go into our Blessing Box in the Peace Garden.

Information on next year's camp will come out around February. Maybe you will feel the nudge to go!

By Angie Hoffman



**Human beings cannot deny the need for friendship, the need for belonging. When we are disconnected from people and place we lose something crucial to our humanity.**

**- Steven Garber**

## DIOCESAN CONVENTION

On October 7-8 The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee will hold its 175th Annual Convention at two locations in Milwaukee. The Friday night session will be at the Westin Hotel and the Saturday meetings will take place at the Italian Community Center. Friday's session is open to guests and Includes dinner, dancing and the Key Note address by guest speaker Becca Stevens's: Priest, social entrepreneur and Founder and President of Thistle Farms, in Nashville, Tennessee.



175TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE



*Becca Stevens*

Here is a quote about the evening from our Diocesan Website:

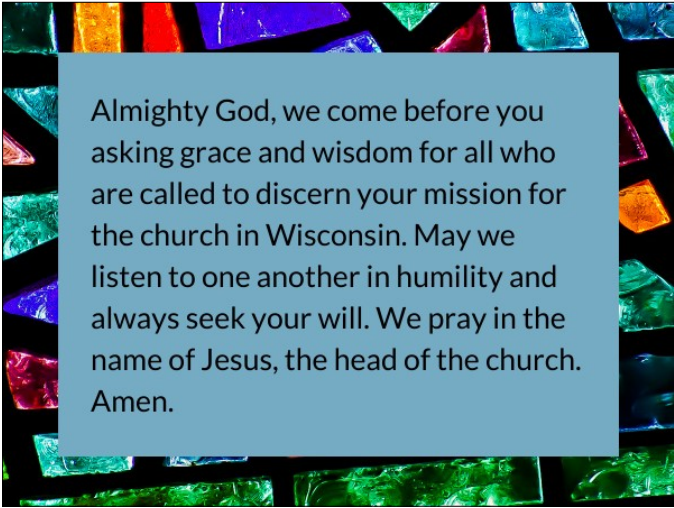
"Get ready to feel inspired to keep loving the world and renew the right spirit in our hearts.

We will reflect on how revival is the soil to grow movements and encourage growth. On the way of love, we don't have to quit when we feel weary. Drawing on her twenty-five years of work as a priest and founder of Thistle Farms, Becca will offer us time to think how all our offerings change the balance of love in the world. She will also share stories from her latest efforts in Poland, working with women knitters who are refugees from Ukraine. Come prepared to welcome the spirit. Revival is *not* in spite of our hardships; it is in response as a defiant and faithful act."

The cost for registration for the Friday night session is \$50(includes dinner and dancing afterwards). If anyone from the parish would like to go you we can register you as a guest, but you will be responsible for the cost. If you would like to go with others from St. Peter's, please call the office and we will make sure we connect you with our Lay Deputies for rides and to sit together.

### Prayer for the Episcopal Wisconsin Trialogue

The "Trialogue" is composed of the three Episcopal dioceses of Wisconsin that are exploring how reunification to one diocese may better equip us to be the church God is calling us to be. Please pray with us.



Almighty God, we come before you asking grace and wisdom for all who are called to discern your mission for the church in Wisconsin. May we listen to one another in humility and always seek your will. We pray in the name of Jesus, the head of the church. Amen.

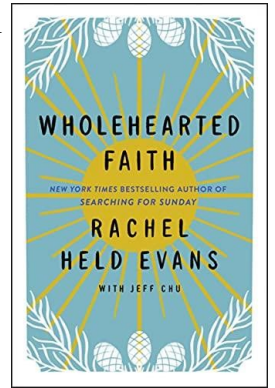
## TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY ON ZOOM

Back by popular demand is our Tuesday night book study. Starting this Fall, we will be delving into the book “Whole Hearted Faith” by Rachel Held Evans and Jeff Chu.

Here is the description of the book: “Rachel Held Evans is widely recognized for her theologically astute, profoundly honest, and beautifully personal books, which have guided, instructed, edified, and shaped Christians as they seek to live out a just and loving faith.

At the time of her tragic death in 2019, Rachel was working on a new book about wholeheartedness. With the help of her close friend and author Jeff Chu, that work-in-progress has been woven together with some of her other unpublished writings into a rich collection of essays that ask candid questions about the stories we’ve been told—and the stories we tell—about our faith, our selves, and our world.

This book is for the doubter and the dreamer, the seeker and the sojourner, those who long for a sense of spiritual wholeness as well as those who have been hurt by the Church but can’t seem to let go of the story of Jesus. Through theological reflection and personal recollection, Rachel wrestles with God’s grace and love, looks unsparingly at what the Church is and does, and explores universal human questions about becoming and belonging. An unforgettable, moving, and intimate book.”



As this book is a series of essays, we will be taking one essay a week and discussing it. We will read the essay together at the beginning, as it is helpful to hear things read in another person’s voice. Therefore, there will technically be no homework. Mother Mindy encourages you to buy the book and read it ahead of time, but as we’ll be reading these together, it will not be necessary to buy the book. If you would like the office to order you a copy, please email or call the office.

Since we are taking on one essay at a time, it will take several weeks to get through the book. We will do Part I before Advent, then have an Advent Study, then discuss Part II in the new year.

### The dates for the study are:

Tuesday, Oct. 4	Session 1– Chapter 1 On the Days When I Believe (Please read Forward, Introduction, Prologue before class)
Tuesday, Oct. 11	Session 2—Chapter 2 My Wicked Little Heart
Tuesday, Oct. 18	Session 3—Chapter 3 Where Stone Becomes Flesh
Tuesday, Oct, 25	Session 4—Chapter 4 The Liberation of the Know-It-All
Tuesday, Nov. 1	Session 5—Chapter 5 Thick Skin, Tender Heart
Tuesday, Nov. 8	Session 6—Chapter 6 Jonathan Edwards Is Not My Homeboy

The Zoom Link will be provided via email before the first session, and will be included in the St. Peter’s email each week. This is a great opportunity for growth and fellowship, with the convenience offered by a virtual platform.

## Vestry Meeting August 17, 2022 (Zoom)

Present: Mother Mindy, Breck McHenry, Laurie McHenry, Scott Fernhaber, Terrie Knox, Bill Cannon, Ginny Laurent, Matt Bills

Mother Mindy opened with a reading from the Gospel according to Luke, starting in Chapter 10. Thoughts and impressions were offered by all.



I. **Check-ins** – We went around the group and shared how we are doing.

II. **Prayer** -Mother Mindy opened in prayer

III. **Minutes** – Bill moved to accept July Minutes as presented, Ginny seconded. No discussions. Vote to accept minutes. All were in favor.

IV. **Financial Reports** – On Balance Sheet we are down \$62,000. We did get check from the Diocese that came from Auxiliary fund just brings us up to the level we should be, but it is not income, just money from another fund. Member contributions down \$25,000 compared to last year. Expenses: Rectory Maintenance is \$13,000. Under budget but will eventually need to do this work. Worship and bulletins, over \$7,000 (this is for the cameras recently purchased) over budget. We have spent \$41,000 building expenditures. (Parish Hall renovations, sidewalk replacement, and Air Conditioner Unit replacement) Excess expenditures for this year \$22,000. Laurie recommends we curb our spending, Bill agreed that good stewardship requires we take a pause so we are not spending money that's not coming in. Member contributions are under \$56,000, which is low for this time of the year.

### V. Business –

**A. Building Use Policy** - Mother Mindy said she has had some conversations with others about our current Building use policy. She doesn't feel the current one reflects our values. For instance, we don't charge for the use of the Church for funerals. She and Scott are going to work on re-vamping the policy. Matt suggested a two-tier policy: Members vs. Non-members.

**B. Re-Keying**- A key was given out and it got lost. Mother Mindy recommend re-keying the outside doors of the church. Mother Mindy recommended a deposit for anyone who gets a Key. Then we have a list with contact information, and also a contact person for the key holder. There is a significant cost is to re-key the doors.

#### Two items on the table:

1) **Should we RE-Key the outside doors?** Matt moved we re-key, Scott seconded. Matt suggested not all 4 doors be the same. Terrie asked about cost. We don't know. Breck can re-key Schlage locks. Scott said we should get new locks, not just re-key. For the motion on the floor. Two are in favor of re-keying, Four for not rekeying. Motion does not pass. Scott made motion to get new locks for the three doors. Bill seconded. Discussion followed; Vote was taken for getting new locks. Motion passed.

2) **Should we require a deposit for anyone who has a key?** What should deposit for the keys be? Many suggestions were made. \$10 and \$20, \$15/\$25. Scott suggested members we could charge just \$5, but \$50 or for those outside the church. Others said \$10, but \$20 might be more worthwhile for someone to return. Terrie made a motion to vote. Members would have to make deposit of \$20, for those outside the church it would be \$50. For non-members we would hold their check for a certain number of days to be

determined by the rector. Ginny Seconded. Terrie offered to write an article for newsletter about re-keying the church and the reasoning behind the required deposit.

Matt Bills left the meeting due to another obligation.

**C. Sound System** – There are differing thought processes regarding this. Breck presented his thoughts about the sound issues: Streaming video system is both audio and visual. We had a grant from the Diocese and we purchased equipment that was recommended by the Diocese at the time. This has evolved. Now we have buzz and a hiss.

Breck explained problems with amplifier; his proposed solution that would be less expensive but is likely to not play well with the T.V. ears that Bev's mom uses. We may be able to find a solution for this.

Mother Mindy showed the breakdown of cost for sound system.

Scott explained the sound system he's proposing. It is a long-term solution (for the next 10 years). Base price is \$9,000. Adding a sub-woofer would bring it to \$12,000. Mother Mindy summarized the pros and cons of each. Discussion followed. Bill said he's with Scott, Terrie would prefer not spending \$1700, then find that it doesn't solve the problem. Breck clarified that the amplifier that he's proposing is the same one that Scott's company recommended, so if we needed to move on to have their whole plan in place, we would already have one component of it. Ginny would prefer starting with the smaller fix, then moving on to the larger solution if necessary. Mother Mindy mentioned that the larger quote includes a "limiter" which, right now, the function of adjusting the sound to the person speaking/singing, is in the hands of the person running AV.

Scott pointed out that his solution will be a long-term solution, which we need to bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Mother Mindy asked each person what they think:

Terrie – understands the problem and the wisdom of both solutions. She is torn.

Ginny – also torn between the two options.

Bill- would like to go with the Peak Systems option

A Suggestion was made to buy their (Peak Systems) amplifier and try it, and if needed, move on to the more expensive solution. Scott will call Peak systems and connect Breck with Jason, the tech from Peak Systems so he can also discuss camera questions and issues.

A proposal was made to approach Peak systems to suggest we buy their recommended amplifier, and try Breck's solution. Then if we need to do more, we budget for it for next year.

Scott made motion to table the current proposal. Ginny Seconded. Motion passed. This will be discussed at the next Vestry Meeting.

Due to the time, Mother Mindy recommended someone make motion to adjourn.

Bill moved Terrie seconded to adjourn. Mother Mindy prayed to close. She thanked everyone for being kind in these discussions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barbara Werner

*(These minutes have been condensed for the Newsletter; the full version is available upon request)*

## FALL SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY

6:00 PM *Wholehearted Faith* Book Study on Zoom, starting in October

### WEDNESDAY

12:00 Noon Midweek Mass, starting in October

### SUNDAY

8:00 AM Morning Prayer in the Gathering Room

8:30 AM Back-To-Basics Bible Study in the Gathering Room

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist: In-Person and Livestreamed

11:10 Fellowship (Coffee Hour)

12:00 Noon Outdoor Mass in the Peace Garden (**October Only, Weather Permitting**)

*In addition, look for information on a Healing Service  
and Chat and Craft Group that Mother Mindy is cooking up.*

## PARISH UPDATES

**Mother Mindy**—I am thrilled to continue to see new faces show up at church and have them return. Please remember that it is each of our responsibility to not just welcome, but to get to know new faces. We have members that have returned after a prolonged absence as well—what a blessing! As I just preached about wholeness, it truly feels like we are becoming more whole all the time—a community building disciples and sharing the love of God. I am continuing to serve the community in different capacities. I just lead a memorial service for Kevin Johnson, a dear friend and bartender at FatBoyz. I never felt so much like a parish priest, truly serving the community and the grieving people gathered at FatBoyz to remember Kevin. I am also on the Historical Preservation Commission and will welcome the September meeting into the rectory. I am excited about our fall schedule and I'm happy to announce we're adding a noon mass on Wednesdays starting in October.

**Senior Warden Scott**— I am excited that we have retuned to the common cup and things are becoming more normalized. The return of coffee hour after service is a wonderful thing as well.

**Junior Warden Breck**— I am working on replacing batteries in Blink cameras and have installed flashing and replaced shingles on rectory garage. Also discussed sound system with Mike at Peak Systems. Minimum 1 to 2 months lead time on components.

## LAY EUCHARISTIC LEADERS SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER 18

10:00 AM IN-PERSON &  
LIVESTREAM

Lector: Sharon Williams

AV Technician: Breck McHenry

Acolyte: Bill Cannon

Usher: Scott Fernhaber

11:10 Fellowship/Coffee Hour

### SEPTEMBER 25

10:00 AM IN-PERSON &  
LIVESTREAM

Lector: John Donohue

AV Technician: Breck McHenry

Acolyte: Bob Krumm

Usher: Scott Fernhaber

### OCTOBER 2

10:00 AM IN-PERSON &  
LIVESTREAM

Lector: Bev Wille

AV Technician: Matt Bills

Acolyte: Bill Cannon

Usher: Scott Fernhaber

11:10 AM OUTDOOR FELLOWSHIP/  
COFFEE HOUR

12:00 OUTDOOR SERVICE

Lector: Ginny Laurent

Acolyte: Bill Cannon

Usher: Scott Fernhaber

## ACTIVITIES AT ST. PETER'S

### Monday–Friday 8:00 AM

Morning Prayer in the Gathering Room

### Sunday, September 18

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

8:30 AM Back to Basics Bible Study

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Guest Preacher: Father Ricardo Sheppard

In-Person and Live Streamed on YouTube

(Masks Required inside the church)

11:10 AM Coffee Hour

### Wednesday, September 21

6:00 PM Vestry Meeting (Zoom)

### Friday, September 23

10:00 AM Funeral for Judy Schultz

### Sunday, September 25

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

8:30 AM Back to Basics Bible Study

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

In-Person and Live Streamed on YouTube

(Masks Required inside the church)

11:10 AM Coffee Hour

### Sunday, October 2

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

8:30 AM Back to Basics Bible Study

In-Person and Live Streamed on YouTube

(Masks Required inside the church)

11:10 AM Coffee Hour

12:00 Outdoor Service

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

In your charity, please remember the following people in your prayers: John, Njari, Amanda, Obi, Kitty, Jim M., Jack, Bill, Gary, Vickie, Charlie, Cynthia, Kristin, Steve, Deborah, Russell, Barb S., Scott J., Sarah S., Young, Jennifer, Lisa, Bev, Sally, Ally, Shonda, DuWayne, Nancy, Bishop Whitmore, and Matt. We give thanks that Melody is done with chemo! We give joyous thanks that Jerry's recent tests and scans are clean! *(If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact the office.)*

September 2022 Newsletter

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302 Merchants Avenue

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Return Service Requested



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Rector: Mother Mindy  
Valentine Davis

**NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**8:00 AM MORNING PRAYER IN THE GATHERING ROOM**

**8:30 AM BACK-TO-BASICS BIBLE STUDY**

**10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST: IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED**

**11:10 FELLOWSHIP (COFFEE HOUR)**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Bishop Lee's Visitation
- Women's Fellowship Gathering
- Poem: Shallow Waters Are Not Safe
- New Key Distribution Process

**ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT**

To Lead Each Person into a Living Relationship with Jesus Christ,  
Train Them as Disciples, and Make Jesus Known to Others.