

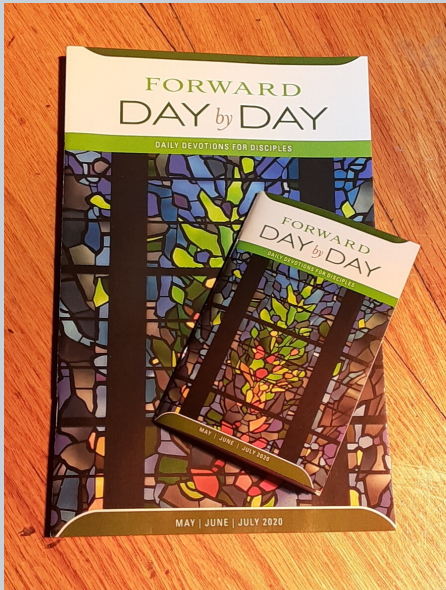
May 3, 2020

St. Thomas's Episcopal Parish  
276 S. College Ave Newark, DE  
302.368.4644

weekly newsletter

# The Carpenter's Helper

*This Week...we continue our prayers for frontline workers, and all who support them*



MAY.JUNE.JULY

Forward Day by Day are now available!

You can always find them online at

<https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/>,

follow them on facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/forwarddaybyday>),

but if you like to have a tangible, paper copy to

hold and use every day, please contact the office

to have one mailed to you.

[StThomassOffice@googlegroups.com](mailto:StThomassOffice@googlegroups.com)

or 302.368.4644

## Online Worship Services for Holy Week

Online services will be updated as the information becomes available. Please check the DE Episcopal Diocese website for a list of online worship opportunities.

<https://delaware.church/worship-and-pray-with-us/>

## The Episcopal Churches of Sts Thomas and Nicholas

Wednesdays at noon, and Sundays at 9am

ALL are Welcome!

LIVE on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChTwZqDaryh8kNAc-XsmiNg>

## Washington National Cathedral

Maundy Thursday (7pm), Good Friday (noon), and  
Easter Sunday (11:15am)

YouTube and Facebook Live.

## Let Us Pray

Please visit our website  
for news and information.

Under the category "News and Sermons",  
you will find resources such as:

- online resources for prayer
- Christian blogs
- Christian literary journals

<http://stthomasparish.org/let-us-pray/>

## Public Health Information

The Episcopal Church encourages everyone to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control's recommendations to prevent the spread of this virus to not unintentionally harm neighbors at home, at school, at work, or others in the community. Please check in with the DE Dept of Health and Social Services for updates.

<https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/>



## A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

4.29.20

Hello beloved of God in Delaware,

As always, I pray you are well and that you are doing everything in your power to stay safe. As I often remind us, the choices we make impact not only ourselves but our whole community.

Many folks are asking, “When will the churches reopen?” We in the Episcopal Church in Delaware have been actively working on this question. It may be a simple one to ask, but the answer is surprisingly complex. Returning to public worship and mission, which is what most folks mean by reopening, involves a host of important considerations and complications.

Think of what typical gatherings look like in your church. By our very nature and calling, it means bringing people into meaningful contact with God and each other. We hug, chat, shake hands, and exchange the Peace with dozens of people on a Sunday. We share lecterns and coffee pots and hymnals and bread and wine. We exchange bulletins and name tags and visitor cards and offering plates. We sing and pray aloud in close proximity, and we stand shoulder-to-shoulder at the altar rail. In short, we are used to coming to church expressly NOT to be apart from one another!

No one wants or expects this level of closeness and interaction with our fellow diners in a restaurant or shoppers at the pharmacy. We essentially dine and shop in isolation even outside of pandemic, with little to no expectation of hugging, singing, or touching other people, tables, or shopping carts. (That would be a memorable trip to Walgreens, that’s for sure.)

Of course, this does not mean that safely restarting worship is impossible, only that it is not the same as reopening businesses. Do not be surprised if the shops and diners in your neighborhood reopen earlier than your parish church.

We will resume public worship, I have no doubt, but I do not foresee rushing heedlessly to do so. We will move wisely and with energy and purpose. It almost certainly will occur in phases. In the meantime, we will continue to expand and improve our online worship options and stay in loving contact with each other as we’ve been doing for weeks. There is no need to cut back on the innovative ways you are connecting with each other. Keep it up! In crisis or not, expressing our joyful love for each other and ourselves is the essence of who we are and what we do.

Your brother in Christ,  
+Kevin