

May 24, 2020

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

weekly newsletter

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week..we are getting EXCITED for Pentecost!

Pentecost is a Sunday we all look forward to, and this year should be no different. We are celebrating celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus. Typically we come together waving streamers, processing, and picnicking in our fun RED clothes.

This year, we are getting extra creative in how we join together to mark this important event. Here is your assignment: write in BIG LETTERS on a piece of paper - I SEE THE SPIRIT MOVING IN (fill in the blank). It might be in your own life or in the world more broadly. Then get dressed in something spirit-colored (red!) and take a selfie picture with the sign, and send it to Cana or Fr Howie to be added to a photo-montage to be streamed during church on Pentecost. You can reply to this email or text Cana directly: 302.354.3277.

It would be fun for couples and families to do this together, and those with pets to get them in the picture too. We will try to work any other creative ideas. If you just can't decide on one, please feel free to send in multiple. Anyone who needs technical advice or help can contact Fr Howie or Cana or pretty much anyone under the age of 20, lol. St Nicholas will be joining with us to create this powerful testament. ALL are Welcome! Pictures should be in by May 25th.

**I SEE THE
SPIRIT
MOVING IN
_____!**



#SpiritSelfies

During the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Thomas's is alive and well. We are worshipping via live streaming on YouTube (See our YouTube Channel and hit Subscribe!). The full-text bulletins for our services can be found on our website, and by email request.

We also continue to respond to the needs of the Newark Community through our collaboration with the Newark Empowerment Center and others. Those who would like to support our work may do so by going to our "Giving to St Thomas's" page.

Our prayers are with all those who are ill, all who are caring for them, and all who are striving to hear the voice of God in these challenging times. May God bless you and keep you, now and always. For more, see the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware COVID-19 site.

BLUE HEN
bounty



taking care of the rest, so you can be at your best

a food pantry for UD community

COVID-19: We are open by **appointment only**.
Please email bluehenbounty@gmail.com or
dburgher@udel.edu to set up an appointment.

Bring your UD ID

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church 276 South College Ave.

bluehenbounty.weebly.com

bluehenbounty@gmail.com



Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter



The Episcopal Church in Delaware

The Rt. Rev. Kevin S. Brown, Bishop

all things in love

1 Cor. 16:14

May 20, 2020 | COVID-19 Response #13 | Worship Guidance for our Parishes

Hello beloved of God across the Episcopal Church in Delaware,

My friends, I really can't wait for churches to gather again in wide open public worship. I am eager to see you all, to share bread and wine and baptism and confirmation, to pour a cup of thick church coffee (you know the kind I mean) and hear your stories about this ridiculously difficult time. I can't wait to talk face-to-face about how powerful the love of God is in transforming this world and what excites you about Jesus Christ. That's why I took this job! Selfishly, I'm tired of preaching into a camera lens, I want to see pews full of folks who groan with me at my lousy jokes.

But, I remain patient, understanding that we all have longer to wait and prepare. The season for wide open in-person public worship is still a long way away. This will surprise some of us. After all, on Monday, Governor Carney modified the state of emergency order to give churches and other faith communities the option to begin offering in-person worship again under proper protocols for good public health. (A copy of the guidelines, entitled *Guidance for Communities of Worship*, can be found at delaware.church on the COVID-19 Response page.)

Does this mean we can regather soon? Not exactly. When you read the requirements, you'll see the pandemic is far from over, and getting together at church in the near future will not be anything like what we all envision worshipping together to really mean.

As Christians, it is not enough for us to merely be in the same building at the same time, even with the best health protocols in place. When we talk about having church, we want to ensure we are as inviting and hospitable and inclusive as possible. We expect worship that will focus our hearts on the love, hope, and mercy of the living God. Happily, more help is on the way. In just two weeks, right as 'Phase 1' of our recovery is expected to begin (see my [update #12](#) from last week), our 'new normal' task force is expected to publish guidelines for helping us all properly plan to regather physically, when the right time comes.

So, let us continue to be patient, and steadfast in our trust that Christ is fully present among us. Waiting is not the most exciting thing to do, I admit, but it is potentially transformative. This word from St. Paul, writing to the church in Galatia, comes to mind. "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."

In Christ,

+ Kevin

+Kevin