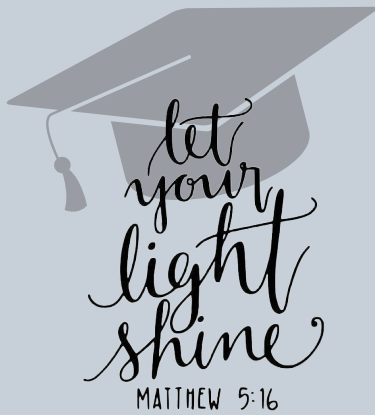


# The Carpenter's Helper

*This Week..we are CELEBRATING academic and faith seeking accomplishments!*

Turns out, 2020 is the year of WEIRD celebrations. It's the year we're all learning how to pay tribute to each other from afar because of COVID-19 and shelter in place orders. This has all been especially hard on 2020 graduates. Most traditional graduation ceremonies just aren't happening this year, but it doesn't mean the grads' hard work shouldn't be given a big giant nod and long-distance high five. Congratulations to all of the 2020 graduates, and special recognition to those in our faith family who are celebrating accomplishments this spring.



- **Michael McGough- High School**
- **Jacob South- High School**
- **Colleen Murray- MS Materials Science and Engineering**
- **John Fairchild- MFA Cinematic Arts**
- **Susan Zaccaria- BS Nursing**
- **Alexander Coulter Graham IV- Doctor of Ministry**
- **Kathleen Judith Graham- BA English, magna cum laude**
- **Katelyn Pannell- Doctor of Physical Therapy**

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.



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

**a food pantry for UD community**

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**Bring your UD ID**

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church 276 South College Ave.

[bluehenbounty.weebly.com](http://bluehenbounty.weebly.com)

[bluehenbounty@gmail.com](mailto:bluehenbounty@gmail.com)




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May 24, 2020

## The 2020 Confirmation Class Hasn't Missed a Beat



We're writing this note with much gratitude for the opportunity to work another year with Youth Confirmation. As we wind down the 2019-20 term, we thought it would be fitting to provide a brief update on the status of this year's class. Since the onset of "shelter-in-place" on March 15th due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've missed only one class and extended the course calendar three weeks to conclude on Pentecost Sunday. It's hard to believe that there have been 3.5 technology apps and four syllabus revisions over the last 10 weeks. Oscar, Zach and Amelia have surveyed the Old Testament, journeyed through the Gospel of Mark and currently exploring the formative questions, "Who is God for You? and Who are You for God?" The Confirmation Class now meets via Skype at 10 – 11:30 AM on Sundays, immediately after church service LIVE on YouTube. They haven't missed a beat over the last 9 months.

Furthermore, we quickly adapted our learning plans to the reality of the current crisis. Recent class discussions have pivoted toward coping with "so much homework", "missing friends and teachers", "computer issues" and "good (or not so good) things happenings because of COVID-19". The class has spent considerable time on habits of faith over fear, usually capped with marvelous student-led prayers that honor essential workers or those who are adversely impacted by the pandemic. Although Night Watch in NYC was cancelled and Confirmation Sunday postponed, the confirmands remain highly engaged during these uncertain times.

The Confirmation Class of 2020 – Amelia, Oscar and Zach – is simply amazing and smart, and forgetful, and curious, and stubborn, and courageous, occasionally worried, and funny, and frequently tired, and caring, and opinionated, and super creative and sometimes downright passionate all in a span of 90 minutes! They keep us on our toes, for sure. We're truly blessed to learn and grow with these wonderful young people.

Let's continue to pray for Zach, Amelia and Oscar as they wind down formal confirmation classes in a couple of weeks. Their ultimate decision for confirmation is imminent and we wish them all the best on this next step toward adulthood. Special thanks to parent, families and the entire St. Thomas's Parish for all of your support this past year!

#StayHome and Be Well,  
Bob Rys and Teri Quinn Gray  
Youth Confirmation Leaders