

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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Emmanuel Episcopal Church
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The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant,
Priest-in-Charge

March 22, 2022

Dear Friends,

Since I chose to preach about God's call of Moses last weekend I would like to address the Gospel lesson in this space. It read, in part, "At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'"

Jesus is making two points. The first is that bad things don't only happen to bad people. Many cultures, including strands of American culture/Christianity, hold that if your life is good it's because you are blessed by God for being a righteous person. The corollary to that is that if bad things are happening to you it's because you did something sinful. Think about how during the early days of the AIDS epidemic the disease was considered by some to be God's punishment brought upon gay men for sinful behavior. Think about how refugees on our southern border are being labeled criminals by some so that we don't have to allow them access to the asylum process, as if their desperate straits were their own fault. In the Old Testament, the Book of Job clearly separates any supposed connection sinful behavior and misfortune as divine punishment. Though Job's wife told him to "curse God and die" when terrible things started happening to him, Job continued to worship God. Job's three friends urged him over and over to confess his sin so that God would put things right again, but Job refused to confess a sin that he never committed just to appease them. The main point of the Book of Job is that God does not send us illness or misfortune to punish us. This was a radically new thought in Job's time. It was still an issue in Jesus' day too. So Jesus points to two current events to make his point. Those people didn't suffer horribly and die because God was punishing them for sin.

Jesus then goes on to make his second point when he says, "Unless you repent, you will all perish as they did." Jesus refers here to the final judgment, which all of us one day will face. Repent means to turn or to turn back: Turn to God if you never have, turn back to God if you have strayed from your faith. Lent is all about turning to God and offering your very self by offering God your time in worship and daily prayer, and by orienting your life more toward how God would have you live it. Bad things will still happen, but you will be better able to cope if your first instinct is to turn to God for help and guidance. Being a Christian is about so much more than eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Living life close to God slowly transforms you into the person God created you to be. As this transfiguration takes place you become a blessing to others and a partner with God in redeeming the world.

Have a blessed Lent,
Mother Julie+

Emmanuel Church Welcomes our Bishop on Saturday.

Please join us for coffee hour at 4:15 p.m. and for the service of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist at 5:00 p.m., at which Bradley Kreischer will be received into The Episcopal Church.

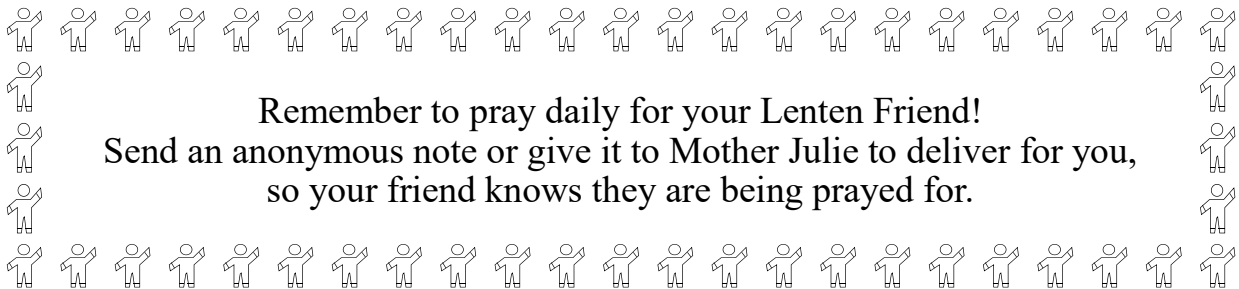
Lenten Food Drive

Items to be given to InterFaith Works' 20+ pantries in underserved areas



Pasta
Canned Fruits
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Dried or Canned Beans
Canned Vegetables
Canned Soup
Boxed Macaroni & Cheese

Canned Tuna or Chicken
Vegetable Oil
Oatmeal
Cereal
Walnuts/Almonds
Juice
Flour
Rice
Shelf Stable Milk



Remember to pray daily for your Lenten Friend!

Send an anonymous note or give it to Mother Julie to deliver for you,
so your friend knows they are being prayed for.

Confirmation Classes Continue Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. on Zoom

They are open to anyone who is interested in attending!

March 23: The Book of Common Prayer

March 30: Beginning of The Episcopal Church in America

Zoom codes: 878 5399 0472 and 014354

Thursday Evenings on Zoom in March - Lenten Book Study

6:00 p.m. Gather and share dinner from your home

6:30 p.m. Book Study: Jesus, by Marcus Borg

Zoom Codes: 861 7759 3272 and 295096

In Person Schedule

Saturday	Emmanuel	Coffee Hour with the Bishop: 4:15 p.m. Worship: 5:00 p.m. Bishop & Vestry: 6:15 p.m.	
Sunday	St. Alban's	Bible Study: 8:30 a.m. Coffee Hour: 10:30 a.m.	Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday	Emmanuel	Bible Study: 2:00 p.m.	

Zoom Schedule & Codes

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Bible Study: **835 9000 0245 & 562087**

9:30 a.m. St. Alban's Holy Eucharist: **826 9515 6305 & 446765**

Use your telephone for Zoom Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Dial 1-646-558-8656

When prompted Enter **826 9515 6305#**

When prompted Enter **#**

When prompted Enter **446765#**

That will put you in Zoom's waiting room.

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: **824 6993 1403 & 680299**

Wednesday

2:00 p.m. Bible Study: **840 0349 8213 & 586548**

5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class: **878 5399 0472 and 014354**

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Eat and Chat: **861 7759 3272 and 295096**

6:30 p.m. Mother Julie's Class

Mother Julie's Schedule for March 24-31

<u>Emmanuel</u>	<u>St. Alban's</u>	<u>Days Off</u>
Saturday: 3:30-7:00 p.m.	Sunday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Monday
Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m.	Tuesday: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	Friday
	Thursday: 12:00-8:00 p.m.	