



St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
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February 9, 2021

Dear Friends,

In my newsletter article I shared another priest's thought that on Ash Wednesday, which is February 17, we won't need to receive ashes to be reminded of our mortality. Every time we put on a mask we are reminded of how fragile life is. Masks have come to symbolize many things in these past 11 months of pandemic life. First, we wear them to protect others from a lethal virus we may not even know we are carrying because there are no symptoms. Second, we wear them for self-protection. Next, we wear them because they are mandated and we want to be good citizens. Which leads me to the next point, the wearing of masks has become a political football. There is a right wing element in the country that insists the pandemic is not real, that people are just dying of influenza. Some also insist it is their right to exercise their freedom not to wear a mask. Store employees are put in a difficult position when someone enters without wearing a mask: afraid for their safety if they approach the maskless person and afraid for their safety from COVID if they don't.

Then there are those who wear the mask incorrectly, covering their mouths but not their noses. For some this is carelessness. For some it's a concession that masks must be worn, but they'd much rather not be wearing them. It's not important enough to wear it properly to protect those around them, but they'd rather not rock the political boat.

Correctly worn masks are a symbol of love, fear, or a mixture of both! May love be stronger than fear, compassion stronger than arrogance, and concern for others greater than concern for ourselves.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
Mother Julie+

A stylized logo for Ash Wednesday. The word "Ash" is written in a large, black, cursive font. Below it, the word "WEDNESDAY" is written in a smaller, black, bold, sans-serif font. A thick black horizontal line is positioned between the two words.

A service will be recorded for the website the day before.

1:00-5:00 p.m. I will be in the office for those who would like to stop by to receive ashes.

5:30 p.m. is our Zoom service.  
Zoom codes: 839 3005 0350 and 303009



## Zoom Service on Sunday, February 14

This is the last Sunday before Lent, when in non-pandemic years we feasted on decadent desserts after the service. This year bring a decadent food and after the service we will feast as we chat.

Wear a festive hat or scarf!

Also on February 14 we will honor

**Barbara Lee** and **Shirley North**

for their many years of service as members of the Altar Guild.



*Altar Guild*

## Lent Book Study Begins February 27

In addition to the Thursday evening class at 6:30 p.m. there will be a book study on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on Ibram X. Kendi's book, How to be an Antiracist. Eight people have signed up so far. If you need Mother Julie to order the book please let her know. It costs \$15.

### Use your telephone for Zoom on 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 and I will let you in.

To mute or unmute yourself on the phone press \*6

## Calendar

February 11 6:30 p.m. Matters of Faith on Zoom: 852 0786 8086 & 125985

February 14 8:30 a.m. Bible Study on Zoom: 835 9000 0245 & 562087  
9:30 a.m. Worship on Zoom: 826 9515 6305 & 446765

February 16 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom: 868 3084 1089 & 114552