

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1308 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718
Website: stalbansyracuse.org

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant, Rector
Email: julieatalban@gmail.com
Cell: 315-416-7133

November 30, 2021

Dear Friends,

Over the four Tuesdays of Advent I will be writing about faith, hope, joy, and love. Today's theme is faith. We cling in faith to God's promise both because it is Almighty God who has made this promise of new life to all believers, and we have thousands of years of history with our God. As the people of God we join our ancestors of the faith in walking by faith, not by sight. Noah walked by faith when he built the ark as his neighbors derided him, until the flood came and covered the earth. Abraham believed God's promise that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars, even though he and his wife Sarah were much too old to conceive children. Sarah gave birth to Isaac. Isaac's wife Rebekah gave birth to Esau and Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons, who became the forebears of the twelve tribes of Israel. From one elderly couple came the nation of Israel.

In faith Jesus' twelve disciples left home and family to follow him. James and John left their father Zebedee standing in the boat when they left. Walking by faith takes courage. It requires staking your life on the promise of God. By faith Jesus went to the cross, believing that God would vindicate him from his trial and execution as a messianic pretender. He even told his disciples that after his crucifixion and burial he would rise in three days. And so he did! On the third day God reached into the tomb and raised Jesus from the dead, for the power of the Almighty is stronger than the power of sin and death.

Without Jesus' death there would be no forgiveness of sins. Without Jesus' resurrection there would be no Christian faith. Without the power of the Holy Spirit we would be unable to keep the faith. Without the promise of Jesus' second coming we would have nothing on which to ground, by faith, our hope for humanity and for all creation.

Have you noticed the pattern here? Each time it is God who has taken the initiative; it is God who first acted and who will act once again. This we believe. This is our faith. On this we stake the salvation of our souls.

Grace and Peace,

Mother Julie+

Thursday Evening Advent Study

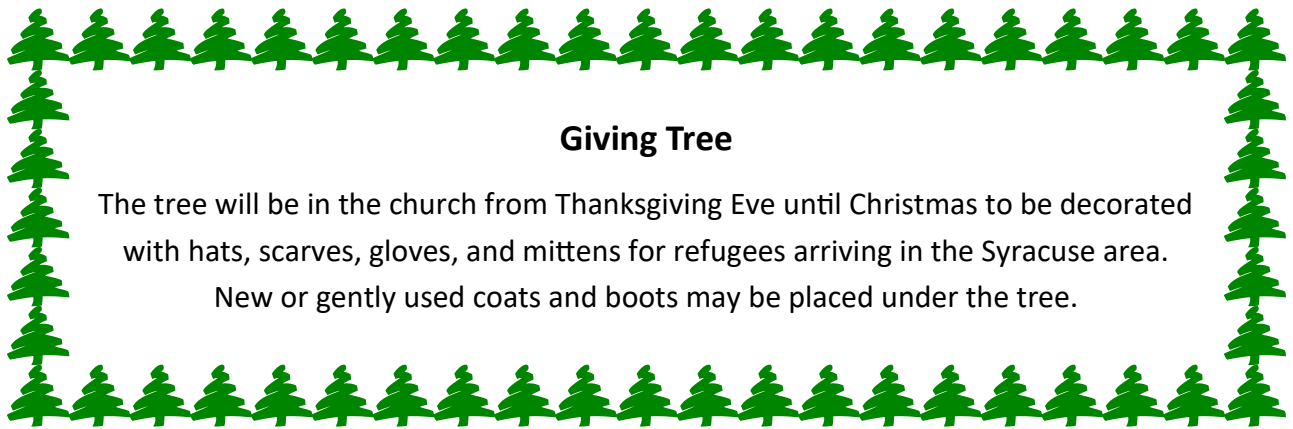
Dec. 2, 9, and 16 on Zoom - We will gather to eat dinner and chat at 6:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. I'll present a biblical studies on Faith, Hope & Joy, and Love. If you can't Zoom join me in my office.

Children's Communion Instruction

The 1st and 3rd Sundays of December Shelby Calhoun will teach the children about communion during Sunday School. Then during the prayer of consecration I will have them up at the altar to explain what I am doing and as a refresher for the congregation. We will celebrate with the children on December 26.

December 2-7 Calendar, with Zoom Codes where Needed

Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Advent Thursday Study: 834 3382 8700 & 900643
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Altar Guild Meeting
		Martha's Kitchen
	11:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study: 835 9000 0245 & 562087
	9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist: 826 9515 6305 & 446765
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer: 868 3084 1089 & 114552



Giving Tree

The tree will be in the church from Thanksgiving Eve until Christmas to be decorated with hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for refugees arriving in the Syracuse area.

New or gently used coats and boots may be placed under the tree.

St. Alban's Boutique is Open

Jan Bookhout's sewing room is busy with activity and new items are being added. She also takes requests. Thanks to both Jan and Kathleen Eckermann for their contributions. There are no set prices. Take what you like and donate what you can. All proceeds benefit the Mission Fund. We use the fund to purchase food for Martha's Kitchen, for year end charitable donations, and for other projects as they arise.

In Person Weekend Worship

Saturday at 11:30 a.m.
Recorded for our website

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
with organ and hymns,
also on Zoom

Use your telephone for Zoom Sunday at 9:30 am

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 you will be let in.