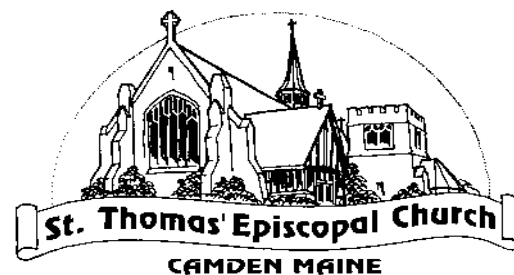


St. Thomas' Tidings

Sunday, May 17, 2020
Sixth Sunday of Easter

We welcome all who enter these doors, especially those who enter for the first time or after a long absence. Everyone is welcome! All are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine at this altar.



The Rev. Canon Lisa Fry, Rector
33 Chestnut Street (P.O. Box 631)
Camden, ME 04843
207-236-3680
admin@stthomascamdenme.org

Update on Reopening

To all St. Thomas' parishioners, near and far:

As I told you last week, we will **tentatively** hold services in our building starting June 7. We've done some measuring to see how many people we can accommodate in the sanctuary and maintain safe social distancing. The answer: fewer than we thought.

Depending on whether people are single or in couples or in families, we can seat anywhere from 22 to about 40 in the nave. We can fit up to 6 more in the chancel—but no more. Even this seating arrangement puts people traveling through the aisles much closer than 6 feet to the people in the pews. We are looking at several different options for how we will reserve seats for the services.

We also realized that we won't be able to run fans in the summer because they would spread any contamination throughout the space. We will have the windows open.

All people in the church will be required to wear masks at all times. There are no exceptions to this rule. If people remove their masks they will be asked to leave—for the safety of all.

We can't figure out any safe way to put spillover crowds in the Parish Hall, so that option is off the table.

We will have music for the services, but no congregational singing due to vastly increased spread of the virus when singing.

During June we will be offering Morning Prayer as the usual Sunday service, with Eucharist offered once a month. Eucharist has proved to be the most problematic logistically in terms of traffic patterns, streaming efforts, and ensuring safety in the distribution of the Eucharist itself. We will continue try to develop better options.

Please share your thoughts with anyone on the COVID-19 Reopening Task Force about what you see as obstacles or opportunities in this unusual time. Also, let us know if you plan on returning at once in June, or whether you prefer to avail yourself of other options including our streamed services from the church.

As always, we believe that our mission now in the Church is to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to help protect the most vulnerable among us.

God bless you all.

Lisa+

*COVID-19 Reopening Task Force
Members: The Rev. Canon Lisa Fry, Sr.
Warden Carlos Mello, Br. Donovan
Bowley, Sarah Groman, Dean Jackson,
Jan Lyle, Susie Crawford*

Publishing Notes

We'll be sending out an errata list for the Parish Directory soon. If there is an error in your entry, email us by May 21: admin@stthomascamdenme.org. .. And have you checked our [website](#) lately? Services, readings, schedules, helpful resources, a donate button—it has them all! Kudos to Terry Mello!

The Things You Learn in School

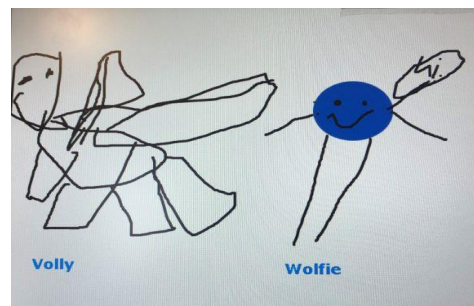
We are having fun with online Youth Christian Education on Zoom.

We drew pictures of the Good Shepherd as homework from the first week. We just had to put ourselves somewhere in the picture—and not necessarily as a human being. Here's my attempt at this project.



Crafts are not a forte of mine—could you guess?—but it was fun!

The second week—between bible stories—Volly and Wolfe taught me how to draw on Zoom. Their pics:



Who knew you could do that on Zoom?

We'll have a special meeting this week, as I talk to the parents and kids about what's coming and what the new protocols will be. If you'd like to take part, send me an email and I'll share the Zoom link. Lisa+

This Week: Special Morning Prayer

There is a special diocesan Morning Prayer this Sunday, May 17. The link will be available on our website by Saturday night, and via an email from the church on Sunday morning, for viewing anytime. Watch carefully, and you will see the inside of our church as our Rector does the reading from the Gospel and one of the Collects at the end of the service.

Then, we will be holding another “virtual” Coffee Hour, hosted by Rev. Lisa via Zoom—at a new time, **11:00 a.m.**—and we would love to see everyone! Watch your email for the link, different from last week’s.

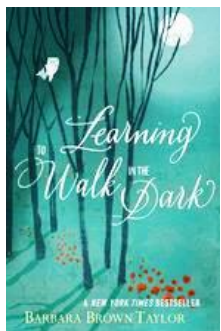


You don't have to be a barista to join us! Bring your coffee regular, Pekoe, cocoa... What we really want to see is YOU!

On weekday mornings, catch up with the Rector and parish friends at the **“Coffee & Check-In,” M-F, 9:30-10:00**, on Zoom. Come visit! (And for those keeping score, tea is trouncing coffee—wake up, Java Joes!)

Finding Our Way

A new Rector’s Class has just begun, and this time we’re reading the Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor’s *Learning to Walk in the Dark*—



Walk in the Dark—about finding spirituality when we don’t have all the answers. Kind of like now. You can still join us, **Fridays at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom!** This week

we will discuss Chapter One. It’s a fun class, and a great book. *Lisa+*



Mighty Good Yarn

K2together is a new knitting and crocheting group that brings together members of different religious and faith communities in Midcoast. We will knit baby caps and lap blankets for the local hospital (to be donated now or when the pandemic is less severe). Come share a cup of coffee and your favorite yarn patterns, and make new friends!

For now, we will meet on Zoom, and continue in person when it's safe to do so. Our first meeting is **Wednesday, May 20, 1-2 p.m.**

Never knit before? We'll teach you! Please email Rabbi Lily Solochek (rabbi@adasyoshuron.org) for the Zoom login info or with questions.

Prayer List

Please pray for those members of this parish and others who are in special need: *Pam Stewart; Carolyn Moore; Edward; Jack and Betty McDermott; Jeremy Tucker; the Brooks family; Amelia Mello; Paula; Sandra A.; Julie; Robert Pearson; Dustin; Hunter Fierro; Tadd Lyman; Shirley; Harry Hart; Ada Power; Larry Parker; Bayard Chanler; Carol; Marcie Vega; Vicky and Bill; Arnie Joy; Maxine; Judith Shepherd; Ron; Andrew; Joanne Scott; Tiffany Andrews; Seana Roubinek; Carolyn Morris; Amy; Joan Pottle; Paul Whittaker; Anne; Sandy Lyle; Brian Fitzpatrick; Skip Groman; Kathy Kulick; Lainie Vreeland; David Harper; Susan Conrad; Elaine.*

*Click [here](#) to go to This Week’s Virtual Services and to access the readings

**This Sunday
May 17, 2020
Sixth Sunday of Easter**

*Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:7-18
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21*

**Next Sunday
May 24, 2020
Seventh Sunday of Easter**
*Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11*

Calendar

Sunday, May 17

10:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—Facebook Live
11:00 a.m.—“Virtual” Coffee Hour—Zoom

Monday, May 18

9:30-10:00 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom
12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live
2:00 p.m.—Reopening Task Force—Zoom

Tuesday, May 19

9:30-10:00 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom
12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live

Wednesday, May 20

9:30-10:00 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.—Bible Study via Zoom
12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live
4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.—EfM via Zoom
8:00 p.m.—Compline—Facebook Live

Thursday, May 21

9:30-10:00 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom
12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live

Friday, May 22

9:30-10:00 a.m.—Coffee & Check-In—Zoom
10:00 a.m.—Finance Committee—Zoom
12:00 p.m.—Noonday Prayer—Facebook Live
4:00 p.m.—Rector’s Class via Zoom

Saturday, May 23

11:00 a.m.—Youth Christian Education—Zoom
8:00 p.m.—Compline—Facebook Live

Sunday, May 24

10:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—Facebook Live
11:00 a.m.—“Virtual” Coffee Hour—Zoom

Click [here](#) to go to our Facebook page.

How to Reach Us:

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