



Bi-Weekly e-News from Epiphany Parish

August 11-25, 2020

From Rev. Christen's Desk:

Dear Epiphany Parish,

It was lovely to worship with everyone both in-person and virtually on Sunday! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this new worship format possible. This Sunday, August 16, our worship service will be entirely virtual and live-streamed to Facebook Live at 10:15am (or over the phone at 8:30). Our next outdoor, in-person service will be on **Sunday, August 23rd at 10:15am.**

We are looking for a few more people to be a part of an Epiphany Parish, 'Becoming Beloved Community Leadership Team' to begin to think through ways that Epiphany can live more deeply into the work of racial justice. Becoming Beloved Community is a commitment and framework developed by the Episcopal Church to help churches to:

- Tell the truth about our churches and race
- Proclaim the dream of Beloved Community
- Practice the way of love in the pattern of Jesus
- And repair the breach in society and institutions

If you are interested in serving on this leadership team, please email me. We will be meeting in the next few weeks to begin to brainstorm what a commitment to racial justice and to these four practices might look like within our parish.

Peace in Christ,
Rev. Christen

Great Gramma Donlan will be turning 95 on
August 19!

Paul and Dorothy, Paul and Kerry, Paul and Leia Dolan were hoping you could send her a Birthday Cards to celebrate this wonderful occasion. The photo was taken last year.

If you are able to participate please send the card to:

Norma Donlan
56 Creek St. Apt #112

Wrentham, MA 02093



common cathedral - Sign up to donate fruit!

We are again seeking donations of fruit to be dropped off at Epiphany on Tuesday, August 25th to be brought into common cathedral the next day. There will be a bin at the side entrance for you to drop off your contributions on Tuesday the 25th.

Thank you to all who have been donating food regularly - if you did not have an opportunity to do so, this is your chance!

We have signed up for 50 pieces of fruit! We are looking for 5 people to sign up to each donate 10 pieces of fruit.

And although we appreciate anonymous drop-offs/donations it really does help if you sign up by e-mailing the office (office.epiphany@verizon.net) to let us know what you plan to bring. Please do not drop off your fruit early--we want to make sure it is fresh when it arrives!

Epiphany Parish - Walpole, Massachusetts COVID-19 Re-Gathering Information

From the beginning, God's commandment to 'Love your neighbor as yourself' has driven our decisions about how we function as a church community during this pandemic. As we begin regathering, our decisions will continue to be driven by our love for each other and our community. Because of this, things will look different as we regather. We need to practice strict hygiene and physical distancing guidelines. Certain elements of our traditional worship services will not be permitted for some time. **These limitations are temporary**, but they are important to best safeguard the well-being of all God's people.

At this time, we are not returning to normal. The guidelines discussed throughout this document may seem daunting, unusual, and overwhelming. That's understandable - though temporary, the changes are significant. By your participation in these changes and adhering to these guidelines, **you, with the rest of the parish, are actively loving your neighbor.**

The first portion of this document contains everything you need to know to attend worship at this time, including

- key changes to the service,
- safety protocols,
- attendee requirements, and
- overall health and hygiene expectations.

The second portion of this document contains additional information specific to

- small groups and community groups,
- visiting the church/office (aside from worship services),
- workplace safety plan,
- pastoral care and life events, and
- plan for notifying the local board of health.

Note that the guidance could change as the conditions of the virus change. As we learn more about how to engage together in this temporary normal, obtain more guidance from the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and healthcare professions, and the situation in our area evolves, Rev. Christen, the vestry, and the Regathering Committee will continue to work together to safely make our church as accessible as possible for as many people as possible.

We look forward to gathering with you again.

Worship Information **Worship - Indoor or Outdoor**

- Service bulletins will be provided prior to the beginning of the service. To limit frequently touched surfaces, prayer books, hymnals, and Bibles have been removed from the pews. Anything you need for the service will be in the bulletin.
- During this stage of gathering, we are unable to have congregational singing and communion.
- The Peace is to be exchanged without physical touch (using a bow, wave or just words) and while maintaining social distancing.
- There will be no offering plate collection; however, there will be a collection box placed in the Narthex or on the lawn (when worship is outside) where you can leave your offering.
- All congregants who do not live in the same household are required to be distanced from each other by at least six feet at all times. Members of the same immediate household are permitted to sit together and be less than six feet apart. Seating areas for individuals and families will be designated and clearly marked. Ushers will direct attendees to their seats while maintaining a distance of at least six feet and will dismiss attendees row by row at the conclusion of the service.
- For outdoor gatherings, parishioners are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs. Some disinfected chairs will be available.
- Childcare will not be available at this time. Sunday School classes also will not be held in person but may be conducted virtually.
- To encourage appropriate social distancing, there will be no coffee hour or punch on the lawn allowed during this phase. We ask that people respect social distancing and avoid gathering in the Narthex, lawn, or parking lot.
- All attendees over 5 years of age and staff must always wear face coverings while they are on church property. Children 2 - 5 years of age may wear face coverings at parent/guardian's discretion. It is requested that each person

bring a face covering from home. Masks will be provided for people who forget to bring their own, but supply will be limited. In the event that you aren't able to wear a mask for health reasons, we ask that you continue worshipping at home.

- If you have recently returned from out of state, please follow the current MA State travel guidance on self-quarantining after returning from your trip (found at www.mass.gov) Do not come to church if you are self-quarantining after returning from travel.
- There will be signage or floor markings for how attendees will enter, move about, and depart the church building and outdoor gathering space. Ushers will also direct the movement of people entering and leaving church and outdoor gathering space.
- For indoor gatherings, the number of attendees must be closely monitored to ensure compliance. At this time, we are allowed to have up to 40% of the church's capacity present during an indoor service, as long as physical distance of 6 feet can be maintained between households. To ensure we stay within the limit, **anyone attending an indoor service will be required to sign-up online or call the office by Saturday at noon.** (Further details will be sent out before we hold any indoor worship service).
- **Worship will continue to be available via telephone and live stream** every Sunday morning so that parishioners who are unable to or choose not to attend in-person may join us virtually.

Link for full Regathering Information [here](#).

Becoming Beloved Community

Becoming Beloved Community is the vision and commitment of the Episcopal Church that, "frames a path for Episcopalians to address racial injustice and grow as a community of reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers who share a passion for the dream of God". The path has 4 distinct and yet overlapping areas:

1. Telling the Truth about our Churches and Race
2. Proclaiming the Dream of Beloved Community
3. Practicing the Way of Love in the Pattern of Jesus
4. Repairing the Breach in Society and Institutions

Epiphany Parish will be creating a 'Becoming Beloved Community Leadership Team' to help us begin to think through ways that our parish can live more deeply into the work of racial justice and this dream of God. If you are interested in learning more about serving in this way, please email Rev. Christen at Christen.Epiphany@gmail.com. To learn more about the Becoming Beloved Community vision, please click HERE: <https://episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community>

Worshipping with Us, Virtually

Many of you have come to enjoy worshipping with us on Sunday mornings via Facebook Live. Although you do not need a Facebook account to view our services, some have found the experience a bit of a challenge. In response, we have created a YouTube channel and we will be posting a video of the 10:15am service each Sunday by 11:45am.

So now you have two ways to join us for worship. [Click here](#) to watch us on **Facebook Live** at 10:15am (the video is also available anytime on Facebook by following the same link). OR you can view the video on **YouTube** by [clicking here](#).

For Worship on August 16 ~ The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

[Click here](#) for this week's lectionary readings

For Worship on August 23 ~ The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Outdoor In-Person Worship

[Click here](#) for this week's lectionary readings

(We are using the Track 2 readings)

Need help? Please [CLICK HERE](#) for a list of resources and support for mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse disorders.

Food insecurity: Contact the **Project Bread FoodSource Hotline:** 1-800-645-8333; available in 160 languages, open 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays throughout the crisis (TTY line: 1-800-377-1292).

Financial Assistance: There are also some funds available at Epiphany Parish to help members of our

community in a financial emergency. Please reach out confidentially to Rev. Christen (978-758-7270) if you have any questions or need financial support. If you are struggling to buy food or medicine, pay bills, buy gas, or struggling in any other way, please do not suffer in silence. We are all in this together and Epiphany Parish is here to support you in whatever ways we can.

Outreach Opportunities - Walpole & Beyond

Daily Stand Out for Justice -

We continue to Pray and Act for an end to racism in our country. There will be a daily vigil from 5:00pm-6:30pm on the Walpole town common to support Black Lives Matter. Click [HERE](#) for more information. **All are welcome.** All attendees are asked to please wear a mask and practice physical distancing.

Diocesan COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund ~ The Diocese of Massachusetts has established a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to help meet emerging, urgent needs in congregations and affiliated organizations, and in support of collaborations with ecumenical, multi-faith and community partners. The fund will address critical community needs and congregational sustainability during the time of the pandemic. The fund is now open to receive online gifts at www.diomass.org/give-now.

Errand Angels ~ Please sign up to be an Errand Angel! There are many folks in our parish that do not want to be in public right now. We have created an online sign-up sheet to collect a list of parishioners who are willing to run errands for people who are unable to run errands for any reason right now. If you are healthy and feel comfortable running errands for others over the next few weeks, please sign up [HERE](#).

If you need an errand run for you for any reason, please call or email Rev. Christen and she will put you in touch with someone who can help.

Give blood ~ The American Red Cross is experiencing a severe shortage of blood because many blood drives have been cancelled around the country in recent weeks. If you are eligible to give blood and wish to do so, you can make an appointment online here:

<https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>

Donate Masks, Gloves, and Other Protective Gear ~ Boston Mayor Marty Walsh is asking for anyone who has extra masks, respirators, and/or other protective gear to donate them to the city for medical staff at hospitals to use. If your business uses these items, please consider donating them. You can call the City Mayor's hotline at 617-635-4500 to find out how to donate them.

Note from the Treasurer

I hope this note finds you all well. It has been a trying time for all and for some more than others. As you are aware, even though we are not meeting in person at Epiphany, we have expenses and obligations that need to be paid. We are monitoring all spending and trying to be prudent.

I want to thank everyone who has continued to financially support Epiphany by sending in their pledges and donations. We have members who have been sending their pledges in weekly and someone who has been sending a weekly anonymous cash donation. I especially want to thank those who find that during this difficult time that they are financially willing and able to provide additional support beyond their pledge. All of this has been essential in keeping us going.

God bless you all and keep you safe.

Susan Cosman, Treasurer

Weekly Announcements

Altar Flowers ~ It is unclear when we will be able to resume the use of altar flowers. We have talked to our florist and their wholesalers are closed, so they are unable to get the flowers to make the arrangements. As soon as we hear that there are flowers available we will resume getting arrangements.

Cancellations (weather or otherwise) ~ Cancellations will be communicated via e-mail and a notice on our website. We make every effort to hold regular Sunday services, and we never want you to travel if you do not feel safe doing so. And although we encourage sharing, please do not share your germs with your church family & friends - if you are sick, please stay home. If there is any question as to whether church is cancelled please check your e-mail and the church website before venturing out.

Weekly Calendar ~ We are continuing with our online worship. We introduced an in-person outdoor worship service on August 9 and hold another outdoor, in-person worship on August 23. Please see the COVID-19 Response information post above to learn how you can join us for virtual worship services.

From the Office

E-Mail & Sunday Announcements Deadlines ~ Announcements and notices for the Bi-Weekly e-News e-mails must be received in the office by noon each Monday - call or e-mail the office.

To have your announcement included in the Sunday bulletin, please have it in the office by noon on Wednesday.

Hospital Visitation ~ At this time Rev. Christen is only visiting the hospital or other care facilities in times of extreme emergency or for end-of-life needs. If you or a loved one is in need of a hospital visit please contact Rev. Christen at christen.epiphany@gmail.com.

Feeling a call (or a tug, or a pull) ~ to get involved in the life of our Parish, but don't know where to start? Please contact Rev. Christen at christen.epiphany@gmail.com to learn about the many opportunities to serve.

Office Hours

The office is not maintaining regular office hours during the quarantine period. Staff will be picking up the mail and checking e-mail and phone messages. We anticipate the office will be open soon!

Welcome to Epiphany Parish

We gather with joy in the power of Jesus' name, to care for one another and to include all people through our fellowship, education & outreach.

Epiphany Episcopal Parish welcomes all those who seek a spiritual connection to God. We embrace the young and the old; the seasoned and the newcomer; the married, single, separated, divorced and widowed; those of all sexual orientations and gender identities; those from any economic, ethnic, cultural or religious background; and those of all abilities. We not only welcome diversity at Epiphany, we celebrate it.

Epiphany Email Policy: *As fraudulent emails are becoming more common and more sophisticated, please note that Rev. Christen, Epiphany Parish staff, and/or the members of our Vestry will never solicit money, gift cards, or personal information via email. If you have any questions or concerns about an email request you receive from a leader or staff person in our parish, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office at 508-668-2353.*

Epiphany Parish | 508-668-2353 | 62 Front Street, Walpole, MA 02081 |
epiphany-walpole.org

