



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

...Where God is seen, love is felt and lives are changed!

April 23, 2021

4 Easter

Psalm 23

Acts 4:5-12

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 25, 2021 is the 4th Sunday of Easter, and we will have two services of Morning Prayer: 9 A.M. livestream on [St. Stephen's YouTube Channel](#) and an in-person, outdoors worship at 11:00 A.M. in the Grove. As a reminder, in the event of rain, the in-person worship will be cancelled.



Did you know? You can always find links to our newsletters, Sunday Bulletins, YouTube Channel and even this E-News on our website: www.ststephensor.org

You can also find the links to the Altar Flowers and Ambry Candle sign-up forms on our website. Simply click on the Online Giving Link, and you'll find the links to the forms. Thank you for supporting the Altar Flower ministry!

[Altar Flowers Sign-Ups](#)

[Ambry Candle Sign-Ups](#)

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

We look forward to seeing you on our Sunday Evening!

Evening Social Hour is at 5 p.m.

Evening Meeting ID:
816 4332 4827

Password: 999944



PASTORAL CARE

JOIN US AS WE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR:

Catherine Graves
Lisa Griggs
Gary and Katherine Grubb
Linda and Ed Hagaman
Virginia Hall

Please include these people in your prayers.

INDOOR WORSHIP OPTIONS

As a follow up to my letter from [last week's Evangel](#), I want to explain the changes to our worship schedule beginning May 2, 2021. You will have several choices for worship services in May. Let me be clear that these options will be evaluated and likely revised to some extent as we head into June, hopefully in the direction of easing restrictions more for indoor worship. **Beginning in JUNE, the times for outdoor and indoor services will flip-flop as the weather gets warmer.** For MAY, the indoor service will remain at 9 A.M. and the outdoor service at 11 A.M.

Here is a quick breakdown of the options:

- LIVESTREAM** - The 9 A.M. service will continue to be a livestream (NOTE: We are sorry for the technical glitches at last Sunday's service. Essentially we were not receiving any significant internet signal from Comcast, which made it impossible for us to transmit anything to you. Comcast has come out and fixed the problem; if we encounter this glitch again, please look at the in-service chat box in YouTube for further instructions). Our new equipment in the Nave is a permanent feature and will be here – glitches notwithstanding – as a regular part of our worship ministry. For those who are not yet comfortable in returning to groups, this option will always be there for you.
- OUTDOOR** – The outdoor service will continue at 11 A.M. for the month of May. While, as noted above, the time may change later in the summer, this service will remain for the foreseeable future. There are no number restrictions, but wear your mask, distance, and do not come if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness. For now, if weather prevents us from having this service, we will cancel it instead of trying to move it inside.
- SUNDAY INDOOR** – In May, the 9 A.M. livestream **will allow up to 40 people** (NOT counting worship leaders) to worship in the Nave. The final guidelines for this service will be sent out by Sunday evening, but the same rules as for the outdoor service apply: **wear your masks, stay in your pews once seated, and do not come if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness.** Pews for seating will be marked clearly. **Reservations are required.** The email for reservations on May 2, 2021 will be sent out THIS Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 5 P.M. and will remain open until Tuesday at 5 P.M. or until the max capacity is reached. We have identified several of our members who do not regularly use e-mail with whom we will contact and arrange a way for them to be able to sign up if interested.
- TUESDAY WORSHIP** – We will resume our Tuesday 11:30 A.M. service on May 4, 2021. This service is usually held in the chapel, but because of the inability to distance in that space and the more informal style of this service, we will worship in the Parish Hall in May. There will NOT be a reservation required for this service since the numbers are usually small. The same rules for the other in-person services apply – **wear your mask, make sure you keep a safe distance, and do not come if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness.**



We are looking forward to taking the next step of being physically together and returning to familiar routines, albeit with some continued innovations in practice! Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns either by email revnorman1011@gmail.com or by phone/text 251-604-1705.

God Bless, Bailey



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BLANKETS + CAMPAIGN

To aid struggling communities in the U.S. and abroad, St. Stephen's is collecting contributions for the Blankets+ campaign run by Church Women United through June. Donations will go toward rent and food assistance, clean water and sanitation, hygiene supplies, blankets, and livelihood programs. Our Outreach Committee will match up to \$300 in donations. Please mail a check written to St. Stephen's with "Blankets+" on the memo line.



EYF

This week we will meet directly after the 11:00 service, eat a quick lunch, and head out for a local hike! All are welcome for this adventure. We will be together until about 2:30 since the hikes normally take longer. See y'all Sunday!



~ Molly & Caleb, Youth Co-coordinators

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a unique four-year certificate program in theological education based upon small-group study and practice, and is open to lay persons.

Year 1: Old Testament
Year 2: New Testament
Year 3: Church History
Year 4: Theology

EfM helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together.

Registration for EfM will be opening soon, for the next year, which starts in September 2021. It's \$375 per year, and scholarships are available. Classes will be in-person at the lovely Diocesan House in Knoxville.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Secretary, [Elizabeth Pack](#).

