



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

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

April 1, 2021

Easter Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118: 1-2, 14-24

Acts 10:34-43

Mark 16:1-8

EASTER WORSHIP

THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL:

Saturday, April 3, 2021, 5:30 p.m., in the Grove.

We light the Paschal fire and begin our celebration of Easter with this moving service. *(livestream & in-person worship*)*



EASTER SUNDAY:

Sunday, April 4, 2021. The great feast of Easter is celebrated with two services: **8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** *(both services will be in-person* in the Grove, with the later service being livestreamed)*

Please see page 2 for Outdoor Worship Guidelines and Safety Protocols.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Due to the Easter services, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Bishop's Visit, and the return to two worship services on Sundays, we will not host a morning Coffee Hour Zoom meeting in April. We still plan on hosting the Evening Social Hour at 5 p.m.



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:

Matthew and Olivia Feldman, Elijah Mary Fell

Lew, Linda and David Felton
Nicole Fisher, Michael, Lilly, Matthew Serge and Joy Fournier

Please include these people in your prayers.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- **MAUNDY THURSDAY:** April 1, 2021, 7 p.m. We will have a brief service in the Nave, including a ceremonial foot washing. *(livestream)*
- **VIRTUAL VIGIL:** Thursday, April 1st at 8 p.m. to Friday, April 2nd at 12 p.m. Tune in to our YouTube Channel to watch with Christ for an hour. *(livestream)*
- **GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY:** Friday, April 2, 2021, 12 noon: We observe Good Friday with solemn prayers, music and silence. *(livestream)*
- **SEVEN LAST WORDS:** Friday, April 2, 2021, 7 p.m. Meditations and music on the final words of Jesus Christ on the Cross. *(pre-recorded video)*
- **HOLY SATURDAY:** Saturday, April 3, 2021, 12 p.m.: We offer a short service this day. *(pre-recorded video)*

WOMEN'S INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

On Monday, April 5, 2021, at 11 a.m., the public is encouraged to attend a virtual program about Covid-19 variants and vaccinations. Nina Fetterman, UT Professor of Math & Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, will discuss the current status of these Covid issues. To receive a Zoom link, please contact wid.logsdon@gmail.com by Sunday, April 4.

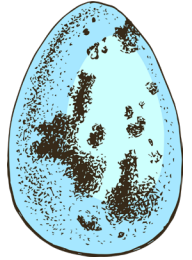
BLANKETS + CAMPAIGN

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.



EASTER EGG HUNT

To all of our kids (and their parents!). St. Stephen's will once again host the Great Easter Egg Hunt on our grounds at 10 AM Easter morning - this falls in between our two services at 8:30 and 11. For this year, we will provide all the eggs; all your kids need to bring is a basket and themselves!



We recognize that not all of our families will be comfortable just yet joining in this in-person event. We will alternatively provide Easter gift bags that can either be delivered to these families or can be picked up after the 11 AM service. Either way, this is a wonderful and fun tradition that we are looking forward to doing after a pandemic sabbatical from last year!

It would be helpful for all of our families to RSVP that they are either coming or would like a gift bag. Please email Sara Norman at skneill@gmail.com or call/text her at 251-401-3003.



WEATHER CONTINGENCIES



*In the event of rain or a COVID surge, all in-person worship will be cancelled, and we will only offer livestream services during Holy Week and Easter.



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OUTDOOR WORSHIP GUIDELINES & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Here are the guidelines for resumption of in-person OUTDOOR services to begin this Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. Included in this document are both safety protocols and descriptions of the service. A separate set of guidelines will be issued soon regarding indoor worship; these guidelines are for OUTDOOR worship only.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP GUIDELINES

- There will be no limit to the number to attend or pre-registration required.
- Masks and social distancing guidelines will be enforced.
- If possible, please bring your own folding chairs. We will have church chairs available, but if you have your own and can carry them, please do so. You may, of course, sit closely with people in your household, but please sit at least 6 feet away from other parishioners in attendance.
- Communion will, for the meantime, continue to be served in one kind (i.e., bread only). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. We are looking at ways to integrate wine back into the serving of communion, but that is still some ways off.
- The two restrooms nearest the chapel on the second floor will be open and available for use. Access to these restrooms will be available through the ramp door, which will be the only unlocked door in the building. Unless you are scheduled to serve that day, PLEASE DO NOT ACCESS THE BUILDING FOR ANY OTHER REASON.
- There will be no nursery or childcare at this time. Children are welcome and encouraged to attend the service or to use the playground during the service. We are targeting to reopen the nursery once we are back for indoor worship.
- In the event of inclement weather, the outdoor service will be cancelled. This will be the case until we have begun indoor worship, in which case the service can be moved inside for inclement weather. Until then, an announcement will be sent out ahead of time indicating the service is cancelled. You can view that week's service on the livestream broadcasts which will continue.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- DO NOT COME if you have experienced any of the following symptoms within one week of the service: fever or chills, consistent cough, unusual shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, loss of taste and/or smell, sore throat, nausea, diarrhea (symptoms from the CDC webpage)
- Masks will be required. Please do NOT remove your mask for any reason.
- Please maintain appropriate social distancing (at least 6 feet from your neighbors).
- Feel free to dress casually and comfortably according to the weather for that day.
- An usher may assist you in finding a place to sit in order to make sure you have a good view of the altar and also that you are maintaining proper social distancing.
- To limit hand-to-hand contact, service leaflets will be left out at two separate stations. If you need an usher to bring you a leaflet or assist you in any other way, please let them know. They will be glad to assist you
- Once you have established your seating area, please stay in that specific area to help maintain social distancing. Unless you need to go to the restroom, please refrain from walking over to your neighbors and greeting them.
- The two restrooms near the chapel on the second floor will be available for use. Use the ramp entrance to access them. Unless you are serving that day, please do not enter the building for any other reason.
- At the peace, PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR AREA. You may greet others around you from where you are seated or standing through waves and hellos, but please do not walk around to greet other people.
- Communion will be brought to those who wish to receive it, so please remain in your seats. Further instructions will be given at the service, but it will be administered in one kind only (i.e., bread but no wine). The priest will come to you to offer communion or a blessing; do NOT move from your seats. If the priest misses you by accident, please get the attention of an usher and they will notify the priest.
- At dismissal, please pack up your chairs and leave ASAP. Please do not congregate in groups to visit. It will be hard because we miss seeing each other so much, but even though we are outside, we still need to exercise restraint in the amount of close contact we have with each other.