



## MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

This summer is like no other. Trite, but true. But in this odd, liminal, in-between time, where do you see God at work? Where is the Holy Spirit calling *you* to love God, one another and all creation? Below are a collection of items for your pondering. A message from Bishop DeDe, some opportunities from our diocese, and an invitation to read and discuss a book that seems important for the times we are living in. Read and ponder! -Mother Cathy

For those who missed our Bishop's online video message, here is the transcript:

### **Learning to love God, one another, and all God's creation:**

#### **July 8th Update from Bishop Duncan-Probe**

Greetings, friends. This week I've been thinking a lot about learning. Our mission statement, "Learning to love God, one another, and all God's creation," is a daring one. To learn is to understand that we don't know everything, which is contrary to how we are as humans. We revel in our ability to know, that our opinion is "right," and that "God agrees with us," whatever our opinion may be.

To have a mission statement to learn to love God and one another is to seek to know more than we do and that involves trust and safety. Right now, so few of us feel safe or that this world is an environment in which we can feel trust. Overwhelmed, fatigued maybe. Definitely sleep-deprived. But trust? Safety? No.

And so we must seek to look harder at what God is calling us to do. God has called us to learn to love God. To learn to love our neighbors as ourselves. To love all that God has created and to be good stewards of all our resources. To respond to God's grace with generosity and kindness and an openness and a curiosity to know more.

Proverbs 3:5 says "Lean not unto your own understanding," but to lean into God's understanding. God has commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves, which goes far beyond just a mere kindness. To love as Christ loved, on the cross and the grave and the resurrection, is to sacrifice. To be willing to lay down our benefit for the benefit of another. That kind of learning requires that we have faith and confidence and trust in something greater than this moment.

Each time I visit a church, I close with a blessing. And the first thing I say is, "Our help is in the name of the Lord." You and I love God. You and I have taken vows to seek and serve Christ in all

persons, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to work for justice and peace among all people, and to flee evil. To renounce evil in our midst. What a daring thing to have taken vows to do.

Our help truly is in the name of the Lord. And when we're feeling fatigued and when we're certainly feeling overwhelmed and tired, this is the very time to practice our vows. To love ourselves by sleeping a bit more and doing fun things and laughing. And to look for ways to serve others and to be kind. To use kind words instead of harsh words. To embrace, in the ways we can embrace. So many of us long for a big hug from that friend. What about a phone call? What about an offering?

There is so much we can do in this time if we will only draw closer to God's ways. To lean not into our own fear and understanding and worry but to open our hearts with curiosity and believe God. Love. Serve. Seek. Go.

Be blessed, dear friends.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, Bishop of Central New York

### **Summer Series**

This summer, the Diocese of Central New York is offering a variety of free online workshops facilitated by leaders from across the diocese! Join in for resources and ideas to strengthen your parish, build meaningful community relationships, and deepen your spiritual life in this time of pandemic. Here are just some of the offerings:

#### **Conflict Resolution – Beyond the Basics**

August 4, 10:00 am–11:00 am

These are challenging times with many difficult conversations to be engaged. How can we have productive discourse even in the midst of anxiety and difference of opinions?

#### **Introduction to the Sacred Ground Series: Understanding Racism and Faith**

August 6, 6:30 pm–7:30 pm

If you are looking for a way to deepen your understanding of race/racism and faith the Sacred Ground series is a free and life changing experience. St. James' Church, Clinton has formed our first Sacred Ground dialogue circle.

#### **Being Safe and Prepared**

August 13, 6:30 pm–8:00 pm

One of our responsibilities as Christians is to prepare ourselves, our families, and our parishes to be safe and prepared for life's eventualities so we can assist ourselves and others.

## **It Takes Community to Heal Addictions**

August 18, 6:30 pm–8:00 pm

Addictions continue to impact the lives of many individuals as well as their family members. In addition, addictions continue to place a strain on the resources within our communities.

## **Lament-Writing Workshop – Holy Anger Unleashed**

August 20, 7:00 pm–8:00 pm

How can we pray when we're hurting? How can we come before God with our raw, honest emotions? How can we wrap all of the feelings swirling around in our big hearts into prayer?

## **Writing as Healing: Re-imagining the Divine with Survivors of Sexual Assault**

August 28, 4:00 pm–5:00 pm

Current literature shows that reflective writing can guide survivors of sexual abuse from post-traumatic stress into post-traumatic growth because the writing process offers emotional awareness, confidence, and spiritual insight.

Sign up [here!](#)

## **Book study: Citizen: Faithful Discipleship in a Partisan World**

By the Bishop of Texas, C. Andrew Doyle. Let's read and discuss!!!

### **JULY VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

A committee will be working on a lease agreement to renew with Head Start/PEACE to be approved at the August Vestry meeting.

- Thanks to all for continuing with pledges as we learn how to navigate our budget without our annual barbeque fund raiser. The funds received from the Care Act are a huge help with our overall operating expenses after having to postpone that event due to Covid-19, but our pledges do need to continue.
- We learned from the village engineer that the village will not be constructing a sidewalk across the front of our church property this summer.
- We are looking to form a Stewardship committee and are asking anyone interested in working on this, please contact a vestry member or Mother Cathy. These are trying times, for sure. But if we try together, we can and will get through this. Your help is needed.
- Outside groups that use our facility have been given guidelines for building use during Covid-19.

*For those who would like to make a gift without having to write a check and use the postal system, please consider giving online by clicking the green button on the home page of our website that says, "Give." It is an easy and safe way to give to Grace.*

Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

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110 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Tuesdays - 12:00 Noon

(sign up required)

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

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Sundays - 9:00 a.m.

**ZOOM WORSHIP**



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**P.O. Box 6, 110 Oswego Street**  
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