

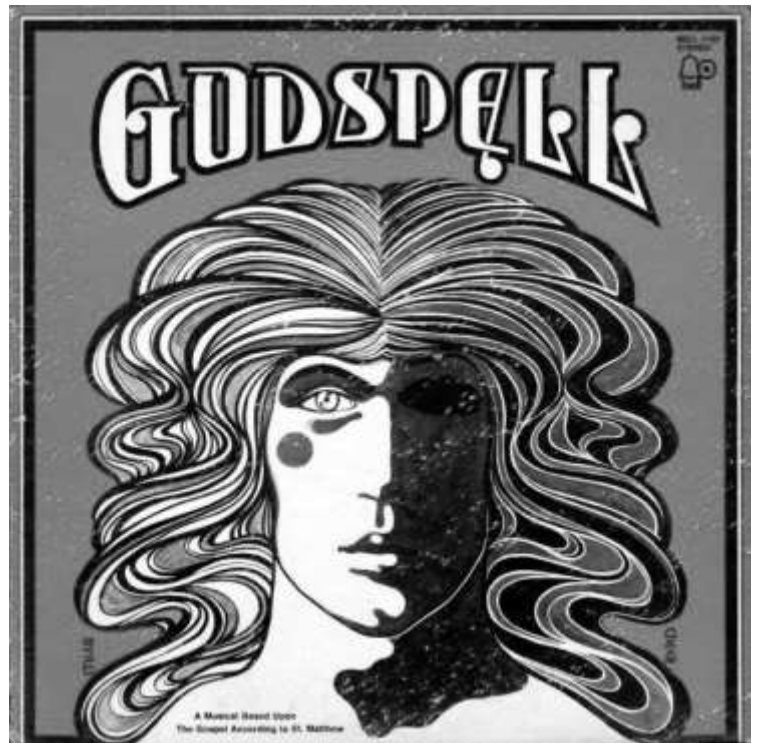


MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

Almost fifty years ago a musical theatre production based on parables from St. Matthew's gospel premiered off-off-Broadway. Begun as a project by drama students at Carnegie Mellon University the show was eventually rescored for an off-Broadway production, which became a long-running success. The show is, of course, *Godspell*.

Recently I read that the current Massachusetts Berkshire Theater Group's production is now the first Equity-sanctioned musical performing during the pandemic, described as "*a brilliantly staged, socially distant model of the future of theater that has all eyes in the entertainment world watching, and audiences heading to sit under a tent in Pittsfield, MA*".

But this is not the same show as the 1971 production, nor the same as the 1973 film adaptation (which, if you remember, featured the cast dancing atop the then brand-new World Trade



Center in New York City). It is not the same as the almost ten thousand other productions worldwide, either. Our context is different. Some of the hallmarks of the show, like the constantly-in-motion cast, and the upbeat feel, are dialed back to accommodate a production safe for cast and audience. And some of the lighthearted humor is also dialed back, so cast members can express the loss and confusion and separation from others that make up their—and our—recent experience of pandemic, economic loss, and the seeming breakdown of dreams and hopes.

It seems incredibly apt that a show based on the gospel we use for our Sunday readings this particular year should be produced reflecting our context this particular year. But that is only to be expected from the Gospel...the Good News of Jesus. As those who regularly wrestle with scripture know, the Gospel is always fresh, always

MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER— CONT.

speaking to our own time, sometimes in comfort and reassurance, and sometimes in ways that are uncomfortable, difficult, or even painful. Every encounter with God's word brings new discoveries, new hopes and new insights. As we enter in to the final weeks of this year's St. Matthew Gospel cycle, I invite you, as the collect says, to "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" how the Good News speaks in this time and place.

One of my favorite pieces based on Psalm 137 from the 1973 *Godspell* original cast album seems appropriate as we continue to discern how we are to be Good News for the world in this time and context.

On the willows, there
We hung up our lyres
For our captors there
Required of us songs
And our tormentors, mirth

Saying, Sing us one
Of the songs of Zion
Sing us one
Of the songs of Zion
Sing us one
Of the songs of Zion



But how can we sing?
Sing the Lord's songs
In a foreign land?

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

What would YOU like to read/study/discuss this fall? Our usual practice is to resume Sunday and Tuesday Forums in late September or October. Would you like to have a bible study focused on the upcoming Sunday readings? Or a study of a particular book of Hebrew scriptures, Gospel or epistles? Or something else? Call or email

IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Mother Cathy with any suggestions, and/or to suggest another time to meet.

Our friends at First Presbyterian are holding a Dumpster Day in the church parking lot on Saturday September 12, Cost is \$25.00 per vehicle, household “junk” only –no commercial trash, no hazardous material, tires or electronics. For further information, call 315-635-9964

In our diocese Summer Series 2020

BEING SAFE AND PREPARED

<https://cnyepiscopal.org/venue/online/>

September 16 6:30 – 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.

This interactive workshop will provide an overview of security precautions and common-sense preparations for potential disaster events.

We cannot make you experts in a 75-minute workshop, but we can get you thinking and provide some useful resources.

COME, SHOW UP, BE SEEN, LIVE BRAVE:

LEARNING INTO THE WORKS OF BRENE BROWN

Presenters: The Rev. Thomas R. Margrave and Mr. Michael Hardin

September 17, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Dr. Brene Brown, Episcopalian and shame and vulnerability researcher provides a path to living, and loving God and neighbor wholeheartedly, answering our confession: we have not loved You with our whole heart.

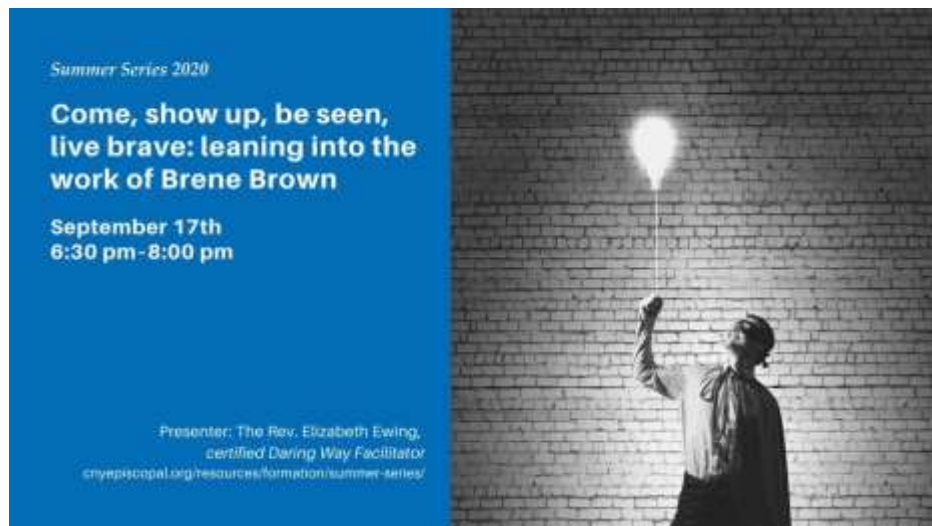
Come and be introduced to key



elements of wholehearted living: identity, values clarification, strength in vulnerability, and dealing with shame to shift to the sense of worthiness and belonging and living fully in the arenas of our lives.

Through video, conversations in break-out groups, and guided exercises we will explore key elements of wholehearted living: identity, values clarification, strength in vulnerability, and dealing with shame to shift to the sense of worthiness and belonging and living fully in the arenas of our lives. Come and explore.

In advance, you may want to watch Brene Brown's TED talk



Presenter: The Rev. Elizabeth Ewing is a certified Daring Way Facilitator who has led Vestry and other small group workshops, appreciated even by the initially skeptical. Elizabeth also leads courses in Rising Strong, Brown's follow up for those beginning to live bravely.

BRICK SUNDAY



On Sunday September 13th at 9:00 AM we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and dedicate new bricks at our flagpole at our OUTDOOR service in the Memorial Garden. This service is limited to 24 physically distanced and masked participants. Sign up with the church office beginning at 7:00 AM September 6. We won't cancel unless the weather is really awful (POURING rain vs. light drizzle), If we must cancel,



the first 14 individuals signed-up will be permitted to attend indoors. Bring your own lawn chair and prayer book, wear a mask, and dress for the weather. There will also be a Zoom service at 10:30 AM on September 13.

AUGUST VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Vestry has already begun to think about the new year, 2021, and what the need is for Vestry members. We will be looking to fill both Senior and Junior Warden spots plus two Vestry members. If you are interested in filling a spot, please contact the church office or any current Vestry member. We are working toward finalizing this process in December. This is a great way to become involved and experience first hand all the ways Grace works for you and our community.
- Head Start will begin in-person classes on September 14 using all state education guidelines. We are still working to update the current lease and that will be in place soon.
- With a new year just around the corner, a new budget will be needed. For that process to be a success, we are looking for help in forming a Stewardship committee during this unprecedented time of Covid 19. If you have ideas that could benefit this committee or are willing to give a few hours of time to work on this very needed process, please contact the church office @ 315-635-3214.
- Properties is requesting bids for this year's snowplowing contract. This should be in place by September



A BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who continue to support the church by mailing in your offerings. 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

“Give.” It is an easy and safe way to give to Grace.

Keep an eye in the mail for your year to date pledge and giving statements. They should be in your mail within the next week or so.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS IN THE CHURCH

If you are planning on scheduling an event at church, make sure to contact the Parish Office to make sure you are not double booking.

When scheduling an event at church make sure that it is limited to the proper number of people inside (15) or outside (25) and to only one hour. If the meeting is fewer than six people you may meet in the parlor or parish center with the windows opened and the 6-foot distance between the attendees can be maintained.

Otherwise you must meet in the under-croft. As a reminder, it is required that

you keep a contact list of everyone who attended, and make sure that every high touched surfaces are sanitized and sprayed after the meeting.



AIDAN PRIEST

Dear Grace Church,
Thank you so much for your generous gift! It has truly been an honor to be able to say that I am a member of such a wonderful church community.
Thanks again,
Aidan Priest

Aidan Priest has sent a letter to the church thanking us for the graduation gift.

BUSY SUMMER FOR THE BAKERS

Wedding:

Christopher Baker and Katrina Tulloch were married on 8-8-20 in Geneva, NY. It was a very small, intimate gathering of family and friends. They were surrounded by hand sanitizer, love and joy!



Birth:

Michael and Courtney Baker (and sister Clara) welcomed Elsie Mae Baker to the world at 8:22 am on 9-1-20. They currently live in Pittsford, NY. Everyone is happy and healthy!



Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

office@graceepiscopalbaldwinsville.org

315 635 3214

110 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Tuesdays - 12:00 Noon
(Sign up required)

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Sundays - 9:00 a.m.

ZOOM WORSHIP



Grace Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 6, 110 Oswego Street
Baldwinsville, NY 13027 - 0006