

September 2020

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

As I write this, wildfires are burning out of control throughout California, but concentrated most heavily from Carmel to Chico. In our diocese, many people have had to evacuate from their homes, and most are dealing with unhealthy air. Over twelve thousand fire fighters are risking their lives and health to protect us all. We are grateful for their dedication and bravery and our prayers are with all in harm's way. And this, of course, on top of the triple crises we were already facing: pandemic, economic desperation, and social unrest over institutionalized racism in our country. Some may be asking, "Where is God?"

"Where is God in all this?" is actually an excellent question for all of us to ask ourselves every evening, as we review the day to identify our greatest blessings and greatest challenges and how we rose to meet them (or not.) I recommend this daily practice to everyone! This question lies at the heart of theological reflection, a spiritual practice that helps us see God's presence and action in our lives. Theological reflection assists us in clarifying what we believe to be true about God and can encourage us to stretch to learn more and grow.

Questions such as, "Why is this happening?" and "Why doesn't God intervene?" are not as helpful as looking for where God is actually acting among us. We learn this by reading the Old Testament book of Job. After losing everything but his life through no fault of his own, Job learns that he cannot understand the answers to "why?" But God shows up for Job, who then utters the familiar words, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold." (Job 19:25-27)

As I look at all that is swirling around us, I see God in so many places! God is in those dedicated fire fighters, first responders, doctors, nurses, and medical personnel who risk themselves to help others. God is in the teachers who work so many extra hours and go the extra mile to connect with their students, to help them continue to learn, and to comfort the children who suffer. God is in all who put others' needs first, checking on friends and family, offering shelter and food to evacuated people, stuffing socks with toiletries for unhoused people, donating food, clothing, and money to agencies/groups who distribute them to people suffering economic devastation.

As Episcopalians, the fact of the Incarnation is so important to us – that, for love, God took on human flesh and lived among us to make us whole. Because this mystery grounds our understanding of who God is, I also see God intimately with those who are suffering. There is nothing we can go through that Christ, having been human, cannot understand. In a sense, God's tears mingle with those of people in any kind of pain. God holds us in arms of love as we suffer.

And finally, I see God in the hope – even faint flickers of hope – that our God of Resurrection will, in fact, bring new life out of death...like a phoenix rising from the ashes of our suffering.

I bid you hold on to hope, open your heart to the suffering of others, pray, and do what you can in even small ways. Look for God among us!

Blessings,

Shelley+

Vestry Update

The August Vestry meeting was held August 13, via Zoom. After an opening prayer, meditation and Lectio Divina the business meeting began with the financial review. Todd reports that overall, our finances seem to be in good shape. Year-to-date expenses are at 100% of plan, even with the extra money we have agreed to pay to cover JV expenses each month. In addition, year-to-date revenues are at 108% of the planned budget.

The Rectory has some deferred maintenance, which needs to be addressed in order to maintain this valuable asset. A working committee of knowledgeable parishioners will be convened to walk through the Rectory, assess the issues and prioritize repairs.

The JV Board is working through some physical issues with the church building, including an ongoing problem with squirrels on the back patio by the kitchen door. They also hope to arrange for a cleaning of the building and to start review of the JV handbook.

The Silicon Valley Sponsoring Committee of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) is a community organizing group, of which ECA is a member. On October 4, they will host an "accountability session" via Zoom with the candidates running for office in Districts 13 & 15. The candidates will be asked to make a commitment to meet with the group after the elections so that neighborhood concerns and priorities can be discussed.

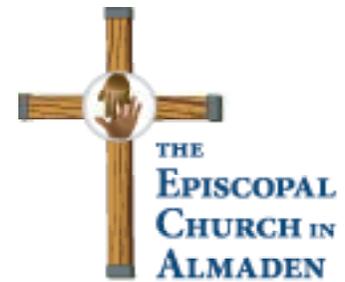
Marianne Schmidt continues to lead the ECA phone tree efforts, which continue informally about once per month. The Vestry thanked both Marianne & Betty Consorte for the time, energy & enthusiasm they have devoted to this ministry. Marianne also reported that the Village House has formally disbanded. They had approximately \$90,000 in their coffers, which they have donated to area homeless shelters, along with their physical assets.

Next month's meeting will be held September 10 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Elizabeth Guichard

Giving to ECA

Thank you for continuing to keep your pledge or regular giving to ECA current. Checks may be mailed to ECA (6581 Camden Av, 95120) where they are delivered to a locked mailbox, then brought into the church and locked in the safe, until they are counted and deposited. It may take a few weeks for your check to clear, as we only count once a month in order to keep people out of the building, which is closed. Your faithful generosity is much appreciated. If you wish to make a donation to Shelley's discretionary account, please mark that on the memo line of the check.



Rector

The Reverend Shelley Denney
email: shelleys@eca-sj.org
408-268-0245

Staff

Lynda Ford
Music Director

Ruthanne Adams Martinez
Administrative Assistant
Treasurer

Assisting in our Ministry

Joyce Wing
Senior Warden

Joan Wagner
Altar Guild

Ann Avoux
Prayer Vine

Debbie Estill
Ushers

Mike Schmidt
Shape Editor

Kathleen Eagan
Senior Ministry

Taylor Wing
Webmaster

Betty Consorte
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Worship

Reading Lessons For Sunday Services

If you would like to read a lesson for our Sunday service, please let me know. There are two ways you can do this. If you are not at higher risk for COVID-19 and feel comfortable coming to church with Bryan, Lynda, and myself, masked and physically distanced, you may come on a Sunday and read all three lessons. If you are more at risk or not comfortable coming in person, you may make a video of yourself reading one of the lessons. (Your cell phone must be held in the horizontal position – not vertical – and you would then email the video to Bryan Bond.)

I am generally trying to rotate weekly between video readings and in-person readings, just to keep our broadcasted services more interesting. If you would like to participate, please let me know which way you would like to read. I schedule the reading ahead of time and send out the lessons individually to the readers. Our members love to see one another, so even if you don't normally read in church, you might want to give this a try! Thanks,

Shelley



(clockwise, from top left) Jenny Hoyt, Kimberly Axtell, Lynda Ford (hands only), Todd Axtell, and Roger Hoyt performing an anthem during a recent Sunday morning worship service

If you have any needs - spiritual, emotional, or physical - please let me know. You can always get me on my cell: 805-550-0582 or my email: shelleydenney@gmail.com. The office is, of course, closed - but Ruthanne is working from home. If you have an "office" question, call on her cell phone: 408-482-4014. Please be mindful that though at home her hours are still Tues-Fri 10am to 2pm. You may contact me at any time.

Shelley

JV members:

Steve Wing
Don Hall

Vestry members:

Worship
The Reverend Shelley Denney

Senior Warden
Joyce Wing

Communications
Alain Guichard

Outreach
Judi Dimicelli

Junior Warden
Joint Venture:
Don Hall

Finance
Todd Lukanc

**Fellowship, Hospitality,
and Welcoming**
Wendy Martin
Nancy Romer

Pastoral Care
Marianne Schmidt

Stewardship
Kelli Casale

ECA Activities

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
6 10:45am Worship Service Liturgy of the Word (may be viewed on Facebook in real time or at personal convenience) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)	7	8	9 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 7pm Class/Discussion Group (may be joined in real time via Zoom)	10 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom) 6pm Vestry Meeting	11	12 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
13 10:45am Worship Service Liturgy of the Word (may be viewed on Facebook in real time or at personal convenience) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)	14	15 6pm JV Board Meeting	16 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 7pm Class/Discussion Group (may be joined in real time via Zoom)	17 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)	18	19 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
20 10:45am Worship Service Liturgy of the Word (may be viewed on Facebook in real time or at personal convenience) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)	21	22	23 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 7pm Class/Discussion Group (may be joined in real time via Zoom)	24 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)	25	26 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
27 10:45am Worship Service Liturgy of the Word (may be viewed on Facebook in real time or at personal convenience) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)	28	29	30 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 7pm Class/Discussion Group (may be joined in real time via Zoom)			

Senior Warden

Hope Leads Us on New Journeys



With so many things going on and more being added each day, it is difficult to see where things will end up. As I mentioned in my Hugs article in July, we have been surrounded by intense events and feelings since the beginning of this year. They include the pandemic and its impact on the people around the world and how people and resources are being handled differently; racial injustice now and recognizing its history; peaceful protests and not too peaceful protests and responses; how to reconcile and resolve how best to move forward in a positive, constructive way on many fronts; and the growing concerns regarding financial, emotional, educational and basic life support during the pandemic. Now add the thunderstorms, fires, evacuations and loss of homes and lives! Sure seems like we are being tested!

You can't make this stuff up. These events are actually happening all at once, pulling us in many different directions. What do we do? How can we help? Who is doing what, when and how? Where are we going and how are we going to get there? And many more questions. With each of these events,

we all may have different perspectives and we may or may not agree. However, I do know that we all hope for the best and hope that we can work together to begin resolving or handling things to help each other, as Jesus intended us to do.

Hope is defined as a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. We hope we can handle the pandemic and control our fate better. We hope that, as people of this world, we can come together to listen, understand and see how we can work better together to make this life experience good for each of us. We hope that we fulfill God's Word through our faith by treating our neighbor as ourselves. It really is very simple.

Hope can lift us to take positive action. We saw this with our ladies at Village House. Many of us felt we weren't doing enough to help but every time we questioned ourselves, the ladies always said "But you have given us hope, hope that we can get healthy, hope that we can work with our families, hope that we will get a job and a roof over our head. You gave us hope to begin our recovery and set us on a rewarding journey to health and well-being." That was our reward, giving some dear ladies hope that they can begin their new journey just with the kindness and help of those that care.

I see **hope** in all the events that are happening around us. People are starting to think more about each other, how we need to help each other and how we can get more involved and not leave it for just

a distant few. With hope comes inspiration, compassion, ways of doing things differently, and not always trusting the way it has always been, but challenging us to do better. Hope gives us a chance to find our way and to take new journeys to see how we can lift ourselves up and improve our world.

ECA is small but mighty! We have been busy keeping connected in many ways until we can all be together in person. We have done a great job. I see how we have been transitioning to even a more caring and engaging community. We really do love each other. Some of us are doing better than others but we are there for each other in thought, word and deed.

One of our journeys we were all gearing up for before this year was developing our Vision and Strategy of becoming a Church of the Future. This work had to take a back seat until we could transition to this new virtual world, which I may say we have done with flying colors. However, as we have stabilized ourselves, we feel that we can now go back to this work virtually to begin fulfilling our hope with this new journey of ours.

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We had pulled together a joint Core Team with representatives from both ECA and CCAV, UCC. I will be contacting each of the Core Team volunteers to see if they are still able to commit to this effort. Most have already said yes and are looking forward to getting back into the process. We were going to develop a strategic plan with the vision of working with multiple service partners to finance and provide services for the elderly, children and families using our assets and facilities.

We know things are very different since the pandemic hit and many non-profits may be suffering. We feel confident that our hope, our vision, our compassion will carry us along this positive journey to achieve what is best for our community and for us. We have hope and hope will lead us like a light on our journey – good things will be happening as we work together and dream big! There will be more to come so take heart that not all is failing around us but providing us even more opportunities to help each other and our community.

Journey on!

*Joyce Wing,
Senior Warden*

Pandemic Project: The Learning Year

Like many people, once the stay-at-home order was issued this last March, I started a garden. This wasn't my first go around; when Todd and I bought our home in 1997 I set aside space in the backyard for a vegetable garden. Over time I expanded the designated area, planting the usual suspects: tomatoes, squash, corn. But the time pressure of owing our business left me no choice but to abandon the garden to nature.



Lucky for me, mid-March was too soon to plant: cold and wet. So on the last day before we shut down, I quickly grabbed what seeds I could find and started sowing seeds on the kitchen counter. Outside, I cleared away the tangle of switchgrass and over-grown roses. Seeds sprouted, the garden was cleared and ready for action. Then in early April there was a brief warm spell. Time to buy 6 packs of what I could find and plant what had sprouted.



By early 2019 BC (before Corona) I had become increasingly concerned about climate change. This issue had been on my radar prior but 2019 brought it into focus. Acting on this concern I had purchased a number of food bearing trees (chestnut, apple, kiwi) and shrubs. With this new foundation of larger plants, including a volunteer fig, I filled up the garden area and began to plant in the in-between spaces.



First to get planted were corn, green beans, tomatoes, zucchini squash, celery, kale, beets and radishes. But that wasn't enough. I was funneling my anxiety about COVID and climate change into a desire to plant anything I could get my hands on. One thing led to another: another round of beans and corn, butternut and kabocha squash, watermelon, lettuce, strawberries and two pots of herbs. As if that wasn't enough, I ran into a store selling boysenberry, raspberry and grape vines, as well as pomegranate and blueberry. Where to put them all? Along the way I learned I could plant the bottoms of lettuce, onions and other bulbs to start new plants.

(continued)



After the shut-down lifted the end of May, I was able to complete another project I had wanted for nine months: a raised garden bed in the front yard. In between our driveway and our neighbor's driveway was a bed of roses that were past their prime. The roses were removed, a raised bed was built and new fill dirt was installed. This project was different in that this garden bed was in public and I invited my neighbors to help me plant it.

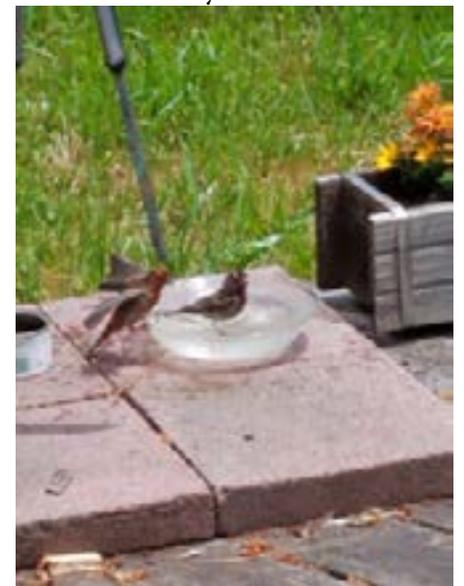


One did take up the offer and planted tomatoes, peppers and squash. In my section I ended up planting sunflowers, arugula, kale and purple leaf lettuce as well as several pollinator plants. Soon sweet potato, tomato grown from a supermarket tomato, brussels sprouts, acorn squash and soup beans joined the menagerie. Cabbage and chard seedlings are hanging out awaiting their turn in the rich earth. And various experiments have yielded a baby lemon tree, as well as onion, radish and bok choy seeds, waiting to dry out and find their purpose in growing new life. I pass what free time I have sitting out back, watching the bees feed and drink, birds hang out for a bit and look for the occasional dragonfly to buzz through.



What does this all mean? Life is amazing, multifaceted. Early on I got some azolla (a pond plant that can reduce the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere), and as it was in standing water, quickly needed some mosquito fish. Now I have a silly makeshift pond in a 25 gallon rough tote, complete with algae, azolla, freshwater snails, fish and water bugs. Life in a bucket.

As summer reaches its midpoint, I am already planning a fall garden: cabbage, spinach, kale, chard, onions and garlic will find their way into the ground. I have been saving some of the seeds from the summer and will purchase others. I am looking forward to harvesting my hard-shelled squash and sweet potatoes in the next month or so. For all of this I give thanks. I've had some disposable income and lots of extra time on my hands. Others haven't been so lucky. And I am hoping to inspire others to rework their backyards and lawn areas to grow food – whatever food you like to eat.



Kimberly Axtell

With Love from Boston

It has been a little more than two months since I left my life-long home in San Jose to move to Massachusetts. I was inspired to reflect on my move by an audible book that I finished this week. It wasn't a deep book like listening to the writings of N.T. Wright, but it was, nonetheless, entertaining during my lengthy morning walks. The novel I listened to is entitled *Leaving Everything Most Loved*. At the end, maybe in the epilogue, the protagonist who has decided to travel to India and perhaps elsewhere and to leave a suitor, her father, and her successful business meets with an insightful acquaintance. That woman tells the protagonist that in leaving everything loved, the heart breaks, but it breaks open to reveal a precious jewel...that jewel being all the new possibilities inherent in moving forward into the New. That insight spoke to me because I believe that is true for me.

This time last year, my daughter revealed her intention to start a family and her desire that I be nearby to be as integral part of her family as my mother was for my daughter and me. Of course, that whole idea did not fit with my life plan. I knew I'd eventually move closer to wherever my daughter lived, but I thought that would happen much later than right away. Then, one vestry meeting in about October we reflected on a passage from the Book of Ruth. You all know the one where Ruth basically tells Naomi that where

Naomi goes Ruth will go. The commitment to family therein confirmed my decision to "leave everything most loved" to be near the one (or more) loved the most.

The two months since my move have not been without the occasional glitches, but I was so fortunate to have blindly chosen a wonderful suburban neighborhood surrounded by a forest of green trees and friendly even helpful people. I know it would have been much easier to find a church community and volunteer commitments and coastal places to walk and, yes, new friends if there were not the horrible pandemic, but all of that will come with good health and time. I do see a lot of my daughter and that's an enormous blessing among all the other blessings. And that has led to another insight from a song from long ago: Look, my eyes are dry...won't forget, can't regret what I did for love.

With love for my ECA community,

Judi Dimicelli

Phone Tree Callers – “Just to Chat”

I just hung up from a “just to chat” phone call from a friend in our Tuesday Morning Bocce group, which hasn't met since March. It was a nice feeling that one of my bocce friends just wanted to chat with me.

We have twenty callers in ECA who are calling our members every few weeks to “just chat.”

When we started the Phone Tree in April, the callers were checking to see if our members had ways to get food, were receiving Shelley's Messages and could access the Sunday Service and the Zoom coffee hour.

Now, five months with the Covid virus, we know how to get groceries, have adjusted to social distancing, to masks, and we have our social bubble. Our callers now are calling to just chat, to catch up on the kids and grandkid, the projects, the books we are reading or good movies we have seen on TV. I see these calls as the chance conversations we had in our social gatherings such as in-person coffee hours and the great dinners at church. These calls keep us connected to each other and are very important to the life of our church.

Recently I called each of our twenty callers to chat and to find out if they wanted to continue to be callers. All but one wanted to continue to call and appreciated the encouragement to call, as most confessed it's hard to call to “just chat.” In the past we depended on the conversations at our gatherings at church to feel connected. Now we must use the telephone to connect.

I encourage each of us to look through the church directory once a week and call someone to “just chat.” I am sure it will make his or her day, and it will strengthen our congregation.

Marianne Schmidt

Village House Update and Love Letter

In March of this year Village House was suspended due to Covid-19. All the ladies were placed in local motels, shelters, or found housing. There were hopes to reopen Village House in early 2021 and keep this wonderful program going. Sadly with Covid-19 still active and the realization that most of the churches that support the program have volunteers that are over age 65, it was decided by the Village House Committee to cease the program. Remaining Village House funds and supplies are to be donated to shelters and programs that continue to serve the homeless. For four years Village House gave medically fragile women a safe place to be as they got back on their feet. Either as a Day Shelter or a Night Shelter, Village House and their participating churches gave the guests more than just a place to be, eat, sleep, and bathe. These churches and volunteers gave the guests love, support, and encouragement.

ECA, CCAV, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and many other volunteers had the privilege of hosting the guests of Village House for three years, headed by Bonnie McPherson and then me for our final year. And what a wonderful privilege that was. This experience has been life changing for me.

This is my love letter to Village

House, ECA, and everyone who volunteered

Thank you Village House for taking in medically fragile women that needed a place to heal. Truly a gift from God. So much love, support, patience, and great role models helped make Village House as successful as it was. Thank you for helping me. I spent time in some beautiful churches, met some amazing people, and made some lifelong friends.

Thank you ECA for hosting four life changing years. Thank you, Bonnie McPherson, for bringing Village House to ECA and all those who supported the Day Center. People ask me why I attend ECA, because for the longest time I was very anti church. I tell them the story of when

I was in the Village House and at the Day Center at ECA. I would spend my days hiding behind my laptop and headphones, not wanting to talk to anybody. But while I hid I would catch myself watching the volunteers. It impressed me how they interacted with each other, how they worked together, and how they respected the guests and their boundaries. I found my heart wanting to be in their community, to be a part of their lives and have them be a part of mine.

Thank you volunteers for your time, your meals, your activities, and just being there. You helped make the program as successful as it was. You left a lasting impression on the guests and also on me.

Letty Duenas



This is what the sanctuary looks like these days at ECA during the Sunday morning worship service. Three or four people, wearing masks, and spread out at a safe social distance. For more details, see Wendy's article on page 10.

Multitasking ... And Beyond

Did you ever wonder what the sanctuary looks like during the live service on Facebook? Do you think there is a camera on a stand in front of Shelley and someone hits record, that feeds directly into Facebook? I thought it was something like that. But as we all know, things aren't always as they seem. There is always more to the story. Well, I was at church a few Sundays ago when Shelley was on vacation to do the reading for the service. I was always curious to see what went on during the recording of the services we watch from the comfort of our own homes on Sunday mornings. Boy was I SURPRISED to see all the action that goes on behind the scenes! It was like being in a TV studio, but without all the bright, hot lights! I was AMAZED at the work Bryan Bond puts in to making our services live on Facebook!

Look at all those monitors in front of Bryan! I lose count...are there 5 he is using? 1...2...3...4 facing him and 1 facing Shelley. He is beyond multitasking with all that he does! The screens are full of the different camera angles in the sanctuary (the piano, the organ, Shelley, the reader), a live Facebook feed, AND he has an ear bud in one ear to hear the speaker in the sanctuary and an ear bud in the other to hear what we at home hear on Facebook. There is also a lap top that he views what we see at home, and another monitor...gee, I don't know what the other one is for,

but maybe it's for the plug in videos that show previously recorded musical tid-bits, readings, or even Shelley reading the gospel for the day. Did you see the AMAZING job of all the readers on Pentecost Sunday! I just about jumped out of my chair at home with excitement! How does he do that? Our broadcast is so professional looking you would think there were 10 people there making it all happen. But we know it's our very own Bryan, well, Inge's Bryan, but you know what I mean. Now the timing is what is so amazing...you see the monitor over Bryan's head? It says HP on it. That is the back of the monitor. It is a large monitor that shows many different views at once. Almost like tic-tac-toe, of maybe 5 boxes instead of 9, where each box shows something different. The largest box, if you will, is what Shelley and the others in the sanctuary see - the live feed of what the camera in front of the alter sees; then there is box with a countdown that those in the sanctuary see that shows what is live on Facebook. The outer of that box changes from yellow (when there is 30 seconds left) to red (when there is 10 seconds left), and then BAM!, we in the sanctuary are LIVE on Facebook! Truly, it is a studio production. Before we actually go live, however, Bryan does a quick walk through with

everyone as to who does what and when, areas on the floor are taped so you know where to stand, all the microphones are tested and he even makes time to answer any questions we have! Did you notice the new light above the banner that hangs in the choir loft? Bryan noticed it looked dark on Facebook, and so he brought in a light that he set up that now makes it a bright focal area to see as we worship together. Now maybe I missed a few details in what is really going on at the table Bryan is sitting at, but as I mentioned above, there is always more to the story. I don't know about you, but I am truly THANKFUL for Bryan's precious time and amazing talent that he shares with us. He is a true TREASURE for all of us at ECA and to those who watch the services after the service. How exciting is it to be a part of this miraculous viewing! I am so proud to say to friends and anyone who will listen, "Yep, that's my church and I personally KNOW the guy who makes it all happen!"

Bryan, THANK YOU, for all the work you put into making Sunday worship possible for us to share together. Thank you for sharing your time every Sunday with us! God has certainly blessed us with you being part of our ECA family!

Wendy Martin





Worship Schedule

September 6 – Fourteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

September 13 – Fifteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

September 20 – Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

September 27 – Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

- to the twenty phone tree callers who call to “just chat”: Betty Consorte, Kathleen Eagan, Betty Wood, Kelli Casale, Judi Dimicelli, Susie Ferguson, Ellen Lukanc, Pat McGarvin, Mel Stonehocker, George Romer, Marion Grunge, Mike Schmidt, Kathryn Hussain, Bill LaVallee, Anna Spaanjart, Elizabeth Guichard, Sam and Linda Sarmecanic, Ann Tysanner and Marianne Schmidt.
- to Wendy Martin for continuing to grocery shop for some members of our congregation, so they don't have to go out to the stores. Such a gift!
- to Kimberly Axtell, Wendy Martin, and Jenny Hoyt for being in-person readers for Sunday services
- to Kimberly Axtell for contributing her article on pandemic gardening to the September Shape
- to Ann Avoux for carefully managing the Prayer Vine for a long time!
- to Joyce and Steve Wing for counting every month during the pandemic
- to Bryan Bond for his tireless and expert work producing our Sunday livestreamed services

- to Amy Griffith and Joan Wagner for organizing the ECA and CCAV-UCC book club
- to Gayle and David Byers for opening the church directory and calling church members each week, since March
- a special thanks to Marianne Schmidt for coordinating and checking with all the phone tree callers. It is very much appreciated.

My Dear Friends,

To those of you who may not know, I want to tell you how important you are to me. Your lovely cards and notes, your wonderful phone calls have brought joy and peace to my heart. You have strengthened my faith in the Lord. To know I have friends like you who so freely tell me the path I should take to regain my health and make my life the best it can be, is a gift I treasure. I thank you for the time spent with me. I love you all so much. I am anxious to see you again. Please know you are truly appreciated! You make me so happy. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

With my love,

Martha Lou Reynolds

P.S. My health is slowly improving. I hope to be out and about soon.



Early morning bees (left) and a colorful soup bean harvest (above) from Kimberly Axtell's backyard garden. See her article beginning on page 6.

September Birthdays

Kelli Casale	September	08
Dorothy Willard		09
Debbie Estill		14
Marcus Bond		16
Maryke Williams		17
Pat McGarvin		19
Jerry Long		20
Kathy Mastre		24
Gwen Hacker		28
Nancy Romer		29

September Anniversaries

Ellen and Todd Lukanc	01
Kelli Casale and Matt Gunderson	03
Susie and Jerry Ferguson	21
Lynne and Graham Kelly	21

The SHAPE

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