

The PACE is published by

Grace Episcopal Church

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Web Site

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Church Office Hours

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

## Children's Christian Education

### Sunday School

Team teaching by:

Bobbin Davis

Phil Davis

April Frazier

Lynn Kramp

Kristin Ludvik

Cathy Nash

Debbie Zimmerman

Co-Directors

Cathy Nash &

Debbie Zimmerman

We are disciples of Jesus:  
helping one another be the  
hands and feet of Christ by  
sharing God's love with the  
world.

Deadline for next *Pace* is  
Sunday, September 20, 2020



# The *Pace* of Grace

August-September 2020

## From the Rector:



Dear Friends,

It is my fervent hope and prayer that this finds you all healthy and in a good place emotionally. Who would have thought that we would still be facing our "new reality" as we consider Fall and all the activities we normally anticipate? Yet, we have managed to remain in community on many fronts. We are witnessing God's

grace and mercy as we discover the creative talents of many in our continuing efforts to worship, learn and reach out to one another.

Sunday worship, via Zoom and Facebook Live has been greatly enhanced through the talents of Elizabeth Estep. Elizabeth brings her work experience with Zoom to enable us to overcome the challenges we faced in learning the platform. The bulletins are now visible as we worship so no one needs to do a lot of printing or figuring out how to download and view the information. The pictures that Elizabeth adds each week are so beautiful and, I believe, enhance the worship experience. Many thanks to Elizabeth. Thanks also to Harry Dodds for his most competent lectoring and to Scott, Jenny Lonsway and James for giving us musical support, safely distanced and according to recommendations.

Elizabeth has also agreed to be the administrator of our new Church Next school, which is a program that allows us to learn electronically either individually or in groups. We are blessed that our Diocese is covering the cost of this opportunity this year and for that I am most grateful. You will be hearing more about Church Next learnings soon so stay tuned!

Sue Mancino is leading the Wednesday morning study group, at first via e-mail and now via Zoom. This is followed by on-line Wednesday morning Spiritual Eucharist. Wednesday evening finds a small group studying the scripture for the following Sunday and Friday at noon we can visit with no agenda other than the pleasure of each other's company.

Our various team leaders are meeting and taking care of business via Zoom as well. The needs of the building and our people are receiving the needed care. Thanks go to Kathy and Gary Hill for the loving care they gave to the flower beds at the entrance. Much weeding and planting happened out there, and it is beautiful.

Continued inside



## Officers and Rector

**Kathy Hill**

*Senior Warden*

**Cathy Nash**

*Junior Warden*

**Harry Dodds**

*Treasurer*

**Elizabeth Estep**

*Clerk*

***The Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway,***

*Rector*

## Inside this *Pace*

**The Rev. Robert James Elliott**  
**(Below)**

### **This & That**

- Outreach Team Updates
- Evangelism Updates
- Study Group Update
- Stewardship Update
- Worship Update
- Vestry Highlights

**Grace Makes a Difference!**

***Insert: September Calendar/Volunteer Schedule***  
**Lessons / Readings**

## **The Rev. Robert James Elliott (1924-2020)**



The Rev. Robert James Elliott, 95, died peacefully in his home in Tampa, Florida, surrounded by family August 2, 2020. Rev. Elliott served as an interim rector at Grace 1987-88.

He was born December 8, 1924, in Coshocton, Ohio, the son of Pearl (Banahan) and Frank Elliott, brother of George and John Elliott, and stepsister Anne Larr, all deceased. He was a graduate of Coshocton High School, Coshocton, Ohio, Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio, and Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio. He served in the Navy aboard the Bunker Hill in the Pacific theater in World War II as a radar operator then worked at the Buckeye Clothing Store in Coshocton, Ohio before attending college and seminary to be an Episcopal priest. He was ordained to the priesthood December 23, 1956. Robert served parishes in Galion and Marion, Ohio, was Chief Chaplain at Toledo State Mental Hospital, then St. Mark's Church in Cleveland, Ohio where he retired due to macular degeneration. Having trained with the National Interim Ministry he served seven parishes as an Interim priest, including here at Grace.

After moving to Tampa, he was on staff at St. John's Episcopal Church until he retired on the 50th anniversary of his priesthood in 2006. Robert has thoroughly enjoyed sailing, reading, and traveling overseas. Robert is survived by his wife of 39 years, Janis; daughter, Sidra Reeder and son-in-law Danny; and son, Geoffrey Elliott and daughter-in-law Virginia. He has four grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

A memorial service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church at some future date. Memorial donations may be sent to St. John's Episcopal Church. [www.blountcurrymacdill.com](http://www.blountcurrymacdill.com).

## From the Rector, continued

Your Vestry has stepped up admirably in this time of physical separation. It is no secret that they have dedicated themselves to staying in contact with you through weekly phone calls. Additionally, they have committed to meeting weekly, again electronically, to check in and make sure that Grace Church is staying viable. Each Vestry member is going above and beyond and have earned heartfelt thank you's. They continue to make the hard decisions prayerfully and with the health and safety of us all in the forefront.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the latest communication from Bishop Hollingsworth, in which he discusses the ability to receive communion in one kind during in-person worship. Your Vestry has determined that, in their prayerful consideration, it is not yet safe for us to gather in person and that we can be closer via Zoom than we would be in person, following all of the restrictions. My prayer is that you will support them in this decision, for I too, believe it is the correct one. When I can see your faces and hear your voices it lifts my spirits! It doesn't cause me to miss seeing you in person any less, however it does make it more bearable.

All of you have remained so faithful to Grace and I am profoundly grateful to each of you. You continue to be faithful in your financial support and in your generosity to the social services agencies that we have always supported. It is so uplifting to walk into the building and see the baskets for McKinley, Forbes House, and Willoughby Recovery Houses fill, as if by magic! Thank you all for your commitment to our Lord and your neighbors. I give thanks for you every day. Please let me know if you have a need, or just need to talk, either by phone, Zoom or in person (physically distanced and protected of course- there is always a way to make it work!).

Let's continue to be faithful servants and disciples of Jesus, hold each other in prayer, and stay connected until we can truly be in one place, together, unencumbered by masks and physical distance.

- M. Rose Anne+

### Request a hymn!

If you would like to hear a favorite hymn at our "Feast of Grace" celebration on September 20, please call or email the office with your request. If we can't play all your favorites that day, we'll get to the rest soon.

## OUTREACH TEAM UPDATES

**McKinley Update:** The McKinley Community Outreach Center bought its building from the school district. Much cleaning and updating is being done. Commissioner John Hamercheck is trying to get funds to repair the roof and lighting.

**New Outreach Ideas:** Kathy Ivey will contact Dennis Anthony of Friends of Recovery and invite him to our next Zoom meeting. We would like to find out if there is any way for Grace to help. Peggy will post a list of needs for Forbes House. They have large number of residents and need pantry items.

### Forbes House and Friends of Recovery Updates:

- We continue collecting cleaning and disinfecting supplies to be taken to Forbes House and Friends of Recovery. Forbes House has been filled to capacity due to the pandemic and their pantry is running low. We will continue collecting non-perishable items (canned food, cereals, hamburger helper, etc.) for Forbes House.
- Forbes House will hold a virtual fundraiser on Friday, October 9 with gift baskets to be auctioned. More information will follow.

**Little Feet:** Kathy Hill is talking to the schools to see how we can move forward with this program.

**Pasta Dough:** Joyce Hoste raised \$100 for Little Feet from sales of her pasta. She is not making any pasta currently due to the heat.

**Rummage Sale:** We continue to collect items even though this year's sale is cancelled. Walt will probably schedule sorting and pricing in the fall.

**Blessing Bags:** Items still being collected. Some larger items are being taken to Forbes and Friends of Recovery.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 1, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

- Toni Swisher  
Co-Chairs, Kathy Hill & Kathy Ivey

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## EVANGELISM UPDATES

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**Embracing Evangelism:** Dave Zimmerman and Peggy Burkacki will lead a training program, "Embracing Evangelism," beginning Thursday, September 3 at 6:30 pm. The class will meet bi-weekly on Zoom. The class will teach us how to seek, name, and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in ourselves and all people.

**Church Next:** Grace will take advantage of an online Christian formation program called Church Next, which offers courses on a variety of helpful and enriching topics. Look for more information soon!

**Birthdays and Anniversaries:** Beginning this month, birthdays and anniversaries of parishioners will be included in the Pace calendar to help us all keep in touch and congratulate each other.

**Diversity discussions:** Willoughby Mayor Fiala met with the Willoughby Area Ministerial Association to introduce the idea of holding a series of discussions about diversity and racial understanding at McKinley Community Outreach Center. An initial discussion took place, which Mother Rose Anne attended.

- Peggy Burkacki

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## STUDY GROUP UPDATE

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The Wednesday Morning Study Group's next book will be the New York Times best-seller *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor. The book comes recommended by Marilyn Taylor. The phrase comes from one of Taylor's three rules for understanding other religions: "Leave room for holy envy." I think of it as learning to respect other traditions.

Father James Martin, S. J. says about the book, "By turns inspiring, enchanting, and provocative, Taylor reminds us that God is bigger than any one religion. Prepare to be surprised and, best of all, to come to know God in a new way."

Jean Ockuly will lead our discussion of the book, which should begin on September 30. Please let me know if you would like a copy.

- Sue Mancino

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## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

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Thank you to everyone who has faithfully sent in their pledges during this pandemic. I was truly amazed at how parishioners were able to switch gears and mail in their financial commitment to Grace since we have not been able to meet in person.

In the past few years', we have kicked off the Annual Stewardship Campaign by getting together for a meal, fellowship, and sharing information. This year since we can't get together in person the Stewardship Team will be sending out the annual pledge card in Mad Lib format. Initially I wasn't familiar with Mad Libs and had to Google the meaning. "Mad Libs are stories with words removed and replaced by blank spaces. You are asked to fill in the blanks with adjectives, nouns, verbs and more." It really sounds like a Mad Lib can be a lot of fun and informative.

More details will follow the Stewardship meeting on September 10 at 7:00 pm.

- Dave Zimmerman

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## WORSHIP UPDATES

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### Altar Guild:

- Any construction work needed to be done in the Sacristy is on hold for now. If we upgrade the sound system, we may need to share this space. This is yet to be determined.
- The first Sunday of each month, the altar will need to be set for Spiritual Communion. The Altar Guild was contacted to determine their interest in participating in the set up. (This will depend upon any upcoming directives from the Bishop.)

### Educational programs:

- Wednesday morning book study Group and evening Bible study continue. Currently our book study group is reading "Crossing the Water."
- Mother Rose Anne is looking into ChurchNext, on-line education courses offered through the Diocese for individual and group studies.

Elizabeth Estep has volunteered to be the administrator of this study program.

**Acolyte Updates:** No updates at this time.

**Sunday School: Updates:**

- We are looking for ideas for on-line programs for kids. More information to follow.
- We continue to mail "The Sunday Paper Junior" to our Sunday School students every week.

**Choir:** Our continued thanks to Scott, Jen and James for the beautiful music and song each Sunday.

**Worship and Covid-19:** Elizabeth Estep has added some beautiful scenery pictures to our Zoom services. It was suggested that pictures of Grace church be added to the Sunday Zoom service presentation for "Feast of Grace."

**Upcoming services:** We are planning for the Feast of Grace service to be held September 20 via Zoom. We are looking for suggestions for music. We also are looking for additional readers for the service. Please contact the office if there are hymns you would like to hear or if you would like to read during the service. No Zoom expertise is needed. Our Zoom "usher" (Elizabeth) will handle all that for you. All you need to be able to do is join the service and read.

**Next Meeting:** The next Worship Committee meeting will be Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

- Kathy Hill

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## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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*Highlights from the July 18 Vestry Meeting:*

**COVID-19 and Worship:** Vestry discussed potential for re-opening. Mary Miragliotta moved to remain closed at this time. Ray Sphatt seconded and motion carried by acclamation.

**Senior Warden's Report:**

- *Long Range Planning:*
- City Reviewers didn't understand part of the ductwork drawings, so they were not approved.

Joe is responding. Andy will work with Joe to help move forward.

- Art is getting three bids on each of 3 subcontractors. Suggestions for superintendent.
- Contract with Art in progress.

**Junior Warden's Report**

- *A/C:* Replaced Air conditioner in Rectors office.
- *Foundation work:* Done.
- *Re-seeding/re-planting around foundation:* There's broken pipe in the dirt that remains. Cathy needs help with the replanting the foundation. Mother Rose Anne pointed out the bare space near the bottom of the outside steps.
- *Lighting in Nave/outside:* First person contacted is 'way busy.' Mary suggested going to Mars Electric.
- *Sound/live streaming system:* Proposal coming this next week from person Scott recommended. The Painesville person's recommendation is \$30K.
- *Storage Shed removal:* Not actually taken down yet. Walt Iliff has new job delaying work. The B&G wants to delay till fall when it cools down.
- *Yard Waste:* Still need to get letter to the people dumping on our land. Mary sent Mother Rose Anne and Mark pictures of the dumping taken by Phil.
- *Green Room:* Kathy asked about contacting Chris Burke about the Green Room downstairs where we may have mold that needs fixed. Mary motioned, Ray seconded that if the mold comes back after Chris does his work, we'll contract to have it done by a professional.

**Rector's Report**

- *Safeguarding God's Children update:* Several volunteers still need to take the training.
- *ChurchNext update:* Mark and Mother Rose Anne met with the rep this last week. Some testing needs to occur before sharing with the congregation.
- a. *City of Willoughby and WAMA discussions on race relations:* Waiting to hear dates from the Mayor who is organizing this effort.
- b. *New self-help groups:* Groups are doing well following the rules, responding to rules. We have a couple of new groups meeting here.

Mark is checking with groups about any COVID cases in their groups. The church is having problems finding Clorox wipes. Signs with meeting rules have been posted for groups.

- *Scouts*: BSA Troop 185 troop met at local park. BSA rep shared what the rules require. The leaders shared what they are doing with them and they discussed it. Cub Pack isn't doing anything.
- *150th Anniversary 2020*: On hold. Mother Rose Anne moved that we delay everything related to the anniversary until 2021. Kathy Hill seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.
- *Weekly Vestry Check-Ins*: Will continue.
- *Mutual Ministry Review*: On hold. The Rev. Albert Jennings will facilitate.
- *Vestry Retreat*: On hold. The Rev. Ann Kidder will facilitate.
- *Counting Attendance at electronic services*: Strategies were discussed.
- *Surgery*: Mother Rose Anne will undergo cataract surgery 07/28 and 08/11. She won't miss service 7/28, doesn't think she'll need to miss 8/9, but Wednesday 07/29 and 08/12 services are cancelled.

**Teams not meeting**: The Stewardship, Evangelism, Outreach, Worship, and Fellowship teams took July off. Foundation also did not meet in July.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer, led by Mother Rose Anne.

*Highlights from the August 15 Vestry Meeting:*

**Finance Committee – Audit**: Harry Dodds will assemble a committee of three to do the audit 'in-house'. Needs to be done and delivered to the Diocese at Sept 1.

#### **Building Plan:**

- Andy met with Art and did a walk-through. They are now discussing some options for insulation and HVAC which may be more efficient long-term.

- Art will be doing a walkthrough with proposed contractors on Monday. Expecting to have estimated costs in two weeks.
- The response letter will go to the City this week. If there are insulation and HVAC changes, they can be filed with the City through a secondary submission.
- Andy doesn't have a contract yet.
- Rose Anne is in the process of packing up her office. Since we're on track to start next month, she'll be moving to some alternate office.

#### **COVID-19 and Worship:**

- Discuss potential for re-opening
- It was moved that we continue with the current status of services and re-opening. The motion carried by acclamation.
- The Bishop is in the process of writing a letter about options for the near future of the Diocese.

#### **Senior Warden's Report:**

- Long Range Planning: No further updates.
- Safeguarding God's Children Training: Still working on getting every member trained.

#### **Junior Warden's Report:**

- Foundation work: done with re-seeding/re-planting
- Green Room:
  - Have bid from ServicePro
  - ServiceMaster is coming Tue to do an estimate.
  - Church Insurance adjuster came out this last Thursday to assess.
- Lighting Outside: Mary Miragliotta spoke with Mars Electric rep. He came to the church this week. He's developing a recommendation.

**Stewardship**: Not met this summer, will meet on Aug 20.

Please see **Evangelism, Outreach, and Worship** Updates elsewhere in this *Pace*.

Cathy Nash led the closing prayer at 12:50 pm

**Next Meeting**: Will be 6:00 pm Saturday, September 19 via Zoom.



# Grace Makes a Difference in Our Community

August 14, 2020

Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway  
Grace Episcopal Church  
36200 Ridge Road  
Willoughby, OH 44094

*Pastor Rose Anne*  
Dear Church Family,

On behalf of the Ecumenical Shelter Network of Lake County, Inc. d.b.a. Project Hope for the Homeless and Families Moving Forward, I would like to thank you for sharing your gift to empower our guests with hope and helping them to have the opportunity to achieve an abundant life. With resources limited during this time, we value your contribution even more so.

Your contribution of **paper products, donated 08/10/2020 is greatly appreciated.** Every gift we receive is critical for our guests and in the majority of cases, it is also life-saving and life-changing to them. A recent story of your impact and upcoming ways to connect can be found on the reverse side of this letter!

We pray you that you are blessed by your gift to the community. We look

36200 Ridge Road  
Willoughby, Ohio 44094

**Re: Forbes House Donation**

Dear Peggy:

Thank you for valuing our se generous donation of cleaning and hygiene products and food items and paper products received on August 8 and 14, 2020 respectively. Our entire team, survivors and the families we serve appreciate your thoughtful generosity.

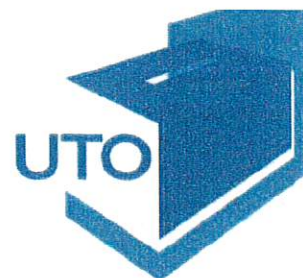
Advocates at Forbes House are encouraging and empowering individuals and families every day to end the cycle of domestic violence. We could not offer safety, comfort, care, shelter or support if we did not have yours. Thank you for believing in us and the mission of Forbes House.

Sincerely,

*Kathy D. Strancar*  
Kathy D. Strancar  
Executive Director

*Words can never express  
how much you mean to us!  
God Bless you.*

Here are the latest thank-you notes we have received from those who benefit from the generosity of Grace Episcopal Church and its members.



**Thank you Grace Episcopal Church for your generous donation to the United Thank Offering! The full 2020 Ingathering will support grants for ministries providing COVID-19 relief.**

## ***Grace Episcopal Church***

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Dated material  
Please deliver by September 4, 2020

### READINGS FOR THE DAY

September 6  
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 18

Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 149  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

September 13  
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 19

Exodus 14:19-31  
Psalm 114  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20  
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 20

Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

September 26  
The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Proper 21

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32





THE EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE OF OHIO

## A Message from Bishop Hollingsworth

August 18, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

For almost six months we have been living in response to the coronavirus, changing the patterns and practices of our work, worship, and social interactions. While we are becoming more accustomed to frequent handwashing, masks, and distancing, we continue to face unfamiliar fears and frustrations in our everyday lives. In spite of the efforts of many to arrest the spread of the coronavirus, we continue to watch both COVID-19 cases and death counts increase nationally at a distressing rate. Most of us are experiencing some degree of “pandemic fatigue,” the emotional and physical exhaustion resulting from the stress of uncertainty, anxiety, and change to daily routines.

All of this is doubtless compounded by the modifications we have had to make to numerous reliable support structures in our lives. For us as Christians, that is particularly true of the worship, fellowship, formation, and outreach gatherings that frame the spiritual disciplines of our faith. We yearn to be together, to worship as a community, to share fully in the Eucharistic celebration, to be fed by word and sacrament, and to lift our voices in sacred song. The adjustments parishes have made to stay connected and provide spiritual nurture through in-person and online services continue to be inspiring. They are not what we were used to and may not be what we desire, but they are coping with the realities of this difficult time in creative and faithful ways.

The two most frequently expressed longings are for personal contact and reception of the Eucharistic elements. I know how difficult it is not to have available to us the regular companionship of others and the sacramental communion of Christ’s body and blood. Social connection is being accommodated for those who feel able to risk in-person gathering by practicing cautious distancing and sanitizing. Even in those cases, the precautions and restrictions necessary to keep one another safe are for some discouraging and for others inadequate, given their susceptibility to contagion. The continuation of rich online worship offerings remains essential for countless communicants who cannot risk public gatherings.

### Reception of the sacrament

The fast from receiving the consecrated elements has been difficult for all and has been a source of deep frustration for some. While reception of the sacrament will continue to present

an increased risk of exposure, especially for those with particular vulnerability, we will allow the sacrament to be distributed in one kind (bread only) at public worship beginning on Sunday, September 6. This will provide congregations time to consider thoughtfully whether to do so, and to make the necessary adjustments for providing as much safety as possible. Please understand that permission to distribute the sacrament does not imply any assumption that this is appropriate for every congregation and communicant. No clergy or communicants are required or expected to participate in the celebration or reception of Eucharist unless they so choose. Parishes may well determine it is best to wait until all parishioners are able safely to participate before resuming any of these practices, including in-person worship.

In choosing to provide for reception by communicants, the clergy and vestry are taking on an increased responsibility for the health of each person committed to their spiritual care. To that end, a number of precautions and practices in preparation for and celebration of Holy Eucharist will be required. These include:

1. All involved in any aspect of preparation and celebration will wear masks and thoroughly wash hands before handling elements and vessels.
2. The Celebrant alone will set the table and be the only person to stand at it for the Great Thanksgiving.
3. The Celebrant alone will handle the elements, and only after thoroughly cleansing the hands with sanitizer.
4. The Celebrant alone will consume the "Priest Host" and the wine.
5. The bread for all other communicants will be in the form of wafers and brought to the table for consecration in a covered ciborium, breadbox, or similar container, and remain covered through consecration and until distribution. Pre-packaged bread and wine, or bread brought individually by communicants from home for personal consumption, are not permitted.
6. Distribution will be at a station at the front of the chancel. The altar rail will not be used.
7. Communicants will come forward individually, wearing masks, and practicing safe distancing of at least 6 feet.
8. The Celebrant will drop the consecrated wafer into the open hands of the communicant without touching them.
9. The communicant will lift the mask, consume the sacrament, replace the mask, and return to the pew, providing as much safe distancing as possible.
10. Following the service, Altar Guild members will wear gloves when cleaning vessels and divesting the altar of linens and other articles.
11. These requirements apply equally to outdoor services. While the weather permits, it is encouraged to worship outdoors whenever possible, as it immeasurably increases safety.

Here is a [video](#) to assist in planning.

The distribution of consecrated hosts to the hospitalized, homebound, and those in hospice care may be done by priests only, taking extreme caution. Please use only hosts that have been

previously consecrated, and practice safe distancing in every way possible. It is up to the priest to determine the pastoral need for Eucharistic visitation, and should not put herself or any communicant at risk. It is not permissible to use this pastoral accommodation as a vehicle for providing "private" communion services for individual parishioners or families to receive the sacrament outside of regularly scheduled services.

While this change in our protocols may come as welcome news to some, it may also cause increased anxiety and potential division for others. There are countless reasons why returning to reception of the elements might not be appropriate in any given context. If we focus on what is best for the other, and not on getting our own way, we will surely build community rather than risk dividing it. If there is disagreement among vestry and clergy leaders on how to proceed, the Bishop's Office is available to assist in making the decision.

We receive sacramental communion as a precious, spiritual gift that is intended to inspire and challenge us to achieve the communion for which Jesus prayed in John 17, that we "all might be one." Whether or not we choose as a congregation to offer the sacrament, or as an individual to receive it, the experience of yearning for it over these months is profound and formative in and of itself. I pray that the deep longing we share to receive communion in this pandemic time will serve to deepen our longing to achieve the ecclesial and societal communion that is modeled in the holy meal and for which Jesus gave his life, that "beloved community" which all of us are striving for in this time of political and social division.

#### Use of parish property for non-religious nursery and preschool programs

There is one clarification regarding the use of parish property for non-religious educational programs like weekday child-care and nursery schools that has been added to the regathering protocols. Those parishes that provide space for such programs should note the following two paragraphs:

Childcare and educational programs like preschool that operate in a parish owned facility and are not religious education programs (e.g. Sunday School, Christian formation, etc.), must follow or exceed all current State of Ohio coronavirus safety regulations and mandates which apply to their business. Prior to opening, they must sign a diocesan provided statement to that effect which the parish will hold on file. No parish is required to allow such an organization to reopen in their building and the parish may require additional safety measures as the vestry desires.

As of this writing, Governor DeWine has mandated a ten-person limit to public gatherings in the State of Ohio. While religious institutions are currently exempted from this restriction, the religious purpose does not minimize the risk, nor the importance of caution. This should be kept in mind when planning worship and other church gatherings.

Know that you may continue to direct questions about regathering protocols to the Rev. Brad Purdom, Canon for Congregations, or any other member of the Bishop's Staff.

As we continue to make our way forward with the ambiguities and ever-changing landscape of this virus, Bishop Williams and I are considering when episcopal visitations might be resumed and how services of Confirmation and Reception can safely be provided. It is very likely that we will create a new schedule in order to accommodate both the visitations that have been cancelled since April and the likelihood that, at first, I will be the only bishop making visits. In the meantime, I have been joining Zoom calls with Confirmation and Inquirers classes whenever invited, providing an opportunity to get to know and support those intending to make a public affirmation of their faith, regardless of when that might be accomplished in a worship service.

Last Monday, in the weekly, half-hour Zoom check-in for bishops and their designees with Episcopal Relief and Development and the Presiding Bishop's Office, the guest presenter was Dr. Anthony Fauci. In both his opening remarks and the question-and-answer dialogue that made up the majority of the call, he reiterated the critical importance of these three things: the universal wearing of masks, the avoidance of crowds, and keeping a distance of at least six feet from one another. As well, he urged all of us in the church to provide hope. Any resignation that this virus is here for good or that we can do nothing to combat it leads only to reduced vigilance and irresponsible behaviors that the virus will capitalize on, and that will inevitably thwart our critical effort to arrest the outbreak. He assured us that we will develop effective vaccines and treatments that will allow us to return to more familiar behaviors, but right now we must take advantage of the window we have with warm, dry weather to be out of doors and to take essential precautions in order to slow the pandemic's progress.

In closing, please know of my continued prayers for you, the congregations in which you worship, and the communities in which you live and serve. By grace and your continued fidelity to God's mission, we will come through this time stronger and more connected to one another and to God.

With every blessing,

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.  
Bishop of Ohio

