

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

eBlast

March 4, 2021 2021



It looks like things are getting better! Why aren't we open?

Following is an excerpt of a letter Melinda+ sent to all our active congregants this week:

It may be helpful to provide an explanation as to why we are not yet allowed to be in the building as a group:

The decision of whether to have any gathering in our building is not made at the parish level. Neither the Vestry nor I have made this call. As an Episcopal church we are part of a diocese. The Bishop, the Standing Committee, and the Council of the Diocese (the latter of which I am a member) are in agreement that we have not yet arrived at a point where it is safe to return to in-person worship. It is they who shoulder the burden of making this decision.

As a Diocese, COVID has affected our members and our clergy at a higher rate than the general public.

Bradford County has more cases of COVID right now than we did when we first shut down last March. While we have certainly improved since the worst of the pandemic, we have not sufficiently recovered to a point where it is prudent to return to worship.

Bradford County still leads the Commonwealth in the rate of infection.

There are two benchmarks that have been used to determine whether it is safe to engage in public – the number of cases per 100,000 (the benchmark is 50 or less) and the percentage of positive test results (the benchmark is 5%.) Bradford County has met the first benchmark for about a week, and we have yet to attain the 5% benchmark (we are at almost 7%.) The Commonwealth is now finding this second benchmark to be more meaningful than the first.

Vaccination protects against severe illness, death, and rate of spread. However, it does not protect against contracting COVID at all until we reach herd immunity – a goal that is more than a year away, according to the CDC. I have not yet been able to obtain a vaccine as I am too young to be included in the first group to be vaccinated.

Our insurance carrier has let us know that our liability coverage does NOT include COVID related cases. It is unlikely that any insurance carrier will offer this coverage. In layman's terms, the exclusion of COVID cases from liability coverage means that the occurrence of COVID is common enough that the insurance company is unwilling to gamble that a COVID case will not occur. Other typical exclusions include war, riot, and floods.

This also means that the insurance company believes that the losses from COVID will exceed the revenues from premiums.

Please know that when we are permitted to gather, we will still have COVID protocols in place for the foreseeable future. This means we will still be wearing masks, we will not be allowed to kneel, we will not sing or speak in unison, and communion will be distributed on the way out the door.

The priority of our diocesan leadership has been and continues to be love of neighbor. It causes anguish to know that our people are unhappy and want more than anything to return to a joyous celebration of our Lord and Savior. The desire to gather for worship should not outweigh the concern that doing so will likely cause someone to sicken and die. Gatherings are still “super spreader” events.

I know that the facts I have listed above are not persuasive over/against a strong desire to be back in worship together. I long to be back in worship together as much as anyone else. I desire with all my heart to preside at eucharist in the normal manner and I am hopeful that happens sooner rather than later. This pandemic is testing us in lots of ways. I already know that we will have a great deal of rebuilding to do in all of our ministries. I sincerely hope that you are with me for the long haul.

Please do let me know how we can support you in your spiritual life short of worshipping together. I am open to any and all ideas. I am willing to try just about anything as long as I can keep safe and can also live into my ordination vows to “obey the bishop” among others.

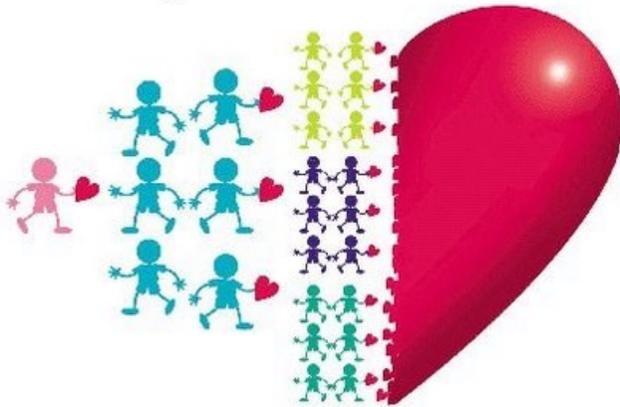
-Melinda M. Artman+

We continue to maintain regular office hours even as our building remains closed. If you have business with our office, please call to make an appointment. As a reminder our hours are: Monday and Wednesday from 8:00 until noon and Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 until 4:30 p.m.

Reflection questions for the lessons appointed for the 3rd Sunday in

Lent: This Sunday the focus is on the gift of God’s law. John Calvin described three uses for the Ten Commandments: First they show us how to live before God and neighbor, and expose our sins in failing to live as God intends. Second, they instruct our civic or common life, showing us how to live responsibly in the freedom God gives. Third, rather than show us what we must do in order to *receive* God’s grace and love, the commandments show us how we should live *because* we are a people who have already received God’s grace and love in Jesus Christ. Does God’s law restrict or enhance our freedom as human beings?

Pay it forward



PAYING IT FORWARD

As seen in the “Soundoff” portion of today’s Morning Times (Thursday, March 4):

Thank you. This is a heartfelt thank you to the young lady who paid for my husband’s and my dinner at Applebee’s on Friday, February 19. I have always known that there are special young people right here in our Valley. You are most definitely a fine example. We will be sending a donation to the Church of the Redeemer for their Community Supper outreach Program to continue your act of kindness.

Let’s keep this act of kindness going forward!



March is Women's History Month

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. For more information about Women’s History Month please visit.

<https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>



Jared Watson	3/12
Thomas Dix	3/14

Be on the Look Out!
WANTED
Empty Cartridges On The Loose



If found, please turn in to:

Church of the Redeemer

We have been searching far and wide for them.

Your reward will be a warm and fuzzy feeling in your heart for helping your local organization raise much needed funds.

For Questions, Contact

(570) 888-2270

Thank you for your Support

THANK YOU!!! to everyone that has turned in their empty cartridges. We received \$33.85 for our first shipment. Empties 4 Cash pays for the shipping so it does not cost us anything when we send in a batch of empties, so keep them coming.

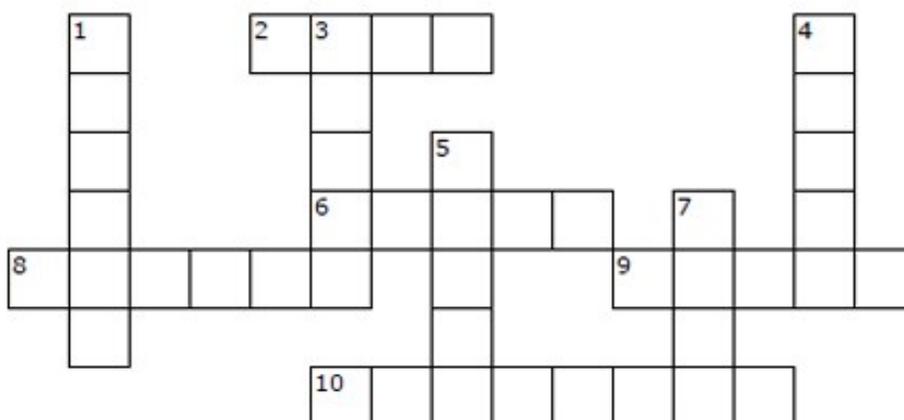
Cleansing the Temple



Cleaning House

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)

Based on John 2:13-16 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. A strip of leather or cord fastened to a handle
6. An animal raised for its wool
8. A building dedicated to the worship of God
9. Coins or bills used to pay for something
10. A Jewish holiday celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt

DOWN

1. A place where people gather to buy and sell things
3. A building where a family lives
4. A piece of furniture with a smooth, flat surface and four legs
5. The Son of God
7. A small, wild pigeon

WHIP	MARKET	PASSOVER	SHEEP	TEMPLE
HOUSE	TABLE	MONEY	JESUS	DOVE

Cleaning House

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)

Based on John 2:13-16 (NIV)



C W C M C P A S S O V E R U N
 H F O B A Y D M O N E Y J A V
 A F U F T R K Y G E Q H K M S
 N O R G T P K I F F F G E G C
 G T T T L U I E C G K L S G A
 E E S E E Q N D T T A E N X T
 R C O M J D O V E S L I S B T
 S R B P S B B G U B L E P R E
 H D G L G Z N R A L E E I X R
 J L R E Y I E T E Z E I W E E
 P E K O T J X S C H F X H W D
 E E W T V J N M S E H K I W V
 W D I I P E H O U S E G P I Z
 N S D R S C D U C O R D S M S
 K V C X C H N A T I M E E G G

DROVE	SCATTERED	JERUSALEM	PASSOVER	SITTING
TEMPLE	COURTS	DOVES	SHEEP	CATTLE
TIME	MARKET	CHANGERS	JEWISH	MONEY
SELLING	HOUSE	TABLES	WHIP	CORDS