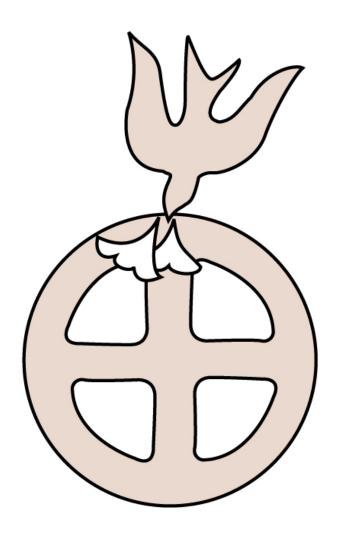
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 Live Streamed on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30AM

#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION \*

What happens when you are spiritually prepared and desire to receive communion, but can't? Such a case is referenced by a paragraph in the 1979 Prayer Book:

If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth.

A nation-wide shut down due to a pandemic fits, I'm sure we'll agree, with the words "by any other impediment" listed in the first Prayer Book. Our Lord will not cut us off from his grace. If we truly desire him, he will come to us, even if we cannot receive the Sacraments he has instituted so that we may receive his grace. This is not a new idea. St Thomas Aquinas, writing nearly 800 years ago, said:

before receiving a sacrament, the reality of the sacrament can be had through the very desire of receiving the sacrament. Accordingly, before actual reception of this sacrament, a man can obtain salvation through the desire of receiving it, just as he can before Baptism through the desire of Baptism, as stated above (Summa, III.73.iii)

Desiring to receive the spiritual grace of the Most Holy Eucharist (and being prevented from receiving it sacramentally) is known as Spiritual Communion. It is so very important to note that this gift is given to us when we cannot, for very good reason, be present at mass.

When you are watching a live-stream or recording of our liturgies, any of the following prayers may be said at the moment of communion when you would normally leave your pew and make your journey to the altar:

In Union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of Your Church where Your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from You. Let me live and die in Your love. Amen.

OR

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (from Enriching Our Worship 2)

OR

"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already in my heart
and unite myself to you completely.

Please do not let me ever by separated from you." (by St. Alphonsus Liguori)

\*Except where otherwise indicated, the whole of this article (with only very little amendment) is taken from the website of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where it was posted on April 5, 2020. No author was specified.

# THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 18

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Prelude

#### **Processional Hymn 527**

Singing songs of expectation

TON-Y-BOTEL



# OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 351

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

# COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 149

1 Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a / new song; \*

sing his praise in the congregation of the / faithful.

2 Let Israel rejoice in his / Maker; \*

let the children of Zion be joyful in their / King.

3 Let them praise his Name in the / dance; \*

let them sing praise to him with timbrel and / harp.

4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his / people \* and adorns the poor with / victory.

5 Let the faithful rejoice in / triumph; \*

let them be joyful on their / beds.

6 Let the praises of God be in their / throat \*

and a two-edged sword in their / hand;

7 To wreak vengeance on the / nations \* and punishment on the / peoples;

8 To bind their kings in / chains \*

and their nobles with links of / iron;

9 To inflict on them the judgment de-/creed; \*

this is glory for all his faithful people. Halle-/ lujah!



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy

#### THE SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

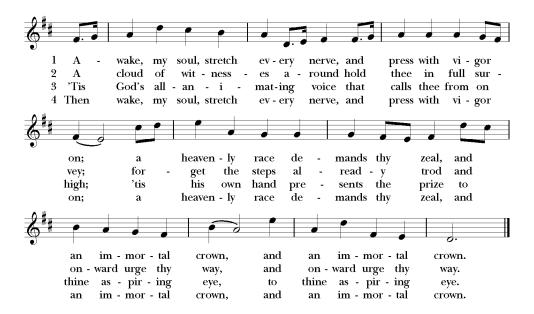
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

#### Sequence Hymn 546

Awake, my soul

SIROË



THE GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

THE SERMON: The Rev. Carol Schwenke

THE NICENE CREED BCP 358

(said by all)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*Celebrant*: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form IV

BCP 388

The congregational response to "Lord, in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

*Celebrant*: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### **Offertory Anthem**

#### God Fashioned Love

Carol Muehlig

God fashioned love and gave it as a gift
For each to share and give again,
That through all generations love might sift
As wheat from chaff to make an increase of the best,
That time and wind might have the rest.
God fashioned love and gave from heaven's store
For each to share and given again,
That through all generations love might pour
As wine from water by a miracle can pass
that every hand might take the glass.
God fashioned love and gave it mankind's cast
For each to share and give again,
That through all generations love might last
As Christ is born in every child God gives,
So love, though yet all die, shall live.

#### Presentation Hymn 11 v. 4

# Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

MORNING HYMN



#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

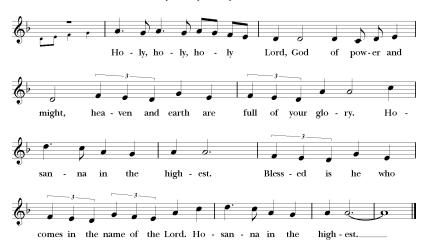
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is said)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

BCP 361



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

#### The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

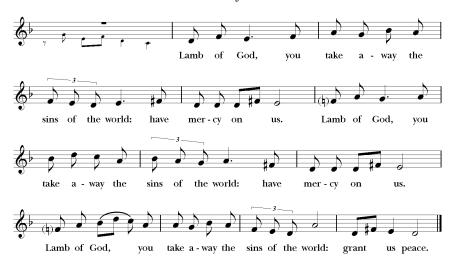
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

\* Fraction Anthem S-163 Lamb of God Robert Powell

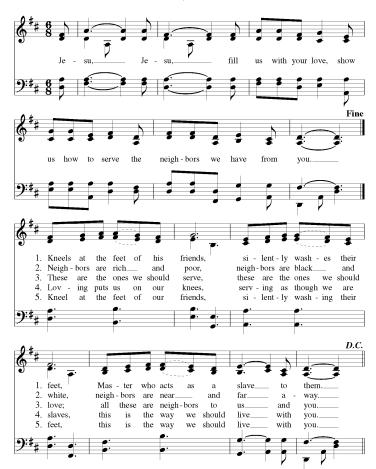


#### THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

#### **Communion Hymn 74 LEVAS**



Ghana Folk Song



## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship 2

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

## **Closing Hymn 376**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Нүми то Јоү



# THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Maggie Darby Raymond, Elmer Clark, Nancy Carter, Randy Harrelson, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Jamaica Miller, Ellen Kappel, Susan Dunn & family, David Kirshenblatt, Cayden Mitchell, Bill Alworth, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Dan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Shelby Welch, Don Downie, Olivia Carlisle, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Michael, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Mobley, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Britt Freeman, Danielle Wilson, Allison Lewis, Emma Laing, Rebecca Welch, Leigh Hodges, Mattee Barkdoll, Tom Sturgis, Elmer Clark, Jim Green, and Andrew Majsztrik.

The people listed here are prayed for by name at each Sunday service. To request prayer for yourself or someone else, please call the office (706-546-7553). If at the beginning of the next month the person needs to remain on the list, please call and give the office an update.

# **Seeking Nominations to the Vestry**

The Nominating Committee is developing a list of potential nominees to the Vestry for a three year term beginning 2024. We want your recommendations. With those nominations and with recommendations from the current Vestry, the Nominating Committee will assemble a slate of four eligible candidates to replace the four outgoing Vestry members. The slate of nominees will be presented to the congregation before the end of the year, and the congregation will vote on the slate at our Annual Meeting in January, 2024. As specified in our Bylaws, the slate of four candidates will be elected collectively, not as individuals, so the election isn't competitive.

Not only can you nominate parishioners--with their permission--to be considered for the Vestry, you can self-nominate. That is, you can offer your own name in nomination to the Vestry.

Eligible candidates for membership on the Vestry, as stipulated in our parish Bylaws must:

\* be confirmed communicants in good standing in the parish, \* be at least 18 years old,

\* regularly attend church services,

\* and have made and fulfilled a financial commitment (a pledge) to the church in the past year.

To submit your name or that of theirs in the parish for possible membership on the Vestry, simply send it to a member of the Nominating Committee: Wade McGlamery (wwmcglamery@gmail.com), Karen Brill (kare2345@yahoo.com), John Bray (johnpatrickbray@gmail.com), Mark Richardson (mrichsn@gmail.com), LeeAnne Krause (leeanne.krause@verizon.net), or Nikki Mathis (rector@stgregoryathens.org).

Please send us your nominations by Friday, September 22.

#### **TODAY**

# **OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES & MEETING | SUNDAY, SEPT. 10**

St. Gregory's Outreach Committee organizes hands-on support for several worthwhile local ministries. This Fall, we will be seeking donations to the Barnett Shoals Elementary School Clothes Closet. During the year, we try to find parishioners to help with Family Promise, the alliance of local churches working to help homeless families achieve sustainable independence, Our Daily Bread, a mission that prepares and serves meals to the needy in one of our Athens churches, Athens Area Emergency Food Bank, the service to which our Little Red Wagon is dedicated, filled and delivered, and others. As is always true in providing for the "least of these," we constantly need more in-person help.

If you are interested in joining us in these- or other- Outreach efforts, please come to our next Committee Meeting, immediately following the 10:30 service, in the Christian Education Building Library, on **Sunday, September 10, 2023**.

You may also contact Susanne Burton, <u>sfburton@windstream.net</u>, or Gail Eilers, <u>eilersgail@gmail.com</u> with questions or to volunteer to help.

# FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING | 12PM

The Finance Committee will meet in the office next to Kendall's after the 10:30AM service today. Anyone is welcome to join!

## THIS WEEK

# MOVIE NIGHT | FRIDAY, SEPT. 15

Come join us this month, on Friday, September 15, when we will watch Come From Away (2021) (for real this time!). "7000 passengers are stranded after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in a small town in Newfoundland, where they were housed and welcomed. Based on a true story." Join us in Parish Hall and enjoy some popcorn and soft drinks - or bring a blanket and a picnic dinner! The movie begins promptly at 7pm.

## **ONGOING**

# MERIDIAN WOMEN'S CHORUS | THURSDAYS

Director Stacie Court invites all women to join the Meridian Women's Chorus. We meet on Thursdays from 12:30 - 1:45 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on West Lake Drive. We start rehearsals for the fall on Thursday, September 7th; our annual Tapestry Concert is Saturday, December 2nd. For more information, please contact Stacie Court at stacie.court@gmail.com or 706-424-9516.

# **BLINDSPOT GROUP | THURSDAYS**

Our 20s and 30s group meets on the last Thursday of each month at 6:30PM for dinner and a small group study (usually off-site of the church). We also meet at least once a month for game nights, dinner and drinks, movie nights, and more. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Wade McGlamery, 770-624-4837 for more information.

#### **NOTES**

# **COUNTER NEEDED**

We are looking for someone to count a week's worth of contributions to St. Gregory the Great. Counters work together in pairs, and a new counter will be paired with an experienced counter. Counting takes about 30 minutes, and counters work just once a month. Our new counter is needed to start in September (or October at the latest). One of our current counters is willing to be flexible about when she counts, so our new counter can choose to volunteer during the week after the 2nd Sunday of the month or during the week after the 4th Sunday of the month. This is not a difficult task. Counting partners determine together a mutually convenient time to meet in the copy room in the Parish Hall to count during their week. If you want to talk with an experienced counter, talk with Jane Hudson, Mark Reinberger, Maggie Reinberger, Stacie Court, Angela Greene, Lois Alworth, Katie Hein, Gail Eilers, or Alice Mohor. Contact Jane Hudson @ janeghudson@gmail.com to volunteer.

#### THE LITTLE RED WAGON

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs paper bags, canned tuna, canned tomatoes, and cooked cereals (i.e. grits, oatmeal)! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

#### Those Who Serve

Celebrant: The Rev. Doug Adkins Preaching: The Rev. Carol Schwenke

Vestry: LeeAnne Krause

Reader: Michael Castengera (8AM); Joyce Morehouse (10:30AM) EMs: Anna Thornton & Jane Hudson

Crucifers: Charlotte Lamm

Torches: Aiden & Warren Lamm

Flowers: Kris Braman

Altar Guild: Anna Thornton & Nancy Watson

Ushers: Anthony & Deb Garner Counters: Stacie Court & Jane Hudson

Livestream: Pete Nicholls

## Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Nikki Mathis Rector

rector@stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553 x2

**The Rev. Doug Adkins** Associate Rector & Director of Children's Ministries *jdouglasadkins@gmail.com* | 706-474-4784

**The Rev. Christina Dondero** Deacon *christinadondero@gmail.com* | 404-918-7248

**Kendall M. Kookogey** Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper *office@stgregoryathens.org* | 706-546-7553 x1

**Jonathan Klein** Music Director/Organist *jonathanfk@gmail.com* | 706-296-8102

**Joseph Napoli** Choir Director *awn1984@att.net* | 706-546-6638

**Wade McGlamery** Youth Minister www.cglamery@gmail.com | 770-624-4837

**Jude Red-Bear** Nursery Director *juderedbear@icloud.com* | 706-614-0008

**Mark Hein** Buildings/Grounds *markehein@gmail.com* | 706-549-3239

**Anthony Barkdoll** Livestream Coordinator anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

**Terri Tillman** WebMaster/Social Media *ttillman@gmail.com* 

**Danielle Vogt** Coffee Host danielle 1784@gmail.com

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Danielle Lyle, Megan Reuter, Allie Weaver

Vestry Members: Kate Avinger, John Barrett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause; Lane Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

*Vestry Person of the Day/Week:* LeeAnne Krause <u>leeanne.krause@verizon.net</u>