

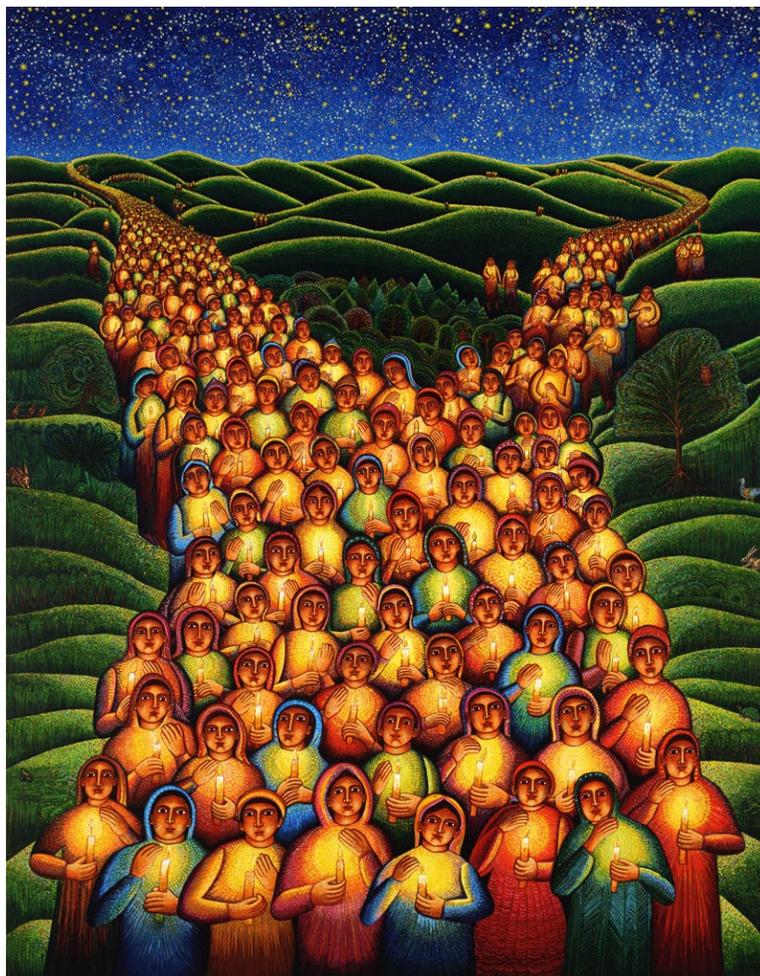
The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul

Newton Highlands, Massachusetts

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist

July 27, 2025 at 10:00am



From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (PROPER 12, YEAR C)
Holy Eucharist with Joyful Noise

Prelude

Musicians

From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.

Gathering Rites / *Book of Common Prayer* p. 355

Gathering Hymn

Please rise as you are comfortable.

As We Gather at Your Table

Tune: Holy Manna (same as #761 in *The Hymnal 1982*)

1. As we gather at your Table,
as we listen to your Word,
help us know, O God, your presence:
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own; teach
us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.
2. Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Together let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated

The First Reading

Genesis 18:20-32

God said to Abraham, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before God. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And God said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to God, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty

righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And God said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again Abraham spoke to God, "Suppose forty are found there." God answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then Abraham said, "Oh do not let God be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." God answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." Abraham said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to God. Suppose twenty are found there." God answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then Abraham said, "Oh do not let God be angry if I speak just once more."

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 138

We will pray the psalm responsively by whole verse

I will give thanks to you, O God, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name,
because of your love and faithfulness;**

For you have glorified your Name
and your word above all things.

**When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.**

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

**They will sing of the ways of God,
that great is the glory of God,**

Who is on high, yet cares for the lowly,
and perceives the haughty from afar.

**Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.**

You will make good your purpose for me;
O God, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

The Second Reading

Colossians 2:6-19

As you have received Christ Jesus the Savior, continue to live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in Christ and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in Christ, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In Christ also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with Christ in baptism, you were also raised with Christ through faith in the power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with Christ, who forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. Christ set this aside,

nailing it to the cross. Christ disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Please rise as you are comfortable.

Lifegiver, Lover of Us All

Tune: Tallis' Canon (same as #25 in *The Hymnal 1982*)

1. Lifegiver, Lover of Us All,
upon your holy name we call;
your new day come, your will be done,
on earth as in all realms beyond.
2. We pray this day for bread to live,
forgive our sins as we forgive,
and give us strength in time of test.
Grant us release from evil's death.
3. For all the cosmos is your own,
your pow'r of love which we have known,
the splendor, radiant, without end.
To God be praise! Amen. Amen.

Lyrics: Laurie Aleona

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Rabbi, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say:

Abba God, hallowed be your
name. May your reign come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to your friend at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before them.' And your friend answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though your friend will not get up and give anything because they are friends, at least because of the friend's persistence, the friend will get up and give whatever is needed.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil,

know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will our Loving God give the Holy Spirit to those who ask!"

Priest The Gospel of Christ.
People Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Priest-in-Charge

A few moments of silence will be kept

Statement of Faith

Intercessor: Please rise as you are comfortable as we proclaim our Statement of Faith.

We believe in God,
whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all,
and whose love, defeating even death,
is our glorious promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,
we put our trust in God;
and in the name of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves,
in the service of others,
to seek justice, and to live in peace;
to care for the earth,
and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness;
to live in the freedom of forgiveness,
and the power of the Spirit of love.
And in the company of the faithful we will be the church,
a community of flawed and forgiving disciples,
for the glory of God alone. Amen.

Statement of Faith adapted from the Iona Abbey Worship Book, ©2001, The Iona Community.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Loving God, that all who praise your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for all ministers – lay and ordained – and we pray for Church of Our Saviour, Somerset; Christ Church, Swansea; Young Adults Ministry; Youth Council, Youth Leadership Academy, and all Youth Ministries; and for the Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center. Either in silence or aloud, for whom else in the church do we pray today? *(You are invited to add your own prayers.)*

Silence

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Either in silence or aloud, for which peoples and leaders of the world do we pray today? *(You are invited to add your own prayers.)*

Silence

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Either in silence or aloud, for what in the created order do we pray today? *(You are invited to add your own prayers.)*

Silence

God, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as Christ loves us. Either in silence or aloud, for whom and what do we give thanks in our lives today? *(You are invited to add your own thanksgivings.)*

Silence

God, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for Paul Friedman; Terry; Jim Nolan; David Murphy; David Tabors; Kristin; Deb; Tom; Sean and Jack; and for the peoples and ministries of the Global Village Children's Project, the Centre Street Food Pantry, AA, and NewCity Church. Either in silence or aloud, for whom else do we pray today? *(You are invited to add your own prayers.)*

Silence

God, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy Richard Redfearn and all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Either in silence or aloud, whom do we remember today by name? *(You are invited to offer names.)*

Silence

God, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Prayer for the Social Order (*BCP* p. 823)

Intercessor Together let us pray.

All **Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Silence

Presider offers a collect.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Presider Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, ourselves, and all of God's creation.

Presider and People

O God, we bring you our failure, our hunger, our disappointment, our despair, our greed, our arrogance, and our fear. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not truly loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are sorry, we are humbled, and we pray that you will strengthen us with your grace. We turn to you, O God. We renounce evil, we claim love, we choose to be made whole. Forgive us and renew us now.

Silence

Presider Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive your every sin through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (*Mt. 11:28-30*).

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

The congregation is invited to exchange signs of peace.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

The Presider offers instructions for receiving communion, and bids the offertory sentence.

Offertory Anthem

Choir

The Doxology – *Old Hundredth*

Please rise as you are comfortable.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above all life and death

Creator, Christ, and Holy Breath. Amen.

You are invited to rise, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.

The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to God.**

Presider Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Presider offers a Preface.

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:

Sanctus

The Hymnal 1982, #S125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Presider continues – you are invited to rise, sit, or kneel as you are comfortable.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all, in Jesus, your Word and Wisdom made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Jesus, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Jesus, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before Jesus died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O God of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and the Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in Christ's sacrifice, through whom may

we all be acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters, children all; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

You are invited to say whichever version of the Lord's Prayer you choose.

Presider

As our savior Christ has taught us, we now pray

**Our God in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kindom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kindom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: grant us peace.

Presider

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived and loved, died, and rose for you, and feed on Christ in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

Jesus says, "Come and see."

You are welcome at this Table, exactly as you are, because of who you are. If you feel called to the Table, please come forward to receive Communion.

At this time, the Parish of St. Paul offers a common cup as well as individual cups for receiving the consecrated wine. Please either take an individual cup (found on a front pew on the right as you approach the altar for communion) or go to the chalice bearer holding the common cup.

If you do not wish to receive the consecrated wine, please know that receiving the consecrated bread alone constitutes a full Communion.

If you do not desire Communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire a blessing.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

(The following prayer of Spiritual Communion is said privately and is intended for individuals participating remotely, and for individuals who may not wish to receive Communion or a blessing.)

In union, O God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. And since I cannot receive you today in the sacrament of bread and wine, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Postcommunion Hymn

You are invited to stand, sit, or kneel as you are comfortable.

Our Amma, Abba, Holy One

The Lord's Prayer

St. Anne

1. Our Am - ma, Ab - ba, Ho - ly One, we
2. Grant us e - nough to eat to - day. Re -
3. Teach us to love and to for - give; each

praise you far and wide. In all the earth your
 lease us from our sin to find the free - doms
 dawn, be - gin a - gain. Your jus - tice, pow'r, and

 will be done; come close and be our guide.
 of your way, the mer - cies sown with - in.
 glo - ry live for - ev - er - more, a - men.

Hannah C. Brown. William Croft, 1678-1721

Postcommunion Prayer

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable.

People and Presider

God of abundance,

you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of compassion.

You have united us with Christ,

**and you have made us one with all peoples and creatures
in heaven and on earth.**

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,

that our lives may give birth to your love in the world,

and that we may continue to make our home in your life. Amen.

Blessing

Processional Hymn

Hymnal 1982, #376 – Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Section: Praise to God Title: Joyful, joyful, we adore thee Meter: 87. 87. D Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

Announcements

Dismissal

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable.

Presider Our worship has ended, let our service begin. Go in peace to love and serve God, God's people, and God's world.

People **Thanks be to God.**



TODAY'S LITURGY

Participants

The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney – Priest-in-Charge

Tricia Tyler – Lector of First Reading and Leader of Psalm

Chris Gruener – Lector of Second Reading

Carter Lustig – Acolyte and Chalice Bearer

David Montgomery – Intercessor and Lay Eucharistic Minister

Brenda Carter – Pianist

Amy Trueblood and Mary Lou Pierron – Altar Guild

Kim Koger – Usher/Attendance

Lee Hatfield and David Montgomery – Counters

Adam Taylor – Tech

Front Cover Art

Swanson, John August. Festival of Lights, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56546> [retrieved July 17, 2025]. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

PRAYERS

In Our Diocesan Cycle Of Prayer:

For the Episcopal Church; for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, and Julia Whitworth, our Diocesan Bishop; all ministers – lay and ordained – and we pray for Church of Our Saviour, Somerset; Christ Church, Swansea; Young Adults Ministry; Youth Council, Youth Leadership Academy, and all Youth Ministries; and for the Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center.

Parish Prayer List – Prayers are Requested for:

Paul Friedman; Terry; Jim Nolan; David Murphy; David Tabors; Kristin; Deb; Tom; Sean and Jack; and for the Global Village Children's Project, the Centre Street Food Pantry, AA, and NewCity Church.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday, Amy Trueblood (July 27)!

Happy Anniversary, Kathryn and Kenneth Anderson (July 28)!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bishop is Coming! The Bishop is Coming!

Please save the date! On **Sunday, September 28**, our new bishop diocesan, the Rt. Rev. Julia Whitworth, will be doing a visitation at POSP. We look forward to welcoming her to our parish. More details forthcoming.

Delegate Needed for Diocesan Convention on Saturday, November 15

POSP is in need of a new delegate for Diocesan Convention (Tricia Tyler, whom POSP elected for the role, has a work conflict that has presented itself). If you would be interested in and willing to serve as a delegate, please let Rev. Meghan know, preferably sooner rather than later. Convention can be a very interesting and energizing experience for participants who gather together as a diocese for prayer, ministry, and mission.

Prayer List

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please email Lise in the parish office or use this QR code.



Altar Flowers

If you would like to contribute altar flowers for a thanksgiving or memorial, please be in contact with Lise in the parish office.

Pastoral Care

If you desire pastoral care for a particular need, please be in contact with Rev. Meghan. It could be as simple as a private prayer request emailed to her, or an in-person conversation about something of concern.

Receive the Parish Newsletter!

The newsletter is sent about once per week (occasionally more often if there is a pressing notice, for example, of snow cancellation, etc.). The newsletter contains reflections from parishioners, and *lots* of information and announcements about our diocese, the greater church, and other goings-on in and around town and in the world, that are not printed in this bulletin.

Scan to access
this week's newsletter



Scan to sign up to
receive the newsletter



Can Redemption Volunteers

Volunteers sought to assist with can redemption for the Plenty ministry. Please connect with Christopher Gruener or speak with Rev. Meghan if you can assist.



Staff and Office Hours

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney – meghan@parishofstpaul.org. Office Hours: In-Person, usually on Wednesday, 9am -1pm and by appointment (please email Rev. Meghan directly if you would like to make an appointment).

Parish Administrator: Lise Brody – office@parishofstpaul.org. Office Hours (may vary): Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-1pm

Vestry

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to be in touch with your vestry. The next Vestry Meeting happens on Wednesday, August 20.

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney

Co-Warden: Kim Koger, mkskoger5@gmail.com

Co-Warden: David Montgomery, dmontgomery@montlegal.com

Treasurer: Richard Pearce, Richard@northinfo.com

Clerk: Bernice Cramer, bernicecramer@gmail.com

Kathryn Anderson, kmanderson.english@gmail.com

Chris Gruener, crossroadscounseling101@gmail.com

Lee Hatfield, leebateshatfield@verizon.net

Dustin Ledgard, ledgarddustin@gmail.com

Elected Parish Leaders

Delegates to the Charles River Deanery: David Montgomery and Mary Lou Pierron

Delegate to the Diocesan Convention: Jack Blay

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