

# the COURIER

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## Prayer, the Art of Knowing Self

Padraig O'Tuama writes in the introduction to "Daily Prayers with the Corrymeela Community", that "prayer can be the art the helps you name your desire." Prayer, he says, is rhythm, comfort, even disappointment. Prayer is words and shape, desire and sorrow. Prayer is how I come to know myself as God sees me. Prayer is how I come to know what God hopes for me. Because he was born and raised near Belfast, and lived through the decades of conflict between Protestants and Roman Catholics, O'Tuama asks, what is the prayer for conflict? This is prayer that is both gentle and courageous, humble and fierce. We live in challenging times, fraught with public conflict and civil discord. Prayer is one of our important tools for finding peace and courage, and for learning what God desires of us in these times. Here is one of O'Tuama's prayers:

Prayer for Courage  
Courage comes from the heart  
And we are always welcomed by God,  
The heart of all being.

We bear witness to our faith,  
Knowing that we are called  
To live lives of courage,  
Love, and reconciliation  
In the ordinary and extraordinary  
Moments of each day.

We bear witness, too, to our failures  
And our complicity in the fractures of our world.

May we be courageous today.  
May we learn today.  
May we love today.  
Amen.

On Monday, October 5 at 7:30pm, for the Monday Night Forum, I will present the results of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) that many members of Christ Church took in January and February of this year. The IDI is a tool that is used by the United States Air Force, many international corporations, and universities with international students, to assess the intercultural competency of their employees/students and create a plan for developing greater intercultural awareness. For those of you who have received your personal profile and plan you have learned where you are developmentally, in your capacity to recognize the similarities and differences between the culture you live in and other cultures. As a congregation we have a generalized plan that is created from combining all of our profiles to see where we average out.

Because we live in a diverse community of English speaking Christians and Arabic speaking Christians, Arab Muslims, African Americans, and Black and Brown people from other ethnic heritages, Christ Church has the unique opportunity to fully embrace diversity as part of our God given reality. No doubt there is a lot of tension around what diversity means – Black Lives Matter, all lives matter, and the ideology of white supremacy are dominant concepts in the news and in our lives.

Join the Monday Night Forum for a small dive into where we are, developmentally, in our capacity to do this work as well as we'd like, and where we want to be as a faith community. A ZOOM link will be emailed to you on Monday, October 5.

*In Peace,  
Pastor Terri*

*By Kevin Green, Treasurer*

any of you who are interested to join us (no finance or accounting experience required). We currently meet virtually each month although when the news is this good, the meetings don't last too long.

8/31/2020	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	2020 BUDGET
INCOME	\$141,844.34	\$138,345.57	\$240,983.00
EXPENSE	\$190,757.72	\$199,742.79	\$305,072.96
NET	(\$48,913.38)	(\$61,397.22)	(\$64,089.96)



**Who:** All children from Christ Church and Mother of the Savior

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# A WORD FROM OUR CURATE

## TIME IN THE SEASON OF COVID-19

By Curate Halim Shukair

Since the lockdown started in March 2020 because of the Covid-19 virus, I find myself lost in time. I need to check my calendar a couple of times a day to find out what day of the week we are in and to remind myself of the tasks I must accomplish on this day. I bet most of you have struggled with the issue of time in this Coronavirus season which has changed our normal life in the past six months. Time has new meaning in this pandemic, and we struggle each day to grasp the sense of time in this new order.

There are two moments in our life we tend to reflect on the sense of time. The gift of time that God has given us and what to do with it.

The first moment starts at our baptism, as we contemplate the great unfolding of this new life, the possibilities it holds, and how the future will be made bright according to the various decisions we take in our life. Then we reach a moment when we look back at our life and we celebrate the moments of our life with all its sadness and joys and we feel the sense of time.

As we invest ourselves in time, as much as we try to cling to it, we realize something intangible, something we live through and we become attached to it too deeply.

Now as we continue to journey in this challenging and uncertain time in this season of Covid, we wish that time is different, that things are good, stable, and unfold nicely. Sometimes we don't realize the unfolding time, we even don't no-

tice the time when things are challenging or confusing. But it can help us to understand that in life there are good times, bad times, prosperity, and time of great trials.

This realization leads to look deep inside us and to contemplate that it is not a matter of what is going around us, but what happens inside us, that when we are faced with times of uncertainty and trials we need to deepen our faith in hope that for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- 2 a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- 5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to  
gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- 6 a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
- 7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- 8 a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NRSV)*

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## HOUSE CHURCH

House Church – an opportunity to gather with a small group of people, in your home if you wish or using zoom, to pray and have conversation. Each house church will need someone to be the convener who will call the group together and host it. Members of the group will decide who leads what portion of the worship. Terri and Halim will provide materials for you to use including prayers and scripture; but you are free to adapt these anyway you wish in order to make the house church worship time meaningful for you and your group. You can have just a simple prayer and time to talk. You can have music and poetry and time to talk. You can have a more formal prayer service; the choice is yours. Plan on meeting about once a week from the middle of September until the end of November, which is when Advent begins.

If you are willing to be a convener of a house group let Terri and Halim know. If you would like to be part of group but not the convener, let us know that too. It would be great to have 5 conveners and about 25 people who would like to part of a house group so that each group has about 6 people. People do not need to be parishioners, you can create a group with others that you know so that the group feels comfortable.

Elaine Belz will serve as trainer and coach for House Church Conveners and House Church participants. Email the church office to sign up to be a convener and/or participant and we'll get you organized with Elaine.

Elaine is an adjunct professor of theology at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Detroit. She is a member of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, where she became an Episcopalian just over 20 years ago. She also sings in the cathedral choir.

Elaine earned her PhD at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. While in California, she worked as a verger at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, where she was intimately involved in liturgies of all kinds. She routinely led Evening Prayer, as well as Morning Prayer and occasionally Ante-Communion, and served as lay assistant in weekday Eucharist services. She also directed the Altar Guild.

Elaine currently lives in Detroit.

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## VESTRY REFLECTION

### ALL GOD'S CREATURES

By Barbara Hall

I began a new subscription from Guideposts in July 2020: a daily booklet about God's creation—with reference to animals. I have been fairly faithful in reading each day (on any day that I'm supposed to) with a few exceptions—missed a day or two here and there. But I always catch up, it's such an exciting little piece of information about God's love for all His creations. I can't stay away from it.

The daily articles are written by ordinary people with reference to Bible verses that are applicable to the topic for that particular day. Each day begins after the Bible verse with various situations pertaining to an animal, be it as small as an insect, bird, household pet or as large as a horse, even animals in the wild.

Some situations are humorous, as in the case of Hamlet the pig (Monday, August 31). Hamlet had gotten out of his pen and it took 3 or 4 family members to get the pig back into his pen, securely locked, they thought! Walking back to the house from the shed where the pig resided, they were amazed to see Hamlet pass them by! That smart pig had found another way to freedom. The family, by this time was tired and muddy from Hamlet's reluctance to enter his pen.

Family members eventually commandeered the pig and put him back into his residence. Then, they secured all the possible escape route. Nothing more was said, we know Hamlet's experiences after that.

Other articles have God's creatures in down to earth positions and there are times on the pages that really make you think.

The articles then compare the human side with the face to face activities of every day giving that humans have to deal with in the crazy world of 2020. Covid-19 being the main area issue, along with politics and the upcoming election.

If we have good, faithful friends who can inspire us and lift us up, we can be the person God wants us to be. If companions are unworthy, they can drag us down and put us in the mud with Hamlet, who doesn't mind the mud.

The articles end with a personal prayer, a Bible verse or statements from historical figures (Walter Winchell, C.S. Lewis...)

This is one subscription I will continue to renew!

God's blessing to all.

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## MY TIME AT CHRIST CHURCH

By Allison Barone

As my time here at Christ Episcopal Church, Dearborn comes to an end, I feel very fortunate for the opportunities I've had here. Looking back, I think of two highlights. The first would be working with Pastor Terri to create an Advent liturgy that reflected the importance of Mary as the Theotokos, or the God-bearer. We looked at different prayers, reflections, and even hymnals that reflected the historical importance of Mary and other women in the Bible. I led the choir in singing "Mary, Did You Know?", a piece that meditates on the thoughts and feelings Mary must have gone through during Jesus' life. This perspective has been and will continue to be influential to my views on the Church and teachings of the Bible. Second, sharing "The Color of Law" through a book group and forum over the last few months was a great way to combine my passion for racial equity with the community at Christ Church. We met several times and learned both from the text and each other. We had very interesting discussions about steps that could be taken to increase racial equity in housing as well as other facets of life. Through our weekly meetings, we decided we wanted to host a forum to share it with the congregation. Seeing the impact this information had on members of our smaller book group and those who joined us in forum reminded me of the power of sharing things with your faith community. While I am saddened to be leaving Christ Church, I know the things I have learned here will remain with me and hope that some of the things I have said and done here will remain with you all as well.

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## BAPTIZED FOR LIFE

By Pastor Terri

The Baptized for Life team invites you to join us for gatherings on the third Wednesday evening of the month. We will gather on October 21, November 18, and December 16 from 6:30-8:30pm. Please feel free to join us with your evening meal. We are all invited to include one shared ingredient in our meals. For the month of October please use a root vegetable (carrot, potato, parsnip, etc.) as an ingredient in your meal.

We will have time to socialize, reflect on faith, food, and culture, and continue to grow our beloved community's Partnership in Faith.





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## COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Continuing through November, you and your friends are invited to gather via ZOOM on Monday nights from 7:30-8:30 pm. A series of themed topics will be rotated focusing on Justice, Music, Spirituality, and a game we are making up called, "Stump the Clergy." Justice nights will be focused on some issue relevant to the world today. Music will be led by Matt Sallman who has offered a Monday night music gathering for a couple of years. Music offerings range from Jazz to Blues to Classic Rock and others. Spirituality will offer a topic designed to enhance, deepen, or inform one's spiritual life. And stump the clergy will be an opportunity for people to submit questions for the clergy on scripture, theology, faith, church history, or any topic that pertains to Christian life. The clergy will not know the questions ahead of time and will try to answer from memory or take a wild guess. Will they provide the right answer? Come and find out. Each of these nights should be fun and engaging, with time to socialize. Invite others to attend. A zoom link will be sent out for these evening gatherings.

### October

- 5 Justice: CECD IDI and Intercultural Development Continuum
- 11 Music: Matt Sallman
- 18 Spirituality: Scripture and the Book of Common Prayer
- 25 Stump the clergy: submit questions to Erin in the office. Someone will be appointed to choose questions to ask Terri and Halim who will answer from memory or take their best guess. The person asking the question will have the correct answer

### November

- 2 Justice (All Souls' Day): topic to be determined
- 9 Music: Matt Sallman
- 16 Spirituality: to be determined
- 23 Stump the clergy

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On Sunday, Oct. 25 send photos of yourself wearing a costume and/or show up for worship wearing a costume.

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## October Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

Leah Ventura	OCT 7
Robert McCullam	OCT 12
Marian Kachadurian	OCT 15
Todd Kappauf	OCT 18
Carol Kery	OCT 23
Daniel Pawa	OCT 23
Karen Lewis	OCT 25
Lori Phillips	OCT 25
Jan Motsinger	OCT 26
Mary Trimble	OCT 31

### ANNIVERSARIES

James Connelly & Jeanne Martens	OCT 12 (29)
Christopher & Leah Ventura	OCT 12 (18)
Daniel & Erika Stanis	OCT 20 (19)
Michael Mroczyk & Martha Amis	OCT 25 (23)
Nick Bell & Carolyn Blackmore	OCT 28 (32)

## COMING SOON!

### A PICTURE DIRECTORY

*By Erin Biggs*

Our church management software allows us to add pictures to our directory. Please take and email a picture of those in your household, to have them included in our directory. Email pictures and any updates to your contact information to the office:  
[office@christchurchdearborn.org](mailto:office@christchurchdearborn.org)



### NOVEMBER COURIER SUBMISSIONS

Submit news and articles for the November issue of the Courier by October 26th to [office@christchurchdearborn.org](mailto:office@christchurchdearborn.org). Please add Courier to the subject line.



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#### OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry**, Bishop  
**The Rev. Terri Pilarski**, Rector  
**Lynn Becker**, Sr. Warden  
**Dale Taylor, Jr.**, Warden  
**Kevin Green**, Treasurer  
**Matthew Sallman**, Clerk

#### STAFF

**Allison Barone**, Music Director  
**Erin Biggs**, Office Manager  
**Tess Dowgiallo**, Children's Choir Director  
**John Jones**, Sexton  
**The Rev. Halim Shukair**, Curate

#### VESTRY

**Jean Angel**  
**Lynn Becker**  
**Barbara Hall**  
**Stephanie Mulkern**  
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**Dale Taylor**  
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