



Friday Bulletin

Good Shepherd E-News

26 May 2023

The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio

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This Upcoming Sunday

Seventh Sunday of Easter

28 May 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship (Bulletin)

Service: Holy Eucharist B

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Lois Wagner

Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte: Lynn
Graham

Eucharistic Minister/Prayer Leader:
David Burton

Altar Guild: David Burton

Coffee Hour Host: Anne Walker

Cantor/Soloist: Benjamin South

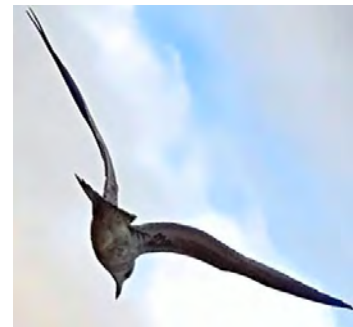
LESSONS for Pentecost

New Testament – Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-21

Psalm – 104: 25-35, 37 (Sung)

Epistle – I Corinthians 12: 3b-13

Gospel – John 20: 19-23



<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

Reflection

The Power of a Song

Is there a song that whenever you hear it, you feel instantly transported to a different time and place? That makes you remember and feel close to friends or family, even if they are far away or perhaps gone? If you do, you are fortunate. It's close to magic.

Whenever I hear the song *Friends* by Michael W. Smith and Debbie Smith, I am instantly transported to the past, standing in a large circle, with my arms around the shoulders of people who I had just spent a week with at church camp and feeling their arms around my shoulders. We have tears in our eyes as we sing along because this is the song that ended every week of church camp. It was part of how we learned how to say goodbye as followers of Jesus.

This week this song came to mind during my morning prayers. It's no wonder that the Holy Spirit whispered this song to me. We've said goodbye to a lot of people at Church of the Good Shepherd in the last year. This week we said goodbye to longtime member Julie Nehls, who was 102 years old and loves Good Shepherd and Athens so much it is hard to let her go. And, of course we are also getting ready to say goodbye as parish and priest, which is not easy to do either.

Saying goodbye can be especially difficult if you have not learned how to say goodbye well. There are ways to say goodbye that respect people and the relationships we've made. This is one of the lessons I learned at church camp. Even though camp only lasted one week, the last two days were dedicated to saying goodbye. When I think about that, it seems like a waste that so much time would be dedicated to parting ways. But maybe there was wisdom in the amount of time church camp dedicated to saying goodbye. Because some of the friendships I made at camp led to more relationships and spiritual growth and I still am still friends with many of those people, even though we are far away and have changed so much since we were teenagers.

While it might seem like there are so many goodbyes going on right now, perhaps the Holy Spirit reminded me of the song *Friends* to remind us that there is something holy in goodbyes because God's love transforms goodbyes into never ending welcome.

Many Blessings,

Mother Deborah

Coming up on the Calendar

Sunday, May 28, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, June 4, 10:30 a.m. - - Rev. Woolsey's last service (Sharing Cabinet)

Sunday, June 4, 11:30 a.m. - - Farewell Luncheon

Sunday, June 11, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Rev. Canon Michael Spencer officiating)

Looking Ahead

Sunday, June 11, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Rev. Canon Michael Spencer, officiating)

Schedules

Coffee Hour Schedule

May 28	Anne Walker
June 4th	Luncheon
June 11	Lynn Graham
June 18	Lois Wagner
June 25	Dana Carlson

Open Dates for Altar Flowers

in June: 4th, 18th, 25th

[To Altar Flower Open Dates and Procedure.](#)

Notes & Announcements

Heartfelt Gratitude

For everyone who helped make Julie Nehls' service so beautiful. Mother Deborah heard from many of the 102 people who attended in person who thought it was a lovely service. If you visit the church's Facebook page, you can read the comments from



some of the 24 people who watched the service when it was livestreamed.

Thank you for making it a beautiful day.

Here is a link to the [printed version of the Homily](#).



Pentecost Sunday May 28

There are so many ways to celebrate Pentecost:

- Whether you join us in person or online, please **WEAR SOMETHING RED** (if you have it) on Pentecost Sunday. It is a fun way to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit that touched and continues to touch everyone.
- We are thrilled to be **baptizing Kailey Klimkowski** on Pentecost Sunday. The feast of Pentecost is one of the days the Book of Common Prayers suggests is especially appropriate for baptisms.
- **CAKE!** It's such a special day, we must have cake at coffee hour following the service to celebrate.

Why We Wear Red on Pentecost Sunday

The tradition of wearing the color red originates from Acts of the Apostles 2:1-5, the first part of the account of the Holy Spirit's descent among Jesus' followers. Of course, this event was so powerful there is no possible way to describe it literally. Some things transcend written language. So the author did the best they could and said it felt like wind blowing and it looked like everyone in the room had something hanging over them, something indescribable and the best way the author found to communicate what they say or experienced was it looked like "tongues of fire" or a "flame".

Of course, a flame of fire can be many colors: yellow, red, orange, even blue. Red is picked because red is also the color of passion. And the arrival of the Holy Spirit was passionate in that it motivated people to leave their room and go out into the streets loudly and joyfully talking about Jesus.

Wearing red on Pentecost isn't intended to replicate that indescribable experience. It is intended to be a fun way of representing how everyone of all ages, colors, abilities, genders, races, socio-economic status, class, level of education, etc. are all included. The Holy Spirit chooses us all and touches us all.

So, if you have it, please wear something red on Sunday in celebration of the birth of the church and gift of the Holy Spirit.

NAMI Memorial Day on the Ridges 1:00 p.m., May 29

Mother Deborah will be giving the prayer at NAMI's Memorial Day service. This is a lovely service that remembers the names of people who have been forgotten by the institution that cared for them. Like all good observances of Memorial Day, it also inspires us to care for each other.

June 4 is Mother Deborah's Last Sunday

Please join us in person or online for Mother Deborah's last Sunday at Church of the Good Shepherd. For those who have not heard, Mother Deborah has accepted the call to serve as the next Rector of St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Minocqua, Wisconsin. Please join us as we say goodbye to Mother Deborah and Michael and wish them well.

Luncheon on Sunday, June 4

As a way of wishing Mo. Deborah and Michael Godspeed, the Marthas will serve a luncheon after church in Nehls Hall. The menu will include Chicken Enchilada casserole (gluten-free and not spicy), salad, bread, iced tea and cake. All one needs to do is show up with an appetite!



Boiler Alert

As you probably know, we heat the church during winter with steam produced by boiler system in the basement. Our boilers, now 43 years old and well past their twenty (20) year expected life, are badly corroded and work only at 60% efficiency. In addition, we have a hot water heater that works 24/7. With rising utility costs, especially the recent announcement from AEP that electric rates will increase by about 30% in June, it seems a huge waste of our resources to have the water heater operating all day every day when the church facilities are being used less.

At its May meeting, the Green Committee presented to Vestry a proposal that (1) we replace those boilers along with (2) a more efficient system of providing hot water to the church. New boilers will be 95% efficient; a tankless/pilotless water heater will provide hot water only when needed for the restrooms, the Sacristy and the kitchen. The combined cost of both systems is \$39,996. Following discussion, Vestry decided, unanimously, that replacing both is urgent, especially that we are now in warmer months.

Vestry is asking for your help in financing the cost. To date, we have donations of \$5900, a diocesan Energy Efficiency (Creation Care) grant of \$5350, and a \$10,000 diocesan loan. We are also writing a grant

proposal to the Church Foundation, but chances of getting that are less certain. Because energy utilities are expected to rise sharply this summer, we must try to keep our gas and electric bills as low as possible. Please prayerfully consider donating to this important project.

Timeline for Mother Deborah and Michael

June 4 Mother Deborah's last Sunday at Church of the Good Shepherd.

June 6-8 Mother Deborah and Michael will pack up her church office.

June 12 Movers will load Mother Deborah and Michael's belongings into the moving truck to transport them to Wisconsin.

June 15-20 Mother Deborah and Michael's stuff will be delivered to their new house in Minocqua, Wisconsin.

July 2 Mother Deborah's first Sunday at St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Minocqua, Wisconsin.

What Happens After Mother Deborah Leaves?

The Rev. Can. Michael Spencer, the Canon for Transitional Ministry will be at Church of the Good Shepherd on Sunday, June 11. He will celebrate the Eucharist and preach at 10:30 am. Canon Spencer oversees the process of helping parishes find their next rector. He will be available after the service to answer questions and he will meet with the vestry.

Remember, if you can't be there in person, you can watch the service on the church's Facebook page.

Repeats & More

If you want to help the folks who have been negatively impacted by environmental disaster and war anywhere in the world please consider contributing to **Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)** which is the official ministry of the Episcopal Church. You can select which fund, such as Ukraine Crisis Response.



For Bishop Transition News and Updates

[-- Follow this link --](#)

The haze we have seen for the past several days is high-altitude smoke that has drifted all the way from the forest fires in western Canada. This makes for interesting sunsets. (View from the Foster's in Marietta.)



Contacts & Information

Contact Information

For pastoral needs, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895 (cell) or 740-593-6877 (church), or by e-mail at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com.

To find out more about Good Shepherd and other matters, please contact Alex Buckley, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5513 or by e-mail at macbuck@yahoo.com.

For maintenance matters, please leave a note at the office or contact Dana Carlson, Junior Warden, at 740-664-2022 or by e-mail at carlsondana@hotmail.com.

For emergencies, please call Alex Buckley, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5513

NON-emergency messages can be left on the church's answering machine (740-593-6877). The parish office administrator is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877) or barbara@chogs.org.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons

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[DONATE to Good Shepherd](#)

This takes you to the Parish Home page where you can donate on line via PayPal. If you have a preference, please indicate on the the "Add special instructions to the seller" section the purpose of the donation—e.g. Covid Memorial, plate collection, etc.

Check out the Church's [YouTube Channel](#).

LIKE us on Facebook [Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 45701](#)

Office Hours:
10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The Diocese COVID Guidelines request all persons wear masks inside the church building regardless of vaccination status.

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