



# ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

The Newsletter of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkinsburg PA

FEBRUARY 2025

## Morning Prayer at St. Stephen's

On the first Wednesday of each month, at 10:30 AM, St. Stephen's holds a Morning Prayer service. Morning Prayer is one of the daily prayer offices. Office, in this context, refers to an official set of prescribed prayers to be said at appointed times throughout the day. In addition to the Morning Prayer office, the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) also provides instructions for the offices of Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline, which is the final office of the day.

The intent of the BCP for these daily prayer offices is that the faithful come together in their local parishes and offer the same set of prayers within the same general time frame as do the participants in the other parishes. This notion harkens back to early monastic times when the monks in each monastery would gather, in their respective chapels, at set times (generally seven times a day) to sing and chant the hymns, prayers, and scriptures prescribed for that day and that time of day.

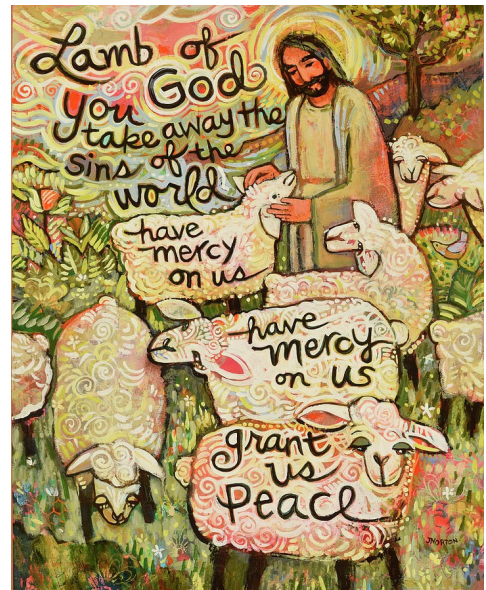
The Morning Prayer office consists of: formal prayers, including confession and the creed, recited together; scripture passages which participants take turns reading aloud; and responsorial recitation of psalms. Scripture readings include lessons from the Old and New Testaments and the Gospel for that day. Canticles (lyrical and poetic songs of praise) are taken from scripture and recited; various Collects are used. All of these elements are included in the Morning Prayer office, in accordance with the instructions and guidance provided in the BCP.

Copies are provided of the day's morning liturgy, laid out seamlessly to eliminate the need for page hopping in the BCP. The Morning Prayer office lasts 30-40 minutes.

*Splendor and honor and kingly power  
are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is,  
and by your will they were created and have their being;  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God  
From every family, language, people, and nation,  
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.*

[A Song to the Lamb, Canticle 18]

-Dave Swatzler



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO  
PLANNED FOR AND CAME TO THE  
ANNUAL MEETING. GOD IS GOOD!

New Vestry Members!

Karen Teulle and Bruce Frey

A special thanks to the outgoing vestry members, Gerry Dalton and Ernie Scott, for your faithful service. The vestry works hard to keep our church going. Thank a vestry member when you see him or her!

Ash Wednesday, March 5, begins the Lenten season. On Shrove Tuesday, March 4, we will host our annual pancake dinner from 5-7 p.m. Hope you can come, and bring your palm crosses and branches from last year so Father Chuck can use them to make ashes for Ash Wednesday!

## PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY

*O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

*- Book of Common Prayer*

## LENTEN SERIES

The Lenten Series will begin on March 11. Each Tuesday evening in Lent, we will meet at a different church to eat a meal at 6 p.m. and then worship together at 7 p.m. with Holy Eucharist, a sermon and hymns. Please put it on your calendar!

Tuesday, March 11 at Calvary, East Liberty – The Rev. Guy Brown preaching

Tuesday, March 18 at St. Matthew's, Homestead – The Rev. Canon Kim Karashin

Tuesday, March 25 at Redeemer, Squirrel Hill – The Rev. Deanna Briody

Tuesday, April 1 at St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg – The Rev. Jean Chess

Tuesday, April 8 at St. Andrew's, Highland Park – The Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Morning Prayer happens the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. See you on February 5!



## FOOD OF THE MONTH

HOT CEREALS AND BOXED DINNERS



## Comfort and Care Home Meal Prep in the Kitchen

The mission of Comfort and Care Home Care is to enrich the lives of seniors with intellectual disabilities by aligning the appropriate resources and fostering independence and overall well-being with a supportive and comforting environment. On Monday and Tuesday mornings, they will be using our kitchen to prepare meals they deliver to homes. If you see them, say hello!

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

### JEREMIAH'S PLACE

*"Since our opening in 2014, Jeremiah's Place remains the only crisis nursery in our community providing emergency childcare for families in need throughout Pittsburgh and surrounding areas."*

All services provided by Jeremiah's Place are available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, and most importantly, judgement free.

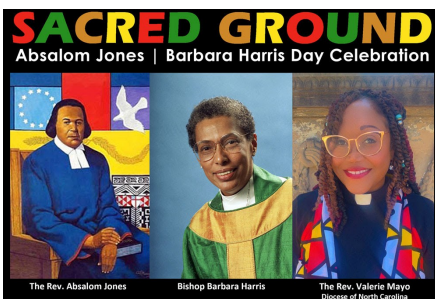
At Jeremiah's Place our vision is to provide families with support in caring for their young children when they need it most, we hope to create a community that is a safe and nurturing place for all children to thrive.

We offer emergency childcare for children ages 0 to 6. Children can stay with us for a few hours or a few days based on the needs of each individual family."

You can write a check to Jeremiah's Place and place in the offering plate or

check out Jeremiah's Place website at

[Welcome! - Jeremiah's Place \(jeremiahsplace.org\)](http://jeremiahsplace.org)



## Absalom Jones Day

Saturday, February 8, at 10 a.m.

Trinity Cathedral, 328 Sixth Ave, Pittsburgh

Absalom Jones was the first African American Episcopal Priest. Barbara Harris was the first woman ordained in the Episcopal Church. We will celebrate their lives and their legacies. Eric McIntosh will be the celebrant, The Reverend Valerie Mayo will preach, and the musical offering will be by Fresh Anointing.

Please join us!

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 12-Gregory Sprenkel

February 26-Veronica Kovach

February 28-Father Chuck



## FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"We are called to speak for the weak,  
for the voiceless, for the victims of our  
nation and for those it calls enemy, for  
no document from human hands can  
make these humans any less our  
brothers and sisters."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

"One cannot deny the humanity of an-  
other without diminishing one's own."

~ James A. Baldwin

"Make a difference about something  
other than yourselves."

~ Toni Morrison

## BISHOP'S VISIT



Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Contact Us

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[www.ststephenswilkinsburg.org](http://www.ststephenswilkinsburg.org)

Parish Staff

Rev. Chuck Esposito, Priest

Soon Choi, Dir. of Music Ministry

Melanie Sprenkel, Parish Ministry  
Coordinator

Gerry Dalton, Financial Admin.

Elise Morris, Archivist & Historian

Greg Gent, Caretaker

