Photo by Nancy Palluti

# THE MESSENGER

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF
CHRIST CHURCH, DUANESBURG, NEW YORK

✠ JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2022 ✠

## RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

### VACATION OR HOLIDAY?

With Summer upon us (well just around the corner) the idea of having a time away to rest or recharge the batteries comes to mind. Here in the States this time away is called 'vacation'. To my ears it sounds like you either have left your house or abandoned it completely. The root of the word, according to the Online Etymology Dictionary, is from an Old French word meaning, 'the freedom from obligations, leisure or release from some activity or occupation.'

The equivalent British word is 'holiday'. The root meaning of which is 'holy-day' - a day set aside for a religious observance. Today, however, the word has lost its connection with a holy observance and has come to mean the same a vacation.

In Biblical times there wasn't a direct equivalent to our modern vacation, instead there were festivals. These festivals were celebrations of God's goodness or deliverance and usually involved a pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices and give thanks for his provision. Festivals were times, not only of religious observance, but also of social gathering with extended family and friends, good food and storytelling. I'm sure the festivals would have felt like vacation as the people were freed from their obligations and occupations to attend.

You might not be going to a religious festival or holy pilgrimage this summer, but I pray that you will get away from your obligations and occupations and have a restful, restorative vacation or holiday!

Blessings,

*Fr. Alistair* ✠

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# CHRIST CHURCH PICNICS HAVE A LONG HISTORY

When June rolls around, the Vestry at Christ Church always has an important item on the agenda for discussion and that topic is the annual church picnic or, as sometimes called, the Sunday School picnic. Over the past 60 years, at least, some sort of summer social get together has been held almost every year. The picnics have been held at various locations and have always been very well attended. The Vestry and Rectors have always known the importance of scheduling social events to help create an atmosphere of "family" within the congregation. On a couple of occasions, due to weather, the picnic was actually held at the Parish Hall after it was expanded and remodeled in 1996. But for the most part, the picnics have been held off site. Here is a list of June/July picnics and their locations organized by the Vestry going back to the 1950s.

1950s: The first Sunday School picnic in this author's memory was at the Mott farm located just off Route 20 west of Duanesburg and the former location of Scott's Printing. The main attraction was the farm pond which featured a floating dock from which swimmers could jump or dive. Chuck, Alice and their son, Russell were the "hosts." Hot dogs and hamburgers were supplemented by salads and desserts from the congregation.

1960s: At least one or two additional picnics were held at Mott's. In the latter 60s, Christ Church suffered a "slump" in attendance and enthusiasm. Sadly, picnics were few and far between.

1970s: Members of the Vestry and congregation traveled to Thacher Park in order to access the pool then in operation (the water was always ice cold). The park featured the advantage of having softball fields and the attendees from the ages of 8 – 40 chose up teams and engaged in enthusiastic ball games. On one Sunday afternoon at the Thacher Park picnic, a local celebrity held a music concert. It was Skip Parsons and His Riverboat Jazz Band! Lovers of music were thrilled at this unexpected experience.

1980s: Thacher Park remained a popular destination for the picnic but on several occasions, the Lennox/Chamberlain family opened their camp on The Great Sacandaga Lake to the congregation and a large number of parishioners traveled to Mayfield to swim and eat hot dogs.

1990s: The Featherstonhaugh family invited the congregation to their home just east of Duanesburg and hosted the picnic for a number of years. Their pool and grilling facilities were very much appreciated along with superior hospitality. On several occasions, the Sunday morning service was conducted on the front porch of the "Duane Mansion" and the picnic commenced immediately following the service.

2000s: In the early part of the decade an attempt was made to hold the picnic at the Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich. The long distance away from Duanesburg deterred many members of the congregation from attending and it was eventually determined that VanPatten Mill Park, the Town Park in Duanesburg just off Depot Road, was a better option. The park features a softball field, basketball court and a nice pavilion with picnic tables.

2010s: The annual picnic continued at VanPatten Mill Park until 2019 when the Goblet family hosted the picnic at Hessian Hill Farm near Gallupville. The picnic was a great success but, unfortunately, was the last picnic prior to the pandemic of 2020-21.

2020s: The Church Picnic will make a comeback this year with a return to VanPatten Mill Park. One historical note for those who plan to attend is that the road to the park is built on the former railroad bed of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. You should note the absolute straight line and level grade of the former rail bed which used to carry trains from the coal fields of Pennsylvania to Delanson (once the largest coal storage location in the world!) and on to Schenectady. As is the tradition, the Vestry will provide hot dogs and hamburgers and the attendees will bring their own drinks along with salads and desserts to share. ✠

# The Poetry Corner

## The Mariner's Wife

By Camille Crandall

She went down to the harbor each day;
It was her little get-away
There she'd ponder her thoughts at bay
And meditate

About the joys in life
All the toil and strife
Her role as his wife
And she'd contemplate

On what to do
For she was blue
She hadn't a clue
So she'd gravitate

To thoughts of the past
When he was home at last
How the time went so fast
But they'd celebrate.

Now he was gone again
Won't return until when
Seems a lifetime or ten
For it's his avocation.

For a mariner was he
Heading out to the sea
So she prayed he would be
Safe to navigate.

Meanwhile as he did roam
She'd remain in their home
Used to being alone
Knowing loneliness would mitigate

When he returned from his voyage
Along with his baggage
And relayed travel knowledge
For which she would fascinate.

Then happy they'd be
With their hearts full of glee
'Til he headed to sea
Again… ✠

# ✠ JUNE 2022 ✠

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **1**<br>Jasmine Therrion | **2**<br>John Chandler<br>Tonya & Kyle Rudolphsen | **3** | **4** |
| **5 DAY OF PENTECOST**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am**<br>**Joyful Journey – 10am**<br>Andrea Fortman | **6** | **7**<br>Matthew Fortman | **8**<br>Billy Lucia | **9** | **10** | **11** |
| **12 PENTECOST 1**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am**<br>**Joyful Journey – 10am**<br>Devin O'Brien, Audrey Rudolphsen | **13** | **14** | **15**<br>**Vestry Mtg – 7pm** | **16** | **17**<br>Joan Langston, Deborah Van Zink<br>Rachel & Devin O'Brien | **18** |
| **19 PENTECOST 2**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am**<br>**Joyful Journey – 10am** | **20**<br>Samantha Moses | **21**<br>Adam & Dianne Acevedo | **22**<br>Ryan & Tricia Moses | **23** | **24** | **25** |
| **26 PENTECOST 3**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am**<br>**Annual Parish Picnic**<br>John & Elizabeth Iseman | **27** | **28** | **29**<br>Dan Menzies, Eva Weyers | **30**<br>Wyatt & Jodi Moller | | |

# ✠ JULY 2022 ✠

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | **1** John Michael Iseman | **2** Caitlin Menzies, Tricia Moses |
| **3 PENTECOST 4**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am**<br> Paul Munson IV, Michael Kosier | **4 Independence Day**<br> Carl Breitenstein | **5** | **6** Bonnie Kerr, Evie Kosier | **7** Molly Powers, Margaret Bernstein | **8** | **9** |
| **10 PENTECOST 5**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am** | **11** Cal Weyers | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** Alexander Rabideau, Terry Williams |
| **17 PENTECOST 6**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am**<br> Jim & Barbara Featherstonhaugh | **18** | **19** John Weiler, Michael Walsh | **20**<br>**Vestry Mtg – 7pm** | **21** | **22** | **23** Bobby & Allison Chandler |
| **24 PENTECOST 7**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am** | **25** | **26** Charlotte O'Brien | **27** | **28** Camille Crandall | **29** Gene McInnis | **30** |
| **31 PENTECOST 8**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am** | | | | | | |

# ✠ AUGUST 2022 ✠

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1**<br>Ed McKinley | **2**<br>Britt & Hector Eliott | **3** | **4** | **5**<br>Brandon Hammond | **6** |
| **7 PENTECOST 9**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am** | **8**<br>Emily Iseman Denny<br>Rick & Laura Lucia | **9** | **10**<br>Steve & Sherry Schrade | **11**<br>Kennedy Chandler | **12**<br>Mia Moses | **13** |
| **14 PENTECOST 10**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am** | **15** | **16** | **17**<br>**Vestry Mtg – 7pm** | **18**<br>Jodi Miller | **19**<br>Brendan Warner, Margot Williams | **20** |
| **21 PENTECOST 11**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am**<br>Olivia Munson | **22**<br>Curtis Rabideau, Nora Barker<br>Bob & Cindy Skala | **23** | **24** | **25**<br>Theresa Munson | **26** | **27** |
| **28 PENTECOST 12**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am**<br>Benjamin Barker | **29**<br>Laura Fischer | **30** | **31** | | | |

The whole church watched with nervous anticipation
as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.

***Christ Church is a worshiping community of friends, joyfully serving, encouraging and healing others in Jesus's name.***

*The parish is located at:*
*132 Duanesburg Churches Rd,*
*Duanesburg, NY, on the corner of*
*Rt. 20 and Duanesburg Churches Rd.*

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*Phil Sayles – Jr. Warden*
*Judy Breitenstein*
*Cindy Creasy*
*Laura Lucia*
*Heather MacDougall*
*Nancy Palluti*
*Andrea Salisbury*
*Steven Schrade*

***Treasurer:***
*Laura Lucia*

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