

St. George's Episcopal Church, Milford

February 5, 2026 EBlast

A Joint Letter from 154 Bishops of The Episcopal Church - Whose Dignity Matters?

A message to our fellow Americans

We, the undersigned bishops of The Episcopal Church, write today out of grief, righteous anger, and steadfast hope.

What happened a week ago in Minnesota and is happening in communities across the country runs counter to God's vision of justice and peace. This crisis is about more than one city or state—it's about who we are as a nation. The question before us is simple and urgent: Whose dignity matters?

In the wake of the tragic deaths of two U.S. citizens, Alex Pretti and Renee Good, we join Minnesotans and people across the nation in mourning two precious lives lost to state-sanctioned violence. We grieve with their families, their friends, and everyone harmed by the government's policies. When fear becomes policy, everyone suffers.

We call on Americans to trust their moral compass—and to question rhetoric that trades in fear rather than the truth. As Episcopalians, our moral compass is rooted firmly in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is what we know. Women were shoved to the ground, children torn from their families, and citizens silenced and demeaned for exercising their constitutional rights. These actions sow fear, cast doubt, and wear us down with endless noise.

We cannot presume to speak for everyone or prescribe only one way to respond. For our part, we can only do as Jesus' teaching shows us.

A Call for Action

*This is a moment for action. **We call on people of faith to stand by your values and act as your conscience demands.***

We urge the immediate suspension of ICE and Border Patrol operations in Minnesota and in any community where enforcement has eroded public trust. Because the rule of law is weakened, not strengthened, when power is exercised without restraint.

We also call for transparent, independent investigations of the people killed—investigations centered on truth, not politics. Justice cannot wait, and accountability is essential to healing.

We call on the elected officials of our nation to remember the values that we share, including the rule of law. Rooted in our Constitution, it ensures that law—not the arbitrary will of individuals—governs us all, protecting individual rights, ensuring fairness, and maintaining stability.

A Shared Commitment

Every act of courage matters. We must keep showing up for one another. We are bound together because we are all made in the image of God. This begins with small, faithful steps.

As bishops in the Episcopal Church, we promise to keep showing up—to pray, to speak, and to stand with every person working to make our communities just, safe, and whole. We are committed to making our communities safer and more compassionate:

- *So children can walk to school without fear.*
- *So families can shop, work, and worship freely.*

- So we recognize the dignity of every neighbor—immigrant communities, military families, law enforcement officers, nurses, teachers, and essential workers alike.

You may feel powerless, angry, or heartbroken right now. Know that you're not alone. Each of us has real power: community power, financial power, political power, and knowledge power. We can show up for our neighbors, support small businesses and food banks, contact elected officials and vote, and learn our rights so we can speak up peacefully without fear.

Choosing Hope

The question before us is simple and urgent: Whose dignity matters?

Our faith gives a clear answer: everyone's.

Safety built on fear is an illusion. True safety comes when we replace fear with compassion, violence with justice, and unchecked power with accountability. That's the vision our faith calls us to live out—and the promise our country is meant to uphold.

In the face of fear, we choose hope.

By the grace of God, may this season of grief become a season of renewal. May courage rise from lament, and love take root in every heart.

You can watch a video of our bishop and others reading the letter here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mf5mxIkSP0c&feature=youtu.be>

If you would like to see the signatories or download a copy you can here: [Download](#)

See you Sunday,

Rev. Michelle

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sunday Feb 8

8:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I Celebrant: Rev. Michelle
In the Church

10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II Celebrant: Rev. Michelle
In the church & livestreamed

11:30am - 'Chosen' Season 4 Episode 2

Tuesday Feb 10

11:00am - ECW

Monday Feb 16

7:00pm - Vestry Meeting (new day for 2026)

Wednesday February 18 - Ash Wednesday

1:00pm - Crochet for a Cause

7:00pm - Worship

Wednesday February 25

6:30pm - Braver Angels

February 7 LOK Event

Have you ever wanted to try and paint a happy little tree? Here's your chance to give it a go... no art background or skills necessary!

You will be guided (by me, Ruth Jeffrey:-) through painting a winter-themed acrylic painting, all supplies provided – 9x12 canvas, paints, brushes, paper plate palettes, etc.

Cost is \$10 per person to cover materials. There is a sign-up sheet at church for those who would like to attend. Deadline for sign up is Sunday February 1. Advance payment appreciated, but you can pay the day of the event.

When: February 7 at 2:00

Where: Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$10 per person

Bring: Snacks or beverages (optional)

Wear: Clothes you don't mind getting paint on

Here is what we will be painting:



Ash Wednesday Worship Feb 18 at 7:00pm

Lent begins on Wednesday Feb 18. Join us for this time of worship, reflection and confession as we prepare ourselves for the wilderness road of Lent.

SouperBowl of Caring Feb 8

The Big Game is Sunday Feb 8 and we will be filling our soup pots once again. This year we are asking for you to bring in soup and other non-perishable food items as well as cash donations. All proceeds will go to Community Sharing.

'The Chosen' Season 4

The Chosen tv series returns to St George's for the month of February. This week we will watch Season 4 Episode 2: Confessions <https://watch.thechosen.tv/video/184683596183> We will eat lunch and watch the episode, and then have a discussion after. Please sign-up so we know how much food to order. Suggested donation for lunch (Wraps, Chips, sweet Treat, Tea Coffee Juice etc) \$7.

Vestry Day 2026

Saturday, February 14th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. On Zoom

Vestry Day is a virtual gathering with the Bishop and Diocesan staff for Wardens, Vestry, Bishop Committee Members, and Clergy. If you are new to your vestry/bishop's committee or if you are a long time member, we invite you to this "Vestry Day" Virtual Gathering. Register here to receive the zoom link: <https://www.edomi.org/vestryday/>

Diocesan Estate Planning Workshops

(ZOOM) Estate Planning 101 – Basics We All Need to Know

Thursday, February 5 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Your legacy is more than the assets you leave behind—it's the lasting impact you make on the people and causes you cherish. Join estate planning attorney Sonja Markwart for an accessible, informative webinar designed to take the overwhelm out of protecting your family and supporting the organizations that matter most to you. You'll gain practical guidance on creating a plan that safeguards your children, reflects your deepest values, and directs your generosity with intention. We look forward to helping you find clarity and confidence as you shape your family's legacy. visit www.edomi.org/plannedgiving register or for more info

(ZOOM) Planned Giving 101 – How anyone can leave a lasting legacy

Thursday, Feb 26 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Planned Giving can feel intimidating, but at its core it's simply a way to remember the people and ministries you care about in your estate plan. You don't need to be wealthy to leave a legacy, and you don't need financial planners or attorneys to take meaningful steps. In this webinar, Tom Post CFP will walk us through a range of strategies—from the most straightforward options, like naming your

church as a beneficiary of your IRA, to more advanced tools such as Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts. We'll also explore how you can "endow" your current annual parish pledge so that your generosity continues to make an impact long after your lifetime.

LOK Stratford Trip

Hello Stratford peeps! Total for both plays is \$125. (\$55 for "Importance" and \$70 for "Guys").

Please pay by check to Joyce by Valentine's Day (2/14). ❤️❤️ Be sure to make your hotel reservations very soon-Arden Park Best Western (519) 275-2936 Yayyy!!!!

Ongoing Outreach Activities

Below is a list of things we are currently collecting for our ongoing outreach ministries. Check back often to see what we are up to

Dress and other nice clothing - Grace Centers of Hope Resale Shop - Middle of Hallway - through Feb

Small Toiletries - FedUp - Hallway Closest to Office - Ongoing

Non-perishable food - Community Sharing - Green bin in Narthex - Ongoing

Used Grocery Bags - Crochet for a Cause - Bins outside by plastic box or in back classroom - Ongoing

Ongoing Ministries in Action:

-Braver Angels

Monthly meetings have now been moved to the last Wednesday of the month working on depolarization. All are welcome. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm, skills practice at 7:00, and planning at 7:30, finishing at 8:00 pm. **The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 25th in the fellowship hall. See you then.**

-Coffee Fellowship

Coffee fellowship is on Pause during the Chosen. However we always need people to set-up & clean-up for lunch. We also welcome a sweet treat, fruit or veggies to go with the wraps if anyone feels inclined.

-Crochet for a Cause

Making mats for those in need out of plastic grocery bags. 1st 3rd & 5th Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. We have a great time! **Next Meetings are Feb 18 & March 4.**

- Cookie Ministry - Supporting the AA groups that meet at our church

Who can help on the **third Friday of each month**? About 50 cookies are needed in total. Please reach out to Dot if you would like to cover **Feb 20** (third Friday.) or once in a while to give the Darcys and the Vangels a break on the other Fridays. You can drop off your cookies the Sunday before or during office hours during the week.

-ECW (Episcopal Church Women)

ECW will continue to meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday. The **next Meeting is Tuesday February 10 at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.**

St. George's ECW is a small group of women committed to supporting the many activities of this church. All women members of the church are members of ECW and are encouraged to attend the meetings. Do come along and join us.

- Healing Prayer

Provides laying on of hands and anointing for healing after worship at 8:30 & during communion at 10:15 service. The next Healing Prayers will be on **Feb 22 & March 1**. Healing Prayer can be offered at all other services by request.

- LOK - Ladies of the Knight

2026 Tentative Schedule. Keeping check throughout the year for updates and more info.

February 7 - Ruth Jeffrey - Painting with Ruth (see info above)

March - Janine Cole - Henry Ford Museum Da Vinci Exhibit

April - Judith Jambor - Tour of DIA

May - Joyce Spletzer - Farmington Players "Hello Dolly"

June - Laura Frost & Deb Shomoch - Detroit River Cruise

Deb Lesnew & Beck Sheridan - Recycled Rockettes

July 18 - Ann Gatland - Summer Party

Sandy Scott - St Sabba's Orthodox Monastery

August 25-26 - Joyce Spletzer - Stratford Trip - see info above

September - Caroline Liebau - Mariners Church

October 4 - Deb Lesnew - Dio Dinner Theatre

November - Dot Vangel - Ford Rouge Tour

December 5 - Joyce Spletzer - Annual Christmas Party

- Mens' Group

The Men's Group normally meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. All Men are invited to attend.

There is no Men's group meeting in February due to Ash Wednesday. The next meeting is on Wednesday March 18 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Please see Mike F. Sr's upcoming email for more information.

Keeping Your Faith Strong

-Those in Our Prayers

It is time for our periodic review of our prayer list, those who have been on the list for a long time will automatically come off, if you would like someone added back on, please let Rev. Michelle know or add it to the prayer request sheet in the Narthex.

Please pray for our members, community members and friends in search of health, healing, wholeness and solace: *Annie F., Barry, Brett & Megan, Carol R., Caroline, Cheryl, Denise, Eric, Fred K., Helen, Joan B., John E., Joshua, Judi V., Katie M., Karen S., Kim, Leon, Lisa D., Lisa S., Liz, Matt W., Michelle M., Nancy B., Randy H., Rebecca, Rick & Debbie, Rick, Sue H., Theresa A.*

Loving God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: accept our prayers, and to those who seek healing, grant the power of your grace, that the weak may be strengthened, sickness turned to health, the dying made whole, and sorrow turned into joy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.* (Book of Occasional Services pg217)

- Online Daily Office Schedule

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Fridays, 4 p.m. Evening Prayer

Sundays, 7 p.m. Compline

Do you join our Sunday worship online? A reliable and quick way to find our YouTube services (live or recorded) is from our website's "Watch" page, accessed from the top of the home page by clicking the

word "Watch." [Here's a direct link.](#) Want to participate in our Daily Office online? Those are on Facebook. [Here's the link.](#)

-Sermon Blog

Ever hear something in worship and think, I wish I could look at that again or send it to a friend? Well now you can. Now St George's has a Sermon Blog. Weekly sermons and reflections will be posted here from now on. Rev. Michelle's sermons will appear on Sunday morning, Morning Prayer reflections will usually be up within a couple of days. Feel free to share! [St George's Sermon Blog](#)

-When to contact the Priest:

Please be in touch. I can only pray, help or connect you with resources if I know what is happening. Examples of when to contact the Priest: Birth, Death, Illness, Hospitalization, Difficulty in the Family, You would like to receive sacraments or a Pastoral visit, You have an idea or ministry you would like to discuss. I am usually in the office Wed and either Tues or Thurs 9:30-3. If you see my car in the lot, feel free to pop in. If I don't answer the phone make sure to leave a message or send a text and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

How to contact Rev. Michelle: **Phone/Text:** (734) 646-4064 or **Email:** priest@stgmilford.com

-Forward Day by Day Devotions

The February-April Booklets are available now to pick up in the Narthex. Let us know if you need one mailed/delivered to your house. The cost is \$2.00 for each booklet. Please reimburse us as you are able in the donation box nearby. I recommend a read! 🐝

Community Events

