



# The Beacon

April 2026

## April's Fools

These first days of April are the holiest on the church calendar: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday. We're asked to remember, in prayer and in presence, what the disciples went through with their beloved rabbi, Jesus, almost 2,000 years ago. If you watched "The Chosen" with our Thursday class (or on your own), you got a vivid lesson in the confusion they felt as Jesus insisted that his end was near. They argue among themselves frequently in the days leading up to their seder: Why does Jesus say it's our "last" Passover together? Is he being serious or metaphorical about his crucifixion? When will he show the world, plainly, that he's the real deal, the awaited Messiah?

None of his followers expected he'd allow himself to be arrested, tried, and executed. Such humiliation would prove that they had wasted several years of their lives, abandoning family and career, following a fake! That was exactly what the Roman government wanted to demonstrate, to their subjects and especially to any other would-be Messiahs. It's foolish to challenge Rome. Here's what will happen if you try.

St. Paul reflected on this collision between God's plan and the world's expectations, in his First Letter to the Corinthians:

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart. (Isaiah 29:14)*

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ... But we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (I Cor. 1:18-25)

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## St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. ELIZABETH STREET  
FENTON, MI 48430

(810) 629-5681  
STJUDEFENTON.COM

### OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS  
9 AM - NOON

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS  
9 AM - 4 PM

STJUDESCHURCHFENTON106@  
GMAIL.COM

## St. Jude's Staff

THE REV. SUSAN ANSLOW WILLIAMS  
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KATHERINE YOUNG  
CHOIR DIRECTOR

RON SPAULDING  
ORGANIST

STEVE & LAURA KOCH  
SEXTONS

## April Birthdays

- 4th Laura Koch
- 14th Mehgan Rayner
- 15th Michelle Gangwer
- 25th Susan Cilluffo
- 26th Gay Adams

## April Anniversaries

- 5th Fred & Lynell Wright (51st)

## “April’s Fools” continued

I’m writing this on April Fool’s Day, a time to play jokes on your friends and spy out satirical imitations of real news. But this April, as we scratch our heads in confusion and dismay about what seems to be the actual state of the world, perhaps a reminder of God’s foolishness will be helpful: The weapons God used to overcome hatred, violence and injustice, were love, service and the unjust crucifixion of a peaceful man named Jesus. In like fashion, we will not bless bullets or pray for victory in violence, but cling to the foot of the cross and pray for mercy.

Faithfully,

*Susan*

# Holy Week

2026

### Remaining Services in Holy Week....

Thursday, April 2

**Maundy Thursday** Potluck Dinner @ 6 pm

Service @ 6:30 pm

*Stripping of the altar will follow*

### Overnight Prayer Vigil

Thurs., April 2, 9 pm - Friday, April 3 10 am

Friday, April 3

### Good Friday

Ecumenical Service @ Noon  
Fenton United Methodist Church

St. Jude’s Service @ 7 pm

Sunday, April 5

### Easter Sunday

Service @ 10:30 am

# Reflections

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", March 17th edition

## Jesus—Food for the Soul

*I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again.*

John 6:35



In the African American home I was raised in, meals often included scrumptious "soul food." The term originated in the mid-1960s when "soul" was a common term used to describe African American culture. Soul food menu items included fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, greens, sweet potatoes, corn bread, and more. Desserts were a bonus; the "tastebud-tickling" peach cobbler was the most satisfying to me. What a feast!

Feasting in different cultures looks different, but because food is essential for life, Jesus' words in John 6:35 are significant for all people: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Such claims as these would be outrageous if they were made by a mere human being. But Jesus, the Christ, could make such astounding claims because He's the very Son of God. He told "sign-seekers"—those seeking immediate, short-term benefit (see vv. 2, 14, 26, 30)—that satisfaction of physical hunger wasn't enough. As the Son of God, Jesus is the source of true life (14:6) and the sustainer of life. All those who believe in Him for the forgiveness of sins through His death and resurrection (11:25-26) share His life. Jesus is the essential food for the soul. Life, nourishment, and true satisfaction are found in Him alone.

By Arthur Jackson

### *Reflect & Pray*

How does Jesus nourish and satisfy you? What's keeping you from seeking the one who says, "I am the bread of life"?

**Dear Jesus, You're the giver and sustainer of life. May I find satisfaction in You.**

## Upcoming Events

### Thursday, 4/2

6 pm: Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper with Holy Eucharist (foot washing & stripping of altar) following 9 am - Fri., 10 am: Overnight Prayer Vigil

### Friday, 4/3

Noon: Ecumenical Good Friday Service @ FUMC  
7 pm: Good Friday Service

### Saturday, 4/4

9 am - Noon: Basic Needs Pantry

### Sunday, 4/5

10:30 am: Easter Sunday Festival Eucharist Service

### Tuesday, 4/7

1 pm: Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

### Wednesday, 4/8

1 pm: Outreach Meeting  
7 pm: Finance & Endowment Meeting

### Sunday, 4/12

2 pm: Social Committee Theatre Outing

### Wednesday, 4/15

7 pm: Vestry Meeting

### Thursday, 4/16

6 pm: Book Club

### Monday, 4/20

6:30 pm: CROP Meeting

### Tuesday, 4/21

1 pm: Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

### Saturday, 5/2

9 am - Noon: Basic Needs Pantry  
7:30 pm: Public Concert - Bridges Ensemble

## Rummage Sale in May

Friday, May 15 & Saturday, May 16 is the Dibbleville Community Rummage Sale

St. Jude's will have booth spaces available in Vandenberg Hall for individuals to sell their rummage items. We will NOT be collecting donations for a church-wide sale this year.

It will be \$15 for space with a table and 2 chairs. Forms will be available beginning next week to pay and reserve your spot!

More information to come...See Liz Sailus with any questions.

## Lay Eucharistic Minister Trainings

Coming soon! We will have training sessions for new Eucharistic ministers. The duty of the Eucharistic minister is to administer the wine at a communion service. We schedule 2 for each service, one to offer the cup to drink from, and one to offer the intinction bowl for dipping the bread.

If you are interested in learning more, or in taking the classes, please let Rev. Susan, Lynn Hopper, or Judy Maringo know.



## St. Jude's Sock Ministry

For more than 20 years St. Jude's has been donating socks to the homeless and needy in Flint. It began in 2005 when we worked with Carriage Town Ministries, but since 2010 our donations have gone to CrossOver for distribution. Over that 20+ year period we have donated nearly 25,000 pairs of socks. Our sock campaign usually runs in the fall so we can make the socks available as winter approaches when they are most needed.

For the past several years John and Carol Pettipher (along with Stinky the Sock Puppet) have managed the campaign, but as most of you know, John and Carol have now moved to their new home in Waterford. While we still expect to see them periodically, they are no longer able to head up this ministry. So, we are looking for someone that might be interested in taking on the role that John & Carol so aptly filled. The role would include purchasing and picking up the socks (our current supplier is in Oak Park), advertising in the Beacon and on Sunday morning (along with Stinky), selling the socks on 1 Sunday, and then delivering (or arranging delivery) of the socks to CrossOver.

If anyone is interested in taking this on, please see the Rayners or anyone on the Outreach Committee. Several members of Outreach have worked with this ministry over the years and would be happy to work alongside whoever volunteers.





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## **VESTRY**

### **2027**

Doug Hill

Dave James

### **2028**

Charles Johnston

Sue Premo

Megan Rosa-Norred

### **2029**

Mark Jagos

Diane Putnam

Denise Rayner

Dolores Ruby

### **Delegates to the Diocesan Convention**

Mark Jagos, Charles Johnston

Alternates: Katie Young, Amy Freeman