



The Beacon

September 2026



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

A Fresh Season of Creation

The international, ecumenical observance of a Season of Creation (Sept 1 – Oct 4) will again shape our Sunday morning worship for five weeks. This year, the theme is **Living Water** based on the prophet Ezekiel's vision (Ezekiel ch. 47) of a river flowing from the rebuilt, post-exile Temple: fresh water goes out into the deserts and dry fields, even transforming the Dead Sea, bringing life and fruitfulness again.

Beginning on Sept. 6, our plan is to depart from the summer's "track one" Old Testament series (we've completed the "Abrahamic" story cycle), and instead hear about water – as part of the Creation, the great cost of drought, the fears of rising sea levels (yes, even in Bible days), and the hope for new life. I'm choosing watery OT passages and Psalms; our Epistle and Gospel will continue the regular Sunday cycle.

The Prayers of the People, Confession of Sin, and Eucharistic Prayer will come from the official "Season of Creation" resources online. Katie and I will include hymns, prayers and contemporary songs that lift up creation's beauty and our care of it; noting especially the importance of clean, fresh water to all communities, animals and plants.

I begin this month enjoying two of Michigan's Great Lakes, and several smaller ones, "up north." We are so blessed in this state: we can find fresh water within a few miles of *anywhere* in Michigan! When accidental pollution, bad corporate decisions, or decaying lead pipes ruin a community's water supply, it should make us angry enough to do something. A goal of the Season is to move people from worship to ACTION, so I challenge us all to notice real opportunities – like our participation with St Dunstan's, Davison, providing a well in Kenya – to make a difference, nearby and further out in the world.

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. ELIZABETH STREET
FENTON, MI 48430

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STJUDESFENTON.COM

OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAYS - THURSDAYS
9 AM - NOON

STJUDESCHURCHFENTON106@GMAIL.COM

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September Birthdays

1st Dave James
5th Linda Chciuk
7th Dee Grossmann
8th James Sailus
11th Diane Putnam
Dave Rayner
13th Nancy Jones
16th Francine Zick
19th Francine Johnston
21st Joan Graham
28th Megan Rosa

September Anniversaries

10th Jim & Kathy
Kortge (60 years)
26th Steve & Laura
Koch (28 years)

"Living Water" continued...

We'll start with prayer and go from there. *What can we do together, to live Ezekiel's vision of healing waters from the Temple of God, flowing to meet the real needs of our siblings?*

★ Faithfully,

Susan

"Let's clean up every river and finally the seas. Let's campaign to uncover every stream and river in our cities. Let's integrate the rivers back into the urban space and plant trees beside them. Let's enjoy the peace, healing and tranquility they will bring. God made them all to be living waters."

- **Rev. Dr. Reynaldo Ferreira Leão Neto (Léo)**, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council

"We cannot and should not hope to address climate change without working closely with one another. As we have repeatedly stated, 'we are all in the same boat.' Creation care is a collective mandate and responsibility."

- **His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew**, Holy Orthodox Church

Plastic Grocery Bag Collection

Several people have asked me if we are still collecting plastic grocery bags. And the answer is yes! This is an ongoing project at St. Jude's, so please bring in your clean grocery bags. We use them to make plastic yarn which is crocheted to make reusable tote bags. The collection container is in the coat room area. A sample tote bag is usually hanging nearby as a visual reminder of the end product.

The bags go to regional disaster areas with the non-profit organization DRAW-Disaster Relief at Work. They have a Facebook site where you can see the warehouse in Waterford where buckets are filled with supplies needed to help victims of floods, fires, hurricanes, etc. clean up their homes. Their website is: DrawBuckets.org.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to talk with you.

Faithfully,

Deacon Judy



The Future Got Here

For the past three years, I've been hinting at the eventual transition from my ministry at St Jude's as "priest in charge" to the search for your rector. The year of that intentional shift arrived with the visit of The Rev. Alan James in July, who described a couple of possibilities for part-time leadership of a priest (an economic reality) with lay-led ministries continuing much as they have been, bolstered by partnerships with other churches.

To discern and prepare for what that might look like, we will need two distinct teams: a **Transition Team**, working with me; and later a **Search Committee**, working with Rev. James. Each will comprise 4-5 members, one coming from the Vestry and the rest from a variety of ministries in the parish. Maybe you!

The Transition Team will start this fall, creating opportunities for parish input about our current strengths and where God might be calling us to go. Are we making the best use of our physical assets (like the building), and engaging our wise and gifted parishioners, to meet the needs of the community? How do we know what those needs are, and who is already there (or not)? The answers will inform the search process, and perhaps launch some new ministries to engage us in 2027.

If this sounds like something you'd like to be part of, I invite applications to serve. Please email me that you want to be on the Transition Team, and tell me (1) your favorite Bible passage or verse; and (2) an experience / insight that leads you to feel this Team is right for you. The Vestry will form the Search Committee a bit later in the year.

As I shift my focus, some of my pastoral visits can become your ministries. We'd like to recruit or re-license our Eucharistic Visitors, who bring the Sacrament to home-bound parishioners about once every 6 weeks. Does this sound like something you'd like to do? Talk to me and we'll get started!

Faithfully,

Susan+



Inquirers' Class Scheduled

Our Fall "Inquirers' Class" for anyone interested in being confirmed, received, or just wanting to know more about the Episcopal Church, will have three in-person sessions. The dates are Wednesdays, September 23, October 14 and November 11, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. We will be reading the fun book "Jesus was an Episcopalian (And you can be one, too)" by the Rev. Chris Yaw, and watching some YouTube videos, prior to each discussion session. Talk to Rev. Susan if you would like to join the class, which will be co-led by her, Dcn Judy and Rev. Mary Jo.



Adult class will begin on Sundays at 9:30 am on beginning Sunday, October 4!



Choir will return on Sunday, September 13!

We rehearse on Wednesday night. *Talk to Katie Young if you would like to join!*

St. Jude's Staff

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SEXTONS

THE FIRST BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE GREAT LAKES

The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes Bishop Transition Committee is delighted to announce details for our Meet and Greet with the slate of candidates for first bishop diocesan!

Meet and Greet are holy conversations to get to know candidates better and to get a sense of how the Holy Spirit is moving in our diocesan community.

Each session will last about 90 minutes and feature moderated questions selected by the Transition Committee based on community input.

Locations (listed below) have been carefully selected to ensure that, with the exception of our well beloved siblings on Beaver Island, every delegate has an in-person Meet and Greet opportunity within a 90-minute drive of the congregation they represent. There are also opportunities to join via Zoom and to watch live-streamed Meet and Greet, so that neither physical distance nor schedule will inhibit access to these gatherings and conversations. Unless otherwise indicated below, Meet and Greet are open to every member of The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

Building capacity at some of our locations is limited, so please **RSVP by Friday, September 18, 2026.**

Come curious. Come prayerful. Come ready to imagine the future God is preparing for us.

We look forward to gathering with you.

*Friday, September 25
3 - 4:30 p.m.
St. Paul's, Flint
Details and Registration*

*Friday, September 25
7 - 8:30 p.m.
Laity-Only Zoom
Meet and Greet
Details and Registration*

Meet the candidates!

A graphic for Backpack Blessing Sunday. It features a central white box with the text "BACKPACK BLESSING SUNDAY" in bold black and red letters. The box is surrounded by various school supplies: a graduation cap, an apple, a paint palette, a backpack, a ruler, a protractor, a globe, a calculator, a pencil, a notebook, and a pair of scissors. Below the box, the text reads: "STUDENTS, TEACHERS & SCHOOL STAFF!" and "Bring your backpacks, briefcases or tote bags to the 10:30 am service to be blessed for the new school year!". At the bottom, it says "SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13" and "ST. JUDES EPISCOPAL CHURCH 106 E. ELIZABETH STREET FENTON, MI 48430". A backpack filled with school supplies is shown in the bottom right corner.

BACKPACK BLESSING SUNDAY

STUDENTS, TEACHERS & SCHOOL STAFF!

Bring your backpacks, briefcases or tote bags to the
10:30 am service to be blessed for the new school year!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

ST. JUDES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
106 E. ELIZABETH STREET
FENTON, MI 48430

Seminars for Alzheimer's Carers continue in Fenton

The Alzheimer's Association of Michigan will return to downtown Fenton this fall, providing two sessions of information and support for carers of people living with dementia. The public is warmly invited to these seminars, which were offered previously last year as part of "The Empowered Caregiver" series.

Saturday, September 26 at 10:30 a.m. - Understanding Alzheimer's-related Behaviors, how to respond appropriately, and recognizing when additional help is needed.

Saturday, October 10 at 10:30 a.m. - Communicating Effectively with family, friends and health care professionals, as your loved one's communication skills change.

Classes will end at 12 noon. The location is the parish hall at **St. Jude's Church**, 106 E. Elizabeth Street at Leroy, in Fenton (parking lot with entrance ramp is accessed from Oak Street). Persons living with dementia are welcome to join their caregiver at the class.

Leading the sessions is Ms. Treva Daniels-Carlson, a volunteer Community Educator and Outreach Representative with the Alzheimer's Association for the past 14 years. She teaches from experience, as her own family has been impacted several times by dementia-related illness and caregiving needs.

To register for either/both of the classes, please call the Alzheimer's Association at its 24/7 helpline, **800-272-3900**.

Sock Sunday

Every year St. Jude's Outreach Committee encourages donations for us to purchase socks for donation to Crossover in Genesee County, Flint, Michigan. Crossover is a Christian organization that seeks to show the love of Christ by feeding, clothing, and providing services and programs to those in need.

Sunday, September 20, 2026 is your big opportunity to provide new socks for those in great need. Your gift will buy dozens of socks for a person in need! Please consider a donation, and bring your cash on September 20 (\$5, \$10, \$20, or a check payable to St. Jude's).

Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

-Outreach Committee



Reflections

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", August 24th edition

Fighting for You

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.

Exodus 14:14



Professional boxer Jim Braddock was known as someone who fought not for riches and fame but to put food on the table for his family. The movie Cinderella Man chronicles his fairytale-like comeback from a past-his-prime boxer to the world heavyweight champion. While facing extreme poverty during the Great Depression, Jim repeatedly sacrificed his own resources, health, and pride to provide for his children. He was never intimidated by an opponent and courageously endured pummeling in the ring to keep his family safe.

Jim's legacy is one of passionate defense of his family. We, too, have a passionate defender who has promised to take our place in the ring. When the Israelites

faced Pharaoh's mighty army after their escape from slavery in Egypt, they were terrified and cried out to God. "It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" they foolishly said (Exodus 14:12). But Moses replied in faith, "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still" (v. 14). And without any action from the Israelites, their enemies were literally swept away by the sea as God supernaturally ended the battle before it even began.

Sometimes it feels like we're facing the trials of life or arrows from the enemy, Satan, on our own (see Psalm 91:5). But God's with us (Deuteronomy 31:6), and He fights for us; we need only to be still.

• By Karen Pimpo

Reflect & Pray

What battle are you tempted to fight on your own? What does it look like to "be still" as you trust God to fight for you?

Dear Jesus, I trust You as You fight for me.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 9/5

9 am - Noon: Basic Needs

Monday, 9/7

Labor Day - Office Closed

Wednesday, 9/9

6 pm: Choir Rehearsal

6 pm: Outreach Meeting

7 pm: Finance Meeting

Thursday, 9/10

2 pm: Holy Eucharist Service @ Abby Park

Sunday, 9/13

Choir Returns

Godly Play for school-age children during service

Tuesday, 9/15

1 pm: Prayer Shawl

Wednesday, 9/16

7 pm: Vestry

Thursday, 9/17

6 pm: Book Club @ Francine Johnston's

Sunday, 9/20

Sock Sunday

Wednesday, 9/23

7 pm: Inquirer's Class

Saturday, 9/26

10:30 am: Alzheimer's Seminar on Behaviors

Sunday, 9/27

Godly Play for school-age children during service

Thursday, 10/1

2 pm: Holy Eucharist Service @ Abby Park

Saturday, 10/3

9 pm: Basic Needs Pantry