



The Correspondent

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, New York

Volume XXVII
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June 2020

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WEEKEND SERVICES

During this period of COVID-19 restrictions, we are not able to hold any in-person services for the foreseeable future. Instead we are offering regular opportunities to worship on-line, including a specially recorded service for each Sunday and a daily Morning Prayer service. Details of all these services are on our website at www.saint-anns.org.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

- Trinity Sunday, June 7
- God & Guinness, June 11 & 25
- Flag Day, June 14
- Father's Day, June 21



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ in thought, word, and deed to our community and the world.

Re-Opening of Churches

The Bishop of Long Island has set July 1st as a target date for the re-opening of Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of Long Island.

This date is, of course, dependent on what happens during the intervening period, and there will still be restrictions on what we will not be able to do. For example, anyone entering the church buildings will be required to wear a mask and be at least 6 feet away from other people at all times.

How we manage the re-opening; what limitations will be placed on numbers; how many services we will be able to offer; and how we handle cleaning and disinfecting between services are all questions which are still under discussion.

Further advice will be available nearer the time.

Fr. Hugh James
fatherhughjames@saint-anns.org
May 24, 2020

"Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"

"I will, with God's help."

Episcopal Baptismal Covenant, BCP



FROM THE EDITOR

People don't like change. In fact, most of us have to be dragged along kicking and screaming when changes suddenly force themselves into our lives. I guess that's why the most sweeping changes in history happen after wars and pandemics. When what is 'normal' is turned upside down, we have no choice but to start over. Way back in the 1300's, when the bubonic plague was raging in Europe, England and France were so incapacitated by the plague that they called a truce to their war. The British feudal system collapsed when the plague changed economic circumstances and demographics. These days, we are all tired of quarantine and can hardly wait to get back "to normal." But as much as we wish for this, the reality is that most of the country is still in the midst of increased spreading of COVID-19. Even though we optimistically open things up, the virus is not gone, and it doesn't respond to reason or threat. It just goes on its way, doing what viruses do. Surely, we will not have the terrible result of the bubonic plague, which killed 50 million people! They didn't have hospitals or medical knowledge or even cleanliness with which to fight. I'm sure the concept of a germ was quite alien to them. But the loss of 100,000 souls in our country—350,000 worldwide--is still a momentous loss. Next Spring, life will be different from what it is now. But I wonder how? I wonder what changes will spring up in response to this modern plague? Will we still be wearing masks? Will we ever shake hands or hug again? Will it change our relationship with the natural world? Will our health system change? How will the loss of all those people affect the world around us? All we can do is guess, pray for the best, hope God has a plan to use this for good, and get ready to be flexible when the changes come. **—Rodney Dudley**

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July Deadline
Friday, June 26

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 quarantine



A Word from the Interim Rector Father Hugh James



A Holy Relationship

Dear Members of St Ann's,

"Christianity is not about following rules, it is about having a relationship with Jesus." You might imagine that a quotation like this comes from evangelical brothers and sisters who speak often about having a personal relationship with Jesus. It actually comes from a sermon by Pope Francis, preached on May 15. He went on to say that such a relationship is not a matter of 'things to do' - 'If I do this, you give me that.' "Such a relationship", he said, "would be 'commercial' while Jesus gives everything, including his life, gratuitously". In other words, a relationship of grace.

The theme of relationship is embedded in our service of Baptism. The candidate is asked: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior? Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love? Do you promise to follow him and obey him as Lord? That's a relationship.

I recently read that church leaders, clergy in particular, often get "too caught up with the splash programming or community draw, forgetting that, as Evelyn Underhill notes, God is the interesting thing about religion." He said it's like hosting a basketball game and spending all the time on the concessions stand and lighting of the stadium, but only a small amount on preparing for the actual game. Or again the difference between knowing about God and knowing God, or being in a relationship with God is like reading a recipe instead of enjoying the meal.

I'm often surprised at museums, to find the gift shop the busiest room. Masterpieces go unnoticed. Instead of just experiencing and enjoying the beauty from a creative hand, we try to possess it, capture it or even control it. Is there any parallel with religious experience? Are we often more concerned with the care of our beautiful church buildings and grounds, than with nurturing our relationship with the Holy One?

How do we deepen a relationship with God? Experience is a big part of a faith journey. Along with reading scripture, learning from our tradition, tapping into God-given reason, measuring it all against the wisdom of the community, some kind of experience of God is key to spiritual growth. Otherwise, why bother?

It comes with practice, in both senses of the word. We practice in the sense that we get better, go deeper, the more we do it. That's true of any relationship, growing as we attend to it. We also practice in the sense that we make it practical. We act on it, which is why spiritual practices matter. We deepen the relationship through prayer, sitting in God's presence and listening; attending to God's word; regular commitment to worship, letting the sacraments feed us; through generosity; being a giver; being of service. That's how we come to know God's character, how we meet Jesus.

Take time this month to think about what it means to have a relationship with the Holy One, the living God, with Jesus. What might you do to help that relationship grow?

With my love and prayers,

Fr Hugh James+

Vestry Visions

Challenges and Opportunities

As I gaze out my window toward my still half-mast flag, I am reminded of the challenges that all of us face and the hardships and sadness that some of us must endure. Unfortunately, it's also becoming apparent that this crisis will be with us in some form for quite some time. History has taught us that times like these also present us with unique opportunities to advance social progress and to improve the way in which we operate both as individuals and as part of organizations. The Vestry is moving forward along these lines.

Our two biggest challenges we face at this time are the ongoing financial difficulties brought about by the crisis and the securing of a new Rector. The good news is that by working together we are finding promising solutions to these challenges and are moving forward to meet them.

On the financial front, we continue to face considerable challenges. We are both very fortunate and grateful that so many of you continue to contribute as much as you can so that we can continue to have the unique and precious St. Ann's that we have come to cherish and to rely on for Christian growth and fellowship.

We are also moving to streamline our finances and office operations as to make it more feasible for our office staff to work from home. To make that happen, we are looking to purchase online office computer software such as QuickBooks that will integrate all of our financial transactions and to make the audit process a bit easier. In the long run, the phasing in of both the online giving plan and the online office computer software will increase the efficiency of our operation.

No one issue has greater importance for our future than our current search for a new rector. Like everything else in our new reality right now, this requires us to do a few things differently while still adhering to the principles of good practice. The good news is that the Search Committee has forwarded a short list of some very impressive final candidates to the Bishop's office for background checks and, once they have been vetted, the Vestry will receive their applications and begin the process of selecting one of them as our new rector. Since this is a very sensitive process in which the privacy of the candidates must be fully maintained, it must be conducted with the utmost confidentiality. We promise to keep you updated as much as the Bishop's guidelines will allow.

In the meantime, stay positive, stay focused, keep healthy, and be with God.

Sincerely,

Greg Domoff for the Vestry

 <p>OUR VESTRY</p>	Interim Rector: The Rev. Hugh James			
	Wardens:		2021 Thomas Honey	2022 Nancy Koinoglou
	Vestry:	2021 Wendy Schmittzeh	Carol Ann St. Lawrence	
		John Smith	Mona Tobin	
		2022 Greg Domoff	Paddy Hennessey	
		Jill Hughes	Nicole LaFontaine	
		2023 Donald Hester	Diane Miller-Magnani	
		Patricia Osarchuk	Carole Sheppard	

Hello Parish Family,

During this time when our buildings have been closed, our Sexton, Lou has been very busy beautifying our Parish Hall. Lou has painted both the upper and lower Parish Hall as well as all the trim in both areas. Your Buildings and Grounds Committee is asking for your help. We'd like to ask you all to please not tape, tack, nail, etc. anything to the walls in these two areas. We've asked this in the past but unfortunately it has been ignored and our walls were in need of repair much sooner than they should have been. Please let's all work together to keep our Parish Hall looking beautiful!



Thank you,
Buildings & Grounds Committee

Daily Morning Prayer

On weekdays at 7:00 AM and Saturdays at 8:00 AM, Fr Brian is broadcasting a live version of Morning Prayer. You can follow him live (or later in the day!) on his Facebook page [Father Brian's Facebook page link](#) or on St Ann's Website.

I hope and pray that you will be able to join us on-line for some of our services and worship offerings over the next few days. I would be especially glad to hear your comments on how you have found the experience of worshipping on-line. This is new territory for all of us. We are bound to make mistakes, as well as get some things right. Any feedback will help us in the future.



The next meeting is scheduled for June 11th in your living room! You can get the link either on the email blast that Fr Hugh sends out or on Fr Brian's Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/597794724146337/>

**THURSDAY, JUNE 11, AT 7:00 PM
B.Y.O.**



Andrew Shiebler. Andrew is the son of Timothy and Christine Shiebler, and grandson of Marjorie Rogers, will graduate from Bayport-Blue Point High School. He received a SEA-BBS Senior Scholarship. He also is a Senior Athlete for playing on the Varsity Tennis Team. At St. Ann's he accompanied the choir for Easter Services the past two years. He also helped Operation Hope in organizing the school supplies for The Eastern Farm Workers, and worked on the quilt ministry for St. John's Hospital. In the fall he will attend Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam to pursue a career in music education.



Jaime DiChiara. Jaime, our 2019 Choral Scholar, graduated from Bayport-Bluepoint High School. She was active in the Drama Department in BBPHS, and was featured in their musical "Pirates of Penzance," which many of the choir attended to cheer her on. She will be attending SUNY Plattsburgh in the fall.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

This year is indeed different from all the previous high school graduations that have been celebrated in the previous years. The graduates did not get to walk across a stage to receive their diploma. They did not get to have a big graduation party (though I'm sure their families made things as festive as possible!) They finished their classes for school year in their homes via computer, and did not get to say a proper goodbye to all the friends they will not be seeing again. I have seen many signs posted in front yards, saying "I DID IT!" CLASS OF 2020." And I'm sure there have been many phone calls, Zoom meetings, Face Time and social media interactions, even though it's not quite the same.

When fall comes, we wish these students Godspeed, and hope they will be able to embrace their college experiences with anticipation, and that their college experience will be as exciting and broadening as it always has been pre-quarantine.

St. Ann's wishes you all the best as you navigate this brave new world!



VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE

NO SINGING ALLOWED

June is usually the last month the choir sings before taking off for the summer. This June we will not be singing; we will not even be in church because of the quarantine from the virus. The



church is looking forward to opening on a “limited” basis July 1st, but still there will be no singing, not even from the hymnals. It turns out singing is almost as bad as sneezing when it comes to spreading the virus; even worse, because 15 or 20 of us would be doing it all at the same time! So, we will be listening to the playing of the organ and humming behind our masks. Let us pray that it is only temporary and that one day soon we will be singing once again. It may be September; but it may not be until some time in 2021. We’ll have to listen and wait for the all clear. Thus, if you see a choir member with sad eyes, know that they are wishing for the time when they will be able to again make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



Meanwhile, we are most grateful that Christine Mulroy, Rick Magnani, and Christie & John Streker have shared their inspiring voices with us; on video from the safety of their own homes, and for Susan James’ on the piano on Pentecost. They all added that special touch that music brings to the church service and allowed some of us to hum

along without ruining the moment for the other listeners!

DID YOU KNOW?

Singing daily for at least 10 minutes reduces stress, clears sinuses, improves posture, and can even help you live longer. Even though we can’t sing in church, there’s nothing to stop us from singing at home or in the car. And it will keep choir members in shape for the time when we will again sing in church.



My Path to the Priesthood – Part 3

Chris McNamee



*When I find myself in times of trouble
Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom
Let it Be*

For me, these words, from the iconic Beatles song, represent a profound experience from my childhood that has shaped and informed my spiritual journey for the past 50 years.

In my family, certain milestone ages were celebrated with the granting of special "big kid" privileges. For instance, I waited breathlessly in the weeks before my tenth birthday, knowing I was soon to be let in on the secret answer to that age-old question, "Where do babies come from?" I have to admit, my 10-year-old self found the explanation so shocking and repugnant that I wished I had never asked. I mean, really, who in their right mind would do such a thing? I don't think I have ever fully gotten over it. Happy birthday indeed.

At age five, I was given permission to cross the street in front of my house; at 10, I would finally be allowed to cross the busy street at the end of our block, and thus have access to the deli that sold individually wrapped squares of Entenmann's Crumb Cake for a quarter, decades before the company itself came up with the same bright idea. I had a lot of time to kill in the years between 5 and 10, while waiting for crumb cake and enlightenment. One of my favorite things to do was to walk to the big Ukrainian church that was a few doors past the corner at the end of our block, across from the deli, and climb to the top of the cold granite steps. I would spend the afternoon there, watching the traffic go by and daydreaming until, inevitably, the mean priest with the Russian accent would storm out of the rectory and chase me away.



On one such afternoon, on a summer day in the late sixties, something extraordinary happened. As I was walking back home, I looked up and saw the Blessed Mother in the sky above me. I knew immediately who she was, and was overcome with a sense of peace and calm. She looked just like one would expect; pale blue flowing robe, hands outstretched, surrounded by angels, with the gates of Heaven behind her. We made eye contact and she smiled sweetly at me. I don't know if she remained there for long, or disappeared shortly after appearing, but I remember

running home and telling my mother. I was probably around eight years old at this time, and my mother, who had at least five more children by then, was likely too busy to make much ado about my encounter. I didn't think about it again until I was a young teenager. At that time, I started having nightmares about drowning. It was a terrible period in my life, marked by major turmoil at home and feelings of overwhelming powerlessness, hence, drowning. One night, as my family was watching *(continued)*

“The Poseidon Adventure” in the living room, back before Blockbuster and cable, when highly edited versions of motion pictures were shown on broadcast television a year or so after they had been released theatrically, I had a panic attack. Shelley Winters was about to go under, and so was I. It was at that moment that the visitation manifested in my consciousness, and I felt immediately at ease. I realized then that the purpose of the Blessed Mother's appearance to me so long ago was to lay the groundwork for times like this, when the memory of that day would comfort me.

I had never told anyone other than my mother about what I had seen until soon after the panic attack. It was 1974. I was preparing for Confirmation in the Roman Catholic Church and was required to write an essay about how religion helps me in my life. I decided to spill the beans about my visit from Mary. A few days after I handed in my assignment, a priest from my church called my house, asking to speak to me. I was terror stricken. This could not possibly be good. My friends were outside, waiting for me to go to Roosevelt Field Mall, when I got the call. I remember hearing the priest make reference to my essay, but after that, nothing. I imagine that we discussed what I had written, but I was so terrified that I have no idea what either of us said. I'm sure I did not tell my friends why he had called.

From that day forward, whenever I find myself in a bad place emotionally, I remember Mary's sweet face smiling down on me, and I draw tremendous comfort from that. I don't actually believe that Mary exists in the clouds, surrounded by angels. Nor do I think Heaven is situated behind pearly gates. Rather, my concept of Heaven, and the afterlife, is more one of higher consciousness than one of paradise found. However, I understand that Mary appeared to me in a form that I would immediately recognize at that time. When I think about this now, the memory is more emotional than visual, and the significance of the scene continues to wane over time.

Recently, I faced a terrible upheaval in my life. As tensions came to a head, the song Let it Be figured prominently. I heard it on the radio every day; I saw it on a license plate; Facebook kept showing me T-shirts and mugs featuring the slogan, and I knew I was being counselled to temper my reaction to what was happening. I felt it so strongly that I had it tattooed on my left arm, so that I would see it every time I pick up my phone. It reminds me that there will be an answer if I just Let it Be. I believe that I am guided by angels, saints, spirits, and especially, the Virgin Mary, all of whom advise me to have faith, to believe in my own truth, and to Let it Be.





COVID-19 FRONTLINE FUND



Mary Beth Welsh
EMLI Executive Director

For full article: <https://www.diolicovid19.info/emli-profiles>

From the first news about the Covid-19 global pandemic, EMLI received unexpected donations, one from a bishop and others from church members, with notes saying they wanted to help those who are helping others suddenly in need—sheltering in place or surviving in place with no shelter. Also, parishes began asking EMLI to help them respond to the growing crisis. **An emergency EMLI FRONTLINE FUND was created, both to request donations and, in turn, to assist parish Covid-19 ministries. As many as possible. As quickly as possible.**

Here, we are sharing profile stories from leaders and volunteers receiving FRONTLINE support, as well as sharing stories about other churches and volunteers across the diocese, all facing their own health risks, but courageously serving in Frontline Ministries. Christ is on the Frontline. ■

Included on the webpage from the diocese are interviews with the recipients of funds from Frontline. One of these interviews is with our St. Ann's **Mary Mattarella**, who has been continuing her work during the pandemic to help the homeless and working poor in Suffolk County obtain the basic necessities of life.



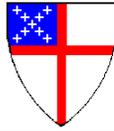
You can listen to her interview here: <https://www.diolicovid19.info/emli-profiles>.

Diocesan Grant for Outreach

A few weeks ago, I applied to Episcopal Ministries of Long Island for a grant to support our own Mary Mattarella and those who work with her in providing help to homeless people in Suffolk County. This is a particularly stressful time for many who do not fall into the categories that most services support, and Mary and her colleagues are among the small number of people who continue to practice this important outreach ministry.



I am pleased to report that I had a phone call from Franca Flora at EMLI and they are awarding us \$1,000 for this ministry. **-Hugh James+**



NOTES



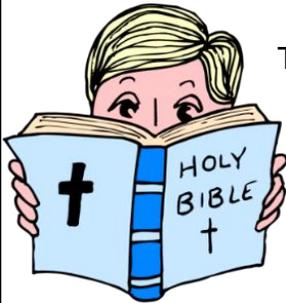
The New York State Department of Health hotline for those concerned about possible exposure or COVID-19 infection is **888-364-3065**.



The church appreciates that people are sending their pledge checks in by mail. We are very grateful, as it greatly helps our cash flow.

The church is currently considering ways to enable on-line giving. More news soon.

BIBLE READINGS



To look up any Bible passage I use the Oremus Bible Browser, <https://bible.oremus.org/> At that site you can enter the reference, choose your preferred version and it is easy to use.

To find readings for a particular Sunday, you can use <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> Here you will find links to any Sunday readings (We are currently in Year A), and a wide range of Art and Prayer resources linked to each Sunday's readings. -Fr. Hugh



St. Ann's On-Line Sunday Coffee Hour

Every week on Sunday at 11:00 AM

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 894 071 280

Bring your own coffee & tea!



Happy Father's Day
to all the St. Ann's Dads
SUNDAY, JUNE 21st



Thank you, Creator God, for this lovely summer day and for your glory that shimmers in nature. Hallelujah!



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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 631-589-6522.



Celebrating
An Anniversary This Month

JUNE
Anniversaries

1	Joseph & Ellen Garofolo	5	Anthony & Andrea Sanseviro	21	Marc & Lisa Vertichio
	Mark & Barbara Leuly	8	Raymond & Maureen Echevarria	22	Ken Smyrk & Scarlet Marrugo
	Leonard & Melissa Speicher	9	Kevin & Jonna Catalina	23	Ryan & Valerie Meinsen
2	Paul & Alison Golofaro	10	Edward & Eileen Moran	24	Martin & Leann Barone
	Glen Stubblebine &	14	Stephen & Sharon Vander Borgh	26	Michael & Amy Minerva
	Jacquee-Ann Gustafson	15	Frank & Peg Costanzo		Daniel Henn & Theresa Labella-Henn
5	Robert & Joan Belfield	20	Robert & Peg Flanagan	30	James & Jill Hughes
					Susan Knoepffler & Christine Mulroy

JUNE
Birthdays

1	Ann DeMott	8	James Romeo	15	Christina DiTusa	24	Sarah Hlavac
	Jacqueline Gandolfo	10	Olivia Greci	16	David Close	26	Barbara MacKenzie
	Judith Hester		Michael Maass		Christopher Kudlek	27	Cassidy Beach
	Addison Schroeder		Nicholas Sturiale		Garret Moran	28	Craig Fleetham
5	Robert DiTusa		Jake Walch		Jeanne Van der Borgh		Abigail Hynes
	Lars Gustafson	11	James Hughes	17	Arlene James		Alex Lasot
	Caelyn Speicher	12	Dylan Hayes		Mikayla Wolfe		Lynette Schulz
6	Barbara King		Anthony Limoli	18	Kellie Miller		Liam Walsh
	Wayne Tampellini	13	Delaney Felton		Elizabeth Teague		Jaidyn Wolfe
7	Jaclyn Roppelt		Linda Herbert	22	Anthony Lico	29	The Rev. Diane Britt
8	Francis Bodkin, Jr.		Grace Wempe		Gloria Moynihan	30	Helen Deegan
	Hannah Smith	14	Irene Bodkin	23	Jessica Brett		Betty Graunke

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Our Church History



❖ **The Garden of the Unforgotten**

Audrey L'Hommedieu Miller

By Gerry Hoek

Audrey L'Hommedieu Miller, passed away in 2008. At the time of her passing, she was living in upstate New York, but it was her wish to come home to Sayville and her church, St. Ann's, for her funeral and interment in our Garden of the Unforgotten.

Audrey grew up in Sayville and was a dear girlhood friend of the Rev. Mr. Bond's two daughters, Peg Richards and Edith Bond. An interesting aside is that Fr. Brian and his family reside in the home of the L'Hommedieu family, which is now part of St. Ann's property.

After her marriage to Kenneth Miller, they were very active in parish life. He became the Superintendent of the Church School, as well as a teacher. Audrey and Ken raised three children here: Vicky, Diane, and Ken, Jr., and participated in so much of the fabric of church life. I remember her cheerful spirit and laugh and enthusiasm about life in general.

Eventually, Ken, Sr., became Treasurer for the Diocese of Long Island in Garden City, serving until his retirement. They spent many of their retirement years in the upstate area of New York. Audrey, when she visited Sayville, always attended St. Ann's for Sunday services.

Her daughters, Victoria and Diane, kindly sent those who attended Audrey's funeral poems their mother had written through the years. I would like to share with you the one I received. I feel it reflects the spirit of Audrey L'Hommedieu Miller.



A Simple Melody

*I listen to the music,
Sets my soul free
In tune with my heart,
A simple melody.
A melody of life,
Joys and sorrows,
Beginnings and ends,
Todays and tomorrows
Each moment a gift.
A gift to behold
Share it with another
A story is told*

-ALom



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+Christian Symbol+



The Olive Branch

The olive branch is a symbol of peace, harmony and healing. Olive trees provide shelter, as well as oil used for ointment and consecration. The olive branch also represents deliverance from hardships and anxiety because a dove brought an olive leaf back to Noah's ark after the flood ended (Genesis 8:11).

AROUND SAINT ANN'S Monthly Schedule

See Correspondent pages and Bulletin for changes/cancellations.

Check out the website at: www.saint-anns.org

Sundays

8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist - Canceled
9:00 AM---Sunday School - Canceled
10:00 AM—Holy Eucharist - Canceled
7:30 PM—AA Meeting - Canceled

Mondays

10:00AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry - Closed
6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—June 10
6:00 PM—Mission & Outreach - Canceled
8:00 PM—AA Meeting - Canceled

Tuesdays

8:00 AM—Men's Group - Canceled
9:00 AM—Holy Eucharist - Canceled
6:00 PM—Children's Choir - Canceled
7:00 PM—Adult Choir - Canceled

Wednesdays

9:30 AM—12:00 PM Operation Hope - Canceled
10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop - Closed

Thursdays

10:00 AM—AA Meeting - Canceled
10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop - Closed
1:00 PM---Christian Yoga - Canceled
8:00 PM—AA Meeting - Canceled

Fridays

12:00-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Closed

Saturday

10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop - Closed
5:00 PM—Holy Eucharist - Canceled



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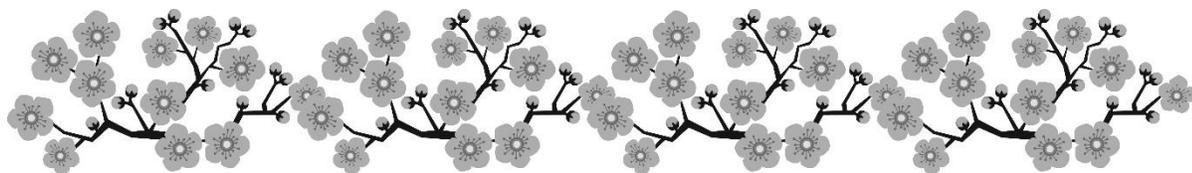
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The Correspondent

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When anxiety was great
within me, your consolation
brought joy to my soul.

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