

Judith will be celebrating with us on the 1<sup>st</sup>, of course the 8<sup>th</sup>!, and the 29<sup>th</sup>. If feeling up to it, she may be celebrating on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

CARING BRIDGE FROM JUDITH

Journal Entry by Judith Dalmaso — July 20, 2021

For me, today is a day of lament. Shaking my fists, listing my complaints, questioning the ways of the Lord, and just being “bitchy”. Lamentations 3:19-24 from The Message

*It's a good thing to hope for help from God  
I'll never forget the trouble, the utter lostness,  
The taste of ashes the poison I've swallowed,  
I remember it all – oh, how well, I remember-  
The feeling of hitting the bottom,  
But there one other thing, I remember,  
And remembering, I keep a grip on hope  
God's loyal love couldn't have run out,  
His merciful love couldn't have dried up  
They're created new every morning.  
How great your faithfulness!  
I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over)  
He's all I've got left.*

And in the midst of my laments, I am reminded of His faithfulness through the voice of Carrie Underwood.

“Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see  
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me  
Summer and winter and springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see  
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me  
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside  
Great is Thy faithfulness

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Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness

Forgive me, Lord, for not remembering just how faithful you have been, for the miracles and mercies that are happening every day. A friend, Pat, awakened yesterday with this word for me: “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Flock – must include the many facets of my personality. And thank you, Lord, for giving me one day to be out of sorts (sounds better than bitchy!) Sunday, praying the Great Thanksgiving, I lost my place and I so wanted to cry, but I charged on, asking the Lord to forgive my stumbles. Nothing should distract from those words. But then, I remembered Dr. Monga saying that I would become confused, lose my concentration. And I cried out, “Too Soon, Lord. I want more time to pray this prayer.” We continue to cry out, “More, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, and fill us with your holy presence. Sweep out any darkness which tries to seep in, even under the closed doors.” Today, also is the last time we will be seeing Olin, our spiritual son, as he will return to Thailand tomorrow. He won’t be home for another year.

#### ELECTION OF BISHOP OF IOWA

Please keep Judith, Sue and Robin in your prayers as they travel to Des Moines to elect the 11<sup>th</sup> bishop of Iowa on Saturday, July 31 from 1:00 pm until the vote is finished.

#### TRIVIA

Trivia date July 31<sup>st</sup>, from 7:00 pm until usually around 10:00. Masks will be required for those who aren’t vaccinated and tables are going to be limited due to space. The same principles will still apply: tables of 8, BYOS&D. To reserve your table or if you would like to help out on the floor, call Michelle Feeny at 563-349-4542. We will need help in SANITIZING! So please stay and help wipe down areas.

#### SEXTON

Now that we are fully open, we are being cleaned regularly and would like to reinstate the practice of designating a donation specifically to “Sexton”. Please list that in the memo line of your check.

#### OFFSET COST OF COMMUNION VESSELS

The practice of individual vessels of wine and wafers are a great invention for the Covid era, however, it is costly compared to “normal” sacraments. The cost (depending on order numbers) is from .40 - .50 per unit. If you would like to help offset the cost, please state in the memo line your intention. Thank you!

#### BEASLEY FUND

The plate donations for July 25 will be designated to go into the Beasley Fund. This Fund was set up by Bill and Penny Beasley in memory of their son, Richard, who was killed in a car accident. He was an active member of the youth group here and the Fund is specifically set up as a scholarship to any youth who wants to attend a Diocesan sponsored youth event, from Happening, to Camp Epic to the ski trip. The Fund pays for one half the cost and the parents the other half. When we had a lot of members in our youth group, they would periodically have fundraisers to replenish the Fund. Our numbers have dwindled and we have no official youth group.

## FLOWER CHART

The Flower chart for 2021 is up and running! We have openings on August 1, 15 and 29.

### SERVICE PARTICIPANTS – JULY

~~7-04 1<sup>st</sup> reader/psalm: Nicole G / 2<sup>nd</sup> reader: Michelle F / PoP: Kim F / Altar: Loretta R~~  
~~7-11 Leader: Jane S / Preacher: Sue M / 1<sup>st</sup> reader/psalm: Robin S / 2<sup>nd</sup> reader: Laura S~~  
~~—— PoP: Karrie D / Flowers: Robin S~~  
~~7-18 Preacher: Charlie R / 1<sup>st</sup> reader/psalm: Rob D / 2<sup>nd</sup> reader: Marshall C~~  
~~—— PoP: Sue M / Flowers: McCoy – Mat and Karissa’s birthdays~~  
7-25 1<sup>st</sup> reader/psalm: Kim F / 2<sup>nd</sup> reader: Laura S / PoP: Karrie D / Altar: Robin S  
Flowers: Bergert – in memory of Ellen Bergert

### CELEBRATION AUGUST 6-8, 2021

Judith and her family are planning a celebration on August 6-7 by having a mini RICM weekend. This will NOT be a quiet time for reflection. There will be charismatic joy afoot, along with praise music and much praying. On Sunday afternoon there will be an open house at the ball park (hence, the Ferris wheel). In Judith’s words:

“There is a fine line between expecting a miracle and preparing for one’s journey to the land of the Living where all the saints sing praises to the Almighty God and worship at his feet. While waiting and storming the heavens in praises and prayers, I want to celebrate the miracles that have already happened with you while I can still remember your name and how we became family. And to see your face once again, laugh and cry together. So please join me and my family on the weekend of August 6-8 as we gather to give thanks and celebrate all that God has done, is doing and will be doing in our midst.”

Friday hours are 6:00 – 10:00 pm at St. Alban’s Saturday hours are 11:00 – 5:00 at St. Alban’s Sunday service is at 10:00 as usual, then off to Modern Woodmen Park, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, for an open house and celebration complete with Ferris Wheel from 2:00 – 4:00. Please get a registration form, fill it out and get it to Judith and Gary, it’s necessary for them to know numbers to make sure there will be enough food, by Friday, July 31.

### REMEMBRANCES NEXT WEEK

Birthdays: 7-29 Kaiden Raines  
Memorials: (7-15) Ellen Bergert  
Anniversary: Scott & Jane Shovar and Marshall & Sarah Callaway