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Greetings from the Chapel of St. James the Fisherman Wellfleet, MA



Welcome to our first weekly email newsletter of the summer.

We cannot gather for regular communion in the Chapel this summer, but we can keep in touch as a community. Each week our newsletter will feature a meditation from a member of the clergy or vestry, news from members of the congregation (that's you) as well as items about Wellfleet and the people and places we support there.

***From The Very Rev. Tracey Lind,
Priest-in-Charge***

Greetings from Cleveland, Ohio. This would normally be the week that we would start packing for summer in Wellfleet. Out would come the bathing suits, beach towels, coolers, and all the stuff in our "Wellfleet" box. Samson would be going to the groomer to get his anti-tick, summer haircut, and Emily would be preparing her overly detailed instruction list for the summer house sitter. But alas, we are sitting in our newly planted backyard garden, hoping and praying that, God willing and



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If you read the St. James spring letter, you know that we will not be worshipping inside our beloved Chapel this summer. It's simply not possible. Given the age and transient nature of our summer congregation, it would not be wise, and at this point in time, neither the governor nor the bishop would permit it.

But all is not lost. At our June vestry zoom meeting this past Sunday night, our warden, Darcy Hackert, reported that the Chapel benches have been cleaned and placed on the patio with the appropriate social distance spacing. A few folks have placed flowers in our hillside burial ground, and there's a new sign on Rt. 6 with the lovely message: "God be with you while we are apart."

At our vestry meeting our treasurer, Stewart Wood, reported that you have been most generous in response to the spring appeal, and we now feel confident that if this generosity continues, we will be able to make our outreach grants in August. Beginning next week, we will share a bit about each of our outreach grant recipients so that you have a better sense of what they're doing to support and assist our Wellfleet neighbors during these trying times.

We still are exploring possible ways of gathering over the summer, and we will keep you posted through this weekly newsletter. And by the way, you'll be hearing from different members of the vestry each week in this newsletter.

Yes, it's a strange summer. But, God's spirit is with us, blowing through the gentle breezes off of Cape Cod bay and wherever you find yourselves.

I can't wait to see some of you in August. Till then, be well. Stay in touch, and do update your contact information.

With blessings and love,

Tracey

Priest-in-Charge

Samson, before and after

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Message from the Editor

Here in Cleveland, Ohio, it's been an on-again, off-again spring. Mostly off-again.

The upside of our chilly, wet weather, however, has been a longer bloom of dogwoods and rhododendrons. And the upside of our COVID-19 quarantine has been the time and leisure in which to enjoy it. I hope you have found a silver lining in your COVID quarantine experience as well.



Tracey and I took refuge last summer in Wellfleet while our house in Cleveland Heights underwent extensive renovations. They finished up well before snowfall, but too late to put in the garden. As I looked at my muddy backyard all winter I dreamed about the gardens in Wellfleet, especially those secret gardens in backyards lush with hydrangea, heliopsis and roses, and I planned accordingly. Now hydrangea, lilacs and a charming little rose called "Apricot Drift," adorn our front yard and our secret garden behind the house has a couple of Adirondack chairs in which to sit and enjoy the heliopsis while I dream

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I look forward to August when Tracey and I plan to be there. Most especially, I look forward to seeing many of you, our friends from the Chapel of St. James the Fisherman.

In the meantime, please keep in touch and let us know how (and where) you are this summer. You can reach us via email by responding to this message or contacting stjameschapelwellfleet@gmail.com. Also, please visit us online via our website stjameschapelwellfleet.org and click this link to follow our [Facebook page](#).

Best wishes,

Emily Ingalls
Editor



Outreach Out of the Ordinary

The Chapel of St. James the Fisherman gives away one-half of its annual

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sunday worship services. Even though we won't gather for worship in person this summer, we do hope to continue to donate to those organizations that we have supported in the past. This year's goal is \$40,000.

In 2019, the Chapel of St. James the Fisherman donated \$6,500 to Lower Cape Outreach Council.

CEO Larry Marsland writes the following:

[Lower Cape Outreach Council](#) has experienced a 30% surge in the number of people depending on us for food and for emergency financial assistance. Unfortunately, we expect an even stronger surge in the second half of summer when unemployment payments are diminished and this fall and winter when work is scarce and folks have not had a busy summer season to lay ahead some money to get through it.

LCOC operates 7 drive-through food pantries and 2 by-appointment-only walk-in food pantries from Harwich to Provincetown. On an average week we are providing food to 350 to 500 households. Our advocates are handling from 70 to 90 phone calls each week from people in need of emergency financial assistance or advice on how to handle problems like signing up for SNAP or unemployment insurance or Mass Health.

Between food and emergency funding (for rents, transportation, medical co-pays, etc), we are spending up to \$85,000 monthly.

At the start of this emergency, there was a groundswell of generosity. That same spirit is still there but, as you can see from the "reopening" steps being taken, there is a sense that the emergency has diminished. With that, the enthusiasm for helping has also slowed.

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