



# ST. AIDAN'S STAG & STAFF

*St. Aidan's mission: To grow as a faith family so that everyone will experience God's love.*

MARCH 2021 VOLUME XXVI NUMBER 3

## Sunday Worship

### **Morning Prayer**

8:30 am recorded

### **Drive-in Eucharist Service**

9:30 am -- Live drive-in  
and recorded

### **Sunday Coffee Hour**

11:15 am - Noon on Zoom  
Meeting ID and password in  
Wednesday's ENews.

## Wednesday Worship

### **Compline**

6:30 pm recorded

## *Lenten Compline Series: Practice Shapes Believing*

### **Wednesdays, 6:30 pm**

February 24	Spiritual Practices
March 3	Prayer
March 10	Fasting
March 17	Self-Denial (Charity, Almsgiving)
March 24	Practice Shapes Believing

Recorded worship services can be  
accessed from St. Aidan's Facebook  
Page or St. Aidan's Website:  
[staidans-hartford.org](http://staidans-hartford.org)



Dear Friends in Christ,

For many of us, the words "Lent," "Holy Week," and "Easter" remind us of familiar themes and meaningful events in our lives; however, for some individuals the experiences related to these words would benefit from some context. We know that penitence is a Lenten theme and our tradition encourages us to observe "a holy Lent" in prayer, fasting, and self-denial. During the weeks of Lent at St. Aidan's, we will explore how these practices shape our understanding of Christian history, engagement with our faith, and our spiritual development. What is not so clear is that this time in the church year also includes the theme of renewal. Penitence and renewal prepare us to participate in the great joy of the Easter celebration.

This is actually a season of "preparation for participation!" As we explore the contours of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we prepare ourselves to both affirm our faith and demonstrate our commitment to it. Every year, our journey through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter should be both educational and inspiring. Learning about our faith tradition and exploring spiritual practices can bring a deeper level of spiritual understanding leading to confident renewal of our baptismal vows. Then on Easter day, we will pray, "You bid your faithful people cleanse our hearts, and prepare with joy for the Pascal feast; that fervent in prayer and works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, we may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you."

I hope you will join me in worship for the five Wednesday evening online services in Lent, "Practice Shapes Believing," for our Zoom Seder Dinner on Maundy Thursday, a Tenebrae Good Friday service, and the great celebration of Easter.

Esther +

*Thank You,  
Thank You,*



We would like to publicly thank Aaron Casetta, AC Roofing, LLC of Richfield, for repairs to the church roof. Aaron **donated** his time and the shingles and materials necessary to repair a 6' section of roof ridge to the church.

**Thank you so much!**

*"The 40 days leading  
up to Easter can  
be some of the  
most life-giving,  
perspective-changing,  
hope-filled days  
of the entire year."*

-MargaretFeinberg.com #LentChallenge



## Alice's Restaurant

The cold and snow have kept us busy this week. There was a bit of shoveling after the plow came for the driveway and then there's keeping the bird feeders full, quite a job in this weather. The chickadees, juncos, and cardinals are surviving the cold, going through a lot of sunflower seeds in the process. I am nearly done with a big knitting project and Bruce has done a couple of repairs that needed doing. Then there is reading. I tend to do a lot of that either with real books or with audio books while I do other things.

This column is all our fearless editor's fault! Recently she and I had a conversation about going back and re-reading favorite books. I'm sure her choices were much classier than mine. I pulled *The Hobbit* off the shelf. I read this to my children, pre-movie -- I'm that old! -- and it was always one of my favorites. I don't remember if my children liked it or not. Anyway, the book mentions a lot of food. What a surprise! Do you know there are several Hobbit cookbooks? A little tiptoe around the internet led me to this recipe. Seed cake is mentioned in the first gathering of the dwarves, along with a lot of other food! Caraway in a pound cake is not something I would normally, do but it is surprisingly good! I hope you enjoy it, or if you have limited your sweets for Lent, it freezes well. You can also bake it in cupcakes. Enjoy in the afternoon with a little tea and a good book!

### Bilbo's Seed Cake.

One loaf or 12 cupcakes

1 C. butter

1 C. sugar

Cream these together.

3 eggs

Add one at a time, beating well.

2 C. flour

1 T. caraway seeds

1/4 tsp cinnamon

1/4 tsp nutmeg

1 tsp baking powder

Stir together, and add half to the creamed mixture.

1/4 C. brandy (or lemon or orange juice)

Add to the mixture with the last half of the flour mixture.

Pour into a greased loaf pan, or muffin tin.

Raw sugar or cinnamon sugar

Sprinkle generously over the top of the batter.

Bake at 350\* until the top is a nice toasty brown, about an hour for the loaf cake and 25-35 minutes for the smaller cakes. Enjoy and remember the Sundays during Lent are not fasting days!

Alice Pollock

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

It is with a heavy heart that we report the death of **Scott Hefti**. His obituary from the Berndt-Ledesma Funeral Home:

Scott Edan Hefti passed away Thursday, February 18, 2021 at the age of 66. He was born in Chickasha, OK, the son of Martha (Toothaker) and John Hefti. He began his young life in Cleveland, Oh, New Haven, CT, and New York City. His family finally settled in the Pasadena, CA area. In 1973 he moved to Wisconsin where he received his BFA in Sculpture from UW-Milwaukee. He was exceptionally skilled and spent his life drawing and painting landscapes, cityscapes and people scapes and was represented by The Bill DeLind Gallery, Sally Stevens Ltd and the Katie Gingrass Gallery. In later years he started plein air painting and received numerous grand prizes from area competitions.



He is survived by his beloved wife, Gail (Reedy) of 41 years and his three children, Wylie, Graham (Britney), Cree (Taylor) Fiester) and by a grandson, Jayden. He is further survived by nephews, other relatives and friends.

A Private Service will be held at a later date.



We are in the process of updating the **Prayer Chain**. If you are interested in being on the telephone Prayer Chain, please let **Alice Pollock** (262 707 3456) or **Ron Schnorenberg** (414 416 9118) know. You will be contacted via phone, email, or text when prayers are needed.

To put someone on the church prayer list for the Sunday bulletin, please call the office 262-673-7273

STAG & STAFF



## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

10 Wade Greenisen  
13 Louise Schrunk  
15 Lori & Andre  
Masset  
19 Jordan Cameron  
21 Dee Kaker  
21 Dave Komp

22 Kailie Schellinger  
25 Judy Pierce  
26 Michal Daley  
29 Diane Pirc  
30 Virginia & Dave  
Komp  
31 Mary Moran



## Good News!

Earl Howard Wetzel was born February 5, 2021, to Megan and Matthew Wetzel.

Congratulations!



### St. Aidan's Virtual Annual Meeting

Here are many of us in beautiful living color, some not!

We got the business done [see page 7]. Will we ever take a face-to-face meeting for granted again?





## Annual Meeting Report – a re-cap

St. Aidan's closed one week after the vestry approved my role as senior warden. Little did I know that I would literally be helping to lead and support St. Aidan's down an untraveled road -- with all the bumps and bruises of that road! Today, I feel the church is in good order. We have a new priest and a new secretary, a vestry that is willing to give of its time, busy ECW members who are always looking for the next thing to do to bring us together, welcoming members when I call for a chat, many who are receptive/attending the driveway Eucharist service, many views for online worship/ compline; over 50% are reading (or opening) the ENews and *Stag & Staff*, and as of last week 85% of our proposed budget has been pledged.

When St. Aidan's closed its doors after the March 15 service, the vestry focused on:

- ♦ What would worship look like? On line services were new to us, so we had to scramble to learn new technology. Thanks to Brian Schunk, Mike Weber, and Scott Eakins, we are able to provide online services and meetings through Zoom connections and Facebook; Morning Prayer and zoom driveway service, Evening Prayer/Compline/ Special services, such as Advent on Wednesday, Worship Center for the children through Zoom on Sunday. Scott Eakins and Pat Gardner provide music as part of morning worship and special Wednesday night services.
- ♦ How would pastoral care be met? The vestry members and interested parish members are making weekly calls/email contacts/sending cards to parish members. Personally, I have found this to be a wonderful way to re-connect with the parish or to connect and make new friendships.
- ♦ How would we manage finances with an empty church? I was encouraged to learn that St. Aidan's is working on several of the same strategies as other churches throughout the country. We encourage online giving and mail self-addressed stamped envelopes for those who prefer an alternative payment method. This has been successful. We applied for and received money through the Payroll Protection Plan.

In addition, we continued with work that needed to be done. Such as:

- ♦ Weekly monitoring of all systems, following CDC guidelines for re-opening. Things such as running water through all faucets, flushing toilets, checking and operating heating and air conditioning systems; checking the stove, emergency exit signs and lighting for proper operation were done. Routine cleaning, sanitizing, and shampooing the carpets has also been done. Thank you to Brian and Louise Schunk.

- ♦ The worship committee plans and provides online, pre-recorded Sunday worship.
- ♦ Rotation of lay persons is again established to read the lessons. If you are interested contact Micki Hoffmann or Pastor Esther.
- ♦ Diocesan approved grants that were submitted/ approved allowed us to purchase recording and sound equipment; Zoom licenses, etc.
- ♦ A new website was launched in late August and continues to be edited/revised. Thank you to Mike Weber, Gary Stage, Eileen Schmidt, and Brian Schunk.
- ♦ BREEZE has been updated and synced with Mailchimp. Thank you to Bruce Pollock, Aimee Henning, and Pastor Esther for their perseverance

We hired a new priest, the Reverend Esther Kramer. Pastor Esther began on October 18 as part-time rector. A month later we hired Aimee Hennings as part-time administrative assistant.

With support from Pastor Esther, the Worship Committee, and ECW's helping hands, St. Aidan's implemented "*St. Aidan's Season of Light*," which included the Advent Taizé Service, Advent in a Box, Winter Solstice walk-through, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, and Christmas services.

The congregation of St. Aidan's is resilient, adapting well to new situations and changing events. We have always determined what to do next, we bounce back, and take that step forward. Everything changed in 2020. Even the start of 2021 is not a return to a new normal. We are establishing a new base, with a new part-time rector, new secretary, new vestry, and new diocesan leadership; creating a new reality within the COVID environment.

All of what we have done is due to your gifts of time and talent -- supporting online ministries; outreach to parish members; up-keep of gardens/areas around the building; your gift of treasure -- sustaining and guiding our mission; supporting our priest/staff and building; supporting outreach programs for those in need; supporting technology for online services/communications; and your gift of presence -- morning worship/compline, advent services, upcoming lent program/services, Zoom coffee hour, worship center. Soon, when it is safe to return to in-person service, empty pews will be filled again.

I am grateful for all that has been accomplished collectively to maintain and support St. Aidan's during this COVID time. I appreciate your support as we transition with a new priest, office staff, and vestry.

Blessings,

**Donna Dinto**

**All of what we have  
done is due to your  
gifts of time and talent . .  
. gift of treasure . . . gift  
of presence.**



# St. Aidan's Reader Schedule



DATE	READER	Morning Prayer Recorded	Eucharist Recorded	Eucharist Live
<b>March</b>				
<b>7</b>	A. Marsh Meigs	X		
	M. Hoffmann			X
<b>14</b>	B. Schrunk	X		X
<b>21</b>	A. Pollock	X		X
<b>28</b>	L. Molenda	X	X	



DATE	READER	Morning Prayer Recorded	Eucharist Recorded	Eucharist Live
<b>April</b>				
<b>4</b>	Ben Mendoza	X		X
<b>11</b>	J.P. Schrunk	X	X	
<b>18</b>	Lily Mercado	X	X	
<b>25</b>	M. Weber	X		X

**Volunteer to read for St. Aidan's! Contact Micki Hoffmann [mphoffmann70@gmail.com].**

Readings for each service can be found at:  
**[www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)**

Procedure: All **READERS** must contact Scott **PRIOR** to any recording. Scott will provide the appropriate introduction and closure to each of the readings that will be recorded and any specific directions depending on how the recording will take place. The **READER** will

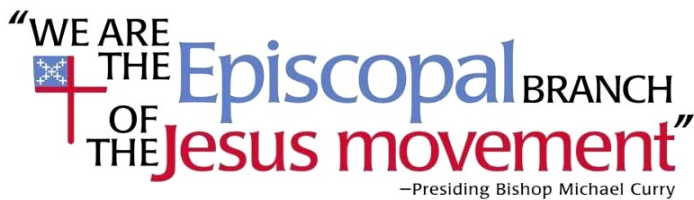
- ♦ record his/her readings at home using ZOOM
- ♦ record at the parish at a designated time (usually every other Thursdays, time to be arranged)
- ♦ record during a Zoom meeting with Scott [tba]

**Recordings are due no later than 5:00pm on the Friday prior to assigned weekend.**

If you cannot serve your appointed time, please arrange for a substitute. Thank you.

Any **permanent** changes to the schedule should be reported to Gail Hefti at [gail.hefti@gmail.com](mailto:gail.hefti@gmail.com) or 920-740-3997.





How to reach us —

Church Mailing Address:

670 E. Monroe Avenue  
Hartford, WI 53027

Church Office E-mail:

secretary@staidans-hartford.org

Church Website: [www.staidans-hartford.org](http://www.staidans-hartford.org)

**Church Phone: 262-673-7273**

The Rev. Esther Kramer

262-309-7661

estherkramer0806@gmail.com

Aimee Hennings, Administrative Assistant

secretary@staidans-hartford.org

Scott Eakins, Organist

Mike Weber, Treasurer

### **Vestry Wardens**

Donna Dinco

Brian Schrunk

### **Vestry**

Micki Hoffmann

Sandy Koeller

Amanda Mercado

Eileen Schmidt

### **Vestry Clerk**

Linda Weber

### **Stag and Staff**

Newsletter of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

Published monthly

Deadline: Third Sunday of the month

Micki Hoffmann, Editor

Contact: [mphoffmann70@gmail.com](mailto:mphoffmann70@gmail.com)

or 262-673-2903



### **Prayer Chain**

If anyone has a prayer need for someone or something, please call Alice Pollock [262-707-3456] or the church office.



**Church Library**

Lenten Reading --

Check the list of books

**available for delivery in**

the *February 2021 Stag & Staff*.

Call Micki Hoffmann [262-673-2903].



### **Women's Miniweek**

**August 2021**

**Saturday, August 7-Tuesday August 10.**

Women's Miniweek is an annual intergenerational retreat, offering refuge, friendship, relaxation, and fun. Come on your own or bring a friend. For more information visit our website.

[www.womensminiweek.org](http://www.womensminiweek.org)



St. Aidan's 2021 Annual Meeting  
Sunday, February 14, 2021 On Zoom  
Draft Minutes

Vestry Attendance: Pastor Esther, Donna Dinco, Sandy Koeller, Michael Weber-treasurer, Brian Schrunk, Pastora Loretta, Micki Hoffmann, Pat Gardner, Gary Stage, Linda Weber - clerk, 32 parishioners.

1. Opening prayer
2. Minutes from the 2020 annual meeting. Motion to approve minutes from the 2020 annual meeting carried. (Alice Pollock/Eric Wetzel)
3. Ministry reports. Discussion of ongoing ministries for the year and those that have been put on hold during the Pandemic.
4. Warden's report.  
Donna Dinco, senior warden, reviewed the year at St. Aidan's.
5. Pastor Esther's report.  
Pastor Esther expressed her gratitude to the many people at St. Aidan's who have worked so hard to continue the work of St. Aidan's during the Pandemic.  
She explained her role as a half-time priest.  
She welcomed our new Administrative Assistant Aimee Hennings, who works at the office on Wednesday and Friday mornings.
6. Vestry retreat - March 6, to discuss St. Aidan's future plans.
7. Treasurer's Report - Mike Weber  
Finances from last year projected a \$45,000 deficit.  
There are a number of pledges still out. Mike will contact those members.  
ECW made a \$1500 donation to the budget. Our budget will be in the black this year with the hiring of a half time priest.
8. Bylaw revision - A committee updated the Church by-laws, primarily terminology. Motion to accept the revision of the church by-laws carried. (S. Lenz/Eric Meigs)
9. Diocesan convention delegates slate presented: Michael Weber, Donna Dinco, Micki Hoffmann, Bert Mendoza  
Alternates: Brian Schrunk, Sandy Koeller  
Motion to approve the slate of Diocesan Convention delegates as presented carried. (Bruce Pollock/Gary Stage)
10. Vestry nominations - slate of candidates  
Donna Dinco -senior warden  
Brian Schrunk - junior warden  
2 new vestry members  
Amanda Mercado  
Eileen Schmidt  
Motion to approve the slate of candidates for vestry as presented carried. (Eric Meigs/Micki Hoffmann)  
Many thanks to the people coming off the Vestry - Gary Stage and Pat Gardner.
11. Other questions:  
Pat Gardner gave special thanks to Pastor Loretta for all of her work with St. Aidan's parish and expressed her pleasure at the unity of the congregation at the annual meeting.  
Linda Weber gave thanks to Pastor Esther for her efforts and work throughout the Pandemic.



Adjourned.

Submitted by **Linda Weber**, Vestry Clerk





## LISTENING WITH ALL OUR HEART

*Listening to Ourselves*

Reflection By Scott Stoner

*When you encounter difficulties and contradictions, do not try to break them, but bend them with gentleness and time.*

- Saint Francis de Sales

The Living Compass Model for Well-Being has four quadrants -- heart, soul, strength, and mind. Today we will focus on the *Heart* quadrant, which includes our emotions and relationships.

As a psychotherapist, I commonly meet with people who initially want help in getting rid of uncomfortable emotions, such as fear, sadness, anger, or anxiety. I typically respond that the most important first step is to begin by listening to what those troubling emotions are trying to say. Our emotions function like the warning lights on a car dashboard, letting us know that there is an underlying issue that may need to be explored and addressed.

Just as it is wise to learn to listen to uncomfortable emotions within ourselves, it is also wise to learn to honor and listen to discomfort if or when it arises in an important relationship in our lives. Ignoring uncomfortable feelings rarely helps them to go away. Instead, gently facing discomfort in a relationship, and risking what initially may be an awkward conversation, can be crucial in deepening and improving the relationship.

Because uncomfortable emotions, either within ourselves or in our relationships, are well, uncomfortable, it is understandable that we might want to avoid them. If we do that, though, often we will find that what we resist, persists, and that what we face, with time and care, can be resolved.

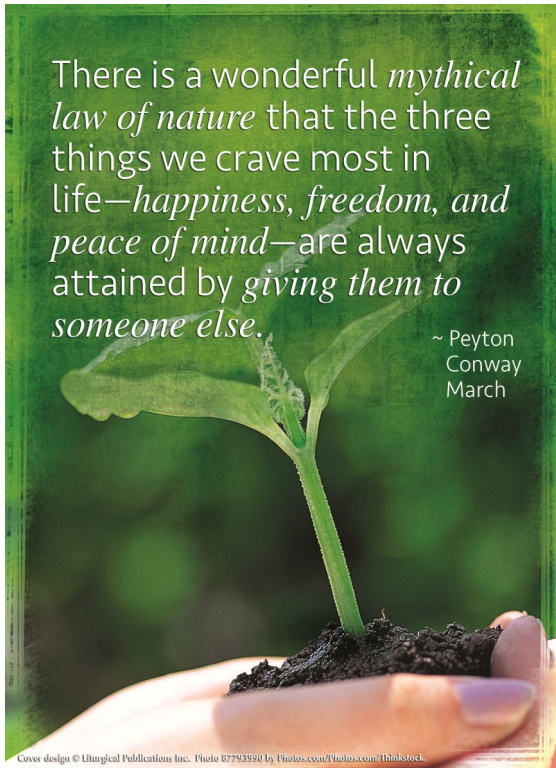
**Making It Personal:** As you listen to what's happening right now with your emotions and/or your relationships, what do you hear? If you are experiencing any discomfort, can you sit with it to see what it has to teach you? What do you think of the idea that "what we resist, persists"?



## Book Review -- *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho

From Amazon: ***In Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man***, Emmanuel Acho takes on all the questions, large and small, insensitive and taboo, many white Americans are afraid to ask—yet which all Americans need the answers to, now more than ever. With the same open-hearted generosity that has made his video series a phenomenon, Acho explains the vital core of such fraught concepts as white privilege, cultural appropriation, and “reverse racism.” In his own words, he provides a space of compassion and understanding in a discussion that can lack both. He asks only for the reader’s curiosity—but along the way, he will galvanize all of us to join the antiracist fight.

**Editor’s Note:** This provocative, but very readable book is available at the Hartford Library. Written as though Acho was sitting at your kitchen table, it’s a must-read for these times!



There is a wonderful *mythical law of nature* that the three things we crave most in life—*happiness, freedom, and peace of mind*—are always attained by *giving them to someone else*.

~ Peyton  
Conway  
March

**S**trange bleak season in the Church year in the part of the world [New York] in which I live. February – how right the Romans were to make it the shortest month of the year. But now that it is March, I’m ready for spring . . . In my heart I am too eager for Easter. But like the winter fields, my heart needs the snows of Lent. I used to make up lists as Lent approached, lists of small things to give up. But then it occurred to me that if what I was giving up was something bad, it should be given up once and for all. There is a value to giving up something which is in itself good, as a offering of love. But now I feel I want to do something positive, rather than something negative. . .

Perhaps what I am supposed to do about Lent is to think about some things I have put off thinking about. The Beatitudes [Matthew 5:3-12], for instance. They have seemed to make demands on me that I’m not sure I want made. But I have a hunch that if I stop being afraid of the Beatitudes and consider them seriously, I may discover a way of life which will not only be simpler, but which will also be more free than life normally is.

Madeleine L’Engle