

January 16, 2025



**Rev. Deacon Becki Casey**

**January 19, 2025 - 11 am - Holy Eucharist  
Annual Meeting**

**January 26, 2025 - 11 am - Holy Eucharist**

### **Readings for Sunday, January 19, 2025**

**Isaiah 62:1-5  
I Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11  
Psalm 36:5-10**

### **Lay Servers - January 19, 2025**

<b>Vestry Person.....</b>	<b>Molly Sanford</b>
<b>Usher.....</b>	<b>Beppy White</b>
<b>Acolyte.....</b>	<b>Molly Sanford</b>
<b>Lector.....</b>	<b>Susan Bagby</b>
<b>Intercessor.....</b>	<b>Jaynie Jackson</b>
<b>LEM.....</b>	<b>Dave Bagby</b>
<b>Altar Care.....</b>	<b>Jaynie Jackson</b>
<b>Fellowship.....</b>	<b>BriarleyRogers/Bev Young</b>

# WEEKLY at PIEDMONT CHURCH

## Tuesday

**7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in the Sun room**

## Wednesday

**4 p.m. Bible Study with Norris John**

**5:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner**

**6:30 p.m. Choir Practice - Brad Jackson**

## Friday

**9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer with Bill Birkhofer**

**9:45 a.m. Understanding the Bible - Rev. Becki**

### Understanding the Bible

Do you have questions about the Bible? What is it, what is in it, how can I understand better what we are reading on Sunday mornings, how should I understand such an ancient group of texts, and what does it have to do with my life? At Piedmont Church, Morning Prayer is on Fridays at 9AM in the Parish House. At 9:45AM each week, immediately following Morning Prayer, we will begin our study. All are welcome! Join us as we explore. Piedmont Episcopal Church's Parish House is at 206 Church St in Madison.

## Minister's Musings

### Valuing Nuance...The Work of Love

Humans use language to communicate. To make our lives simpler, we name things and group them together. Categorizing things makes it simpler for us to understand them and express our understanding to others. I recently learned that people from The Islands have ONE type of apple available to them. So, when they visit a grocery store in The States, it is overwhelming to understand ALL the varieties. Who knew!? If you have only ever tasted Red Delicious apples, biting into a Granny Smith would be surprising. Broad generalizations make some things simpler. Nuance, while adding complexity, enhances our communication. Sometimes we don't even know what we don't know until someone introduces us to something new.

As a person who started studying the Bible as a child, I have always loved the ways it made me feel empowered. However, when I was in seminary, I started learning the extensive ways the Bible has been used to oppress. I made friends with a Jewish student who told me unimaginable stories about how Christians had, and still do, use the New Testament to justify violence against her people. Until I listened to her stories, I had no idea! I had never

experienced the harm personally, I only knew Jesus' stories from the perspective of a Caucasian, American, middle class, female. She helped me see how damaging those stories can be if they aren't expressed with the nuance of a different perspective.

If the Bible says Jews did a harmful thing to Jesus, it is a logical leap to assume all Jews carry that culpability. But that leap fails to account for the fact that the Jews are God's chosen people. Jesus was himself a Jew. The Messiah was sent to the Jews, and the gospel was first preached to Jews. The covenant God made with Abraham and his descendants had no expiration date. When I teach the stories that include caricatures about the Jews, I, personally understand the Jews to represent all of us. I lump myself in with the faulty religious superiority of the elite pharisees. But I don't always say that. The way I speak about these stories can carry the unintended consequence of leading people to assume I think Jews are bad people. I need to do better. I need to be more intentional to include nuance. It might not matter to those with white skin, but it could be a matter of life and death for those who are brown.

On Monday our country will celebrate the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The fact that our nation celebrates this man of faith, demonstrates our recognition of the value of his ministry and message. Yet, the battle for racial equality and reconciliation is far from finished. At a time when political dividing lines feel nearly insurmountable, the topic of race feels terrifyingly inflammatory. We prefer to silence challenging topics. Our world has polarized and insulated itself in echo chambers on both sides of almost all debates, including racial reconciliation. As Christians, we have a responsibility to grow in our ability to step out of our silos, away from broad categorizations, and move into the complexity of nuance.

If we want to love people, we must understand their wounds. There are wounded people on both sides of every debate. The Spirit of God moves to heal the wounded. To follow Christ means stepping into uncomfortable places, listening to people with different opinions, hearing the wounded, loving those with whom we disagree. We will never all agree. That is not the goal. Love is the goal. Love requires understanding. Understanding requires proximity. When was the last time we worked to understand, rather than be understood by, someone different? How can we position ourselves to love better?

-Rev. Becki

Collect: Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may strive to secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



### **Prayer List**

We offer prayers for those who are dealing with health issues and other ongoing needs: **Mac** Barber, **Bernadette** Blanding, **Mike** Cashman, **David** Cronk, **Janice** Edwards, **Joanie** Edwards, **Alfred** Goossens, **Vera** Griffin, **Brad and Lydia** Hansen, **Ginger** Hawkins, **Zoe** Hubbard, **Shelby Jean** Hull, **Kim**, **Aaron** Milligan, **Marilyn** Myers, **Carol** Nowak, **Carolyn** O'Brien, **Chris** Palumbo, **Robert**, **Michael** Rider, **Pat** Roberts, **Steve** Sanford, **Ann** Skidmore, **Sarah**, **Carolyn** Stanley, **Joe** Stanley and **Robert** Ulrich.

**\*If you wish to add or remove someone from the Parish Prayer list please send an email to Rev. Deacon Becki Casey @ [beckisafeinhishands@gmail.com](mailto:beckisafeinhishands@gmail.com) by Wednesday to ensure that it gets into the bulletin and weekly messenger**

### **Cycle of Prayer**

Please join us in praying for our larger Church communities. This week in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we begin the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, praying that the universal church will be united, and we lift up especially The Church in the Province of the West Indies. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Grace in The Plains, Grace Memorial in Port Republic, and St. Johns in Columbia.

### **Help for Wildfires**

During time of national crisis, we join together in prayer, and we seek ways to meet the needs of the suffering. Many of our own church members have family and friends who have been directly impacted by California's wildfires, some have lost everything. Many of our parishioners have asked how to participate in offering relief to those in need.

Please pray with us: O God, our refuge and strength, our help in times of

trouble. Have mercy on the lands damaged by fires. Have mercy on the lands where the weather has destroyed livelihoods. Protect those who evacuate houses and strengthen those who rebuild hope so that entire communities may face the future without fear. Amen.

Click [here](#) if you would like to learn more. Click [here](#) if you would like to learn how to offer financial assistance.

### The Attack of the Hackers

Computer and cell phone hacking has become a real problem for parishes across the country. Please be aware that hackers have been using Becki's email and phone contacts reaching out to our parishioners. NO ONE from the parish will ever contact you asking for money! If you get a message that feels questionable, or asks you to do anything, do not open or reply to it. Call Becki directly if you have questions.



### Loaves and Fishes

Well, it's that time again!! Piedmont is scheduled to deliver nutrition packages to the Boys and Girls Club of Madison, as part of our cooperative ministry with Hebron Lutheran Church and Madison Presbyterian Church, on Friday, **January 31st**.

Given our busy schedules and the possibility of inclement weather, if it's possible for you to sign up Sunday, shop next week and return your items by Sunday, **January 19th**, that would be greatly appreciated. We will pack following our service on Sunday, **January 26th**, and deliver early Friday morning, **January 31st**.

Once again, we thank you for supporting this vital mission to support the nutritional needs of our Madison children.



**January 19, 2025 - 11 AM**

**Join us for our annual meeting immediately following our Sunday morning worship service. Budget review, welcoming of new vestry members and discussion.**

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, please join David Curtis and others in a reading of the Letter from Birmingham Jail on Jan 20 (MLK Jr. Day) from 7:00pm to 8:30pm by Zoom. If you would like to participate by reading a section, please email David at [deaconjdc@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjdc@gmail.com) by Saturday, Jan 18, at 7pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82372672538>

-Deacon Kathryn

### **The Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese**

The Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia will be held at the Fredericksburg Convention Center on November 6-8, 2025. If you would like to be a delegate or alternate for this year's convention or have questions, please contact Rev. Becki prior to this week's annual meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

**Grief Support Group**

**Piedmont Episcopal Church, 214 Church St  
Madison, VA**

**February 4, 2025**

**Place: Piedmont Fellowship House, next door to the church, living  
room, enter through the kitchen door in the carport**

**Grace Episcopal Church, 97 Main St.  
Stanardsville, VA 22973**

**Third Tuesday of each of each month**

**January 21, 2025**



## Grief Support Group



***No one should have to grieve alone.***

Grace and Piedmont Episcopal Churches together with Gentiva Hospice are offering a support group that will provide spiritual and faith-based gatherings designed to accompany each person in their unique walk with grief from the loss of a loved one or any other of the losses that life immerses us in, loss of job, relationships, or way, the grief brought about from fear of the future, the news, or our culture.

Madeleine L'engle in talking about her own experience says, "Bereavement is not the truncation of...love, but one of its regular phases."

Join us as we learn to walk this new and difficult path together. We need one another.

Meetings:

Places: Piedmont Episcopal Church, [www.piedmontepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.piedmontepiscopalchurch.org)

First Tuesday of each month at 6 PM, Enter the Fellowship House thru the carport, we will meet in in the living room,

Grace Episcopal Church, [www.gracechurchstanardsville.org/general](http://www.gracechurchstanardsville.org/general)

Third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM, Come in the side door on Ford Avenue; we will meet in the Sunday School room to the left down the hall

Rev. Kathryn Thomas, Deacon @ 434-962-9103, [kathrynhthomas@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynhthomas@gmail.com)

Chaplain Stephen Mathis, Gentiva, @540-742-7520, [sjwmathis89@gmail.com](mailto:sjwmathis89@gmail.com)

Sharon Hicks, LPN, Piedmont Senior Warden, [sharonsarbonne@aol.com](mailto:sharonsarbonne@aol.com)



Email us

Piedmont Episcopal Church | 214 Church Street | Madison, VA 22727 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)





Try email marketing for free today!