

May 8, 2025



Piedmont Episcopal Church

214 Church Street
Madison, Va 22727

The Rev. Becki Casey
Priest-in-Charge

May 11, 2025 - 11 a.m. Worship
Service

Wherever you are on your spiritual
journey, you
can find a home here.
Our doors and hearts are wide open!

Readings for May 11, 2025

Acts 9:36-43
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30
Psalm 23

Lay Servers - May 11, 2025

Vestry Person.....Sharon Hicks
Usher.....Dona Hutchinson
Acolyte.....Molly Sanford
Children's Church.....Dave Bagby
Lector.....Beverly Young
Intercessor.....Rev. Becki
LEM.....Sharon Hicks
Altar Care.....Kay John/Sharon Hicks
Fellowship.....Bess Landolt

WEEKLY at PIEDMONT CHURCH

Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study with Rev. Brad Jackson

Wednesday

4 p.m. Bible Study with Norris John

5:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Dinner

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice with Rev. Brad Jackson (**Resumes 6/4**)

Friday

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

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

VESTRY Meeting this Sunday - May 11, 2025



Prayer List

We offer prayers for those who are dealing with health issues and other ongoing needs: **Mac Barber, Bernadette Blanding, Sharon Carter, Mike Cashman, David Cronk, Janice Edwards, Joanie Edwards, Jill F., Alfred Goossens, Vera Griffin, Brad and Lydia Hansen, Ginger Hawkins, Zoe Hubbard, Shelby Jean Hull, Kim, Ryan Mahanes, Aaron Milligan, Hannah Moyer, Mary Moyer, Carol Nowak, Carolyn O'Brien, Robert, Michael Rider, Pat Roberts, Steve Sanford, Ann Skidmore, Sarah, Carolyn Stanley, Joe Stanley, Kathryn Thomas, Robert Ulrich and Sylvia Vior.**

***If you wish to add or remove someone from the Parish Prayer list please send an email to Rev. Becki Casey @ 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 pray for The Nippon Sei Ko Kai. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. John's in McLean, St. Mary's in Goochland, and Trinity in Manassas.

Minister's Musings

God, Our Mother

Throughout history, God has been labeled with male pronouns and comfortably called "father". In modern times, scholars and theologians have pushed back against that patriarchal assumption by claiming female pronouns for God and using feminine imagery to describe the divine. While this may feel unconventional to some, the Bible is full of maternal imagery for God. God is likened to one who labors and gives birth, offering the comforting and sustenance of her breast. She is described as a mother hen, bear, and bird who nurtures and comforts with that same tenderness. Feminism is not the initiator of these images but may have helped to recenter them in the modern imagination. But contemporary voices are not the only ones who have experienced or expressed God in this way.

Julian of Norwich is one of the most significant early authors to highlight maternal imagery for God. Thursday, May 8th, is Julian's feast day. She lived in England at the beginning of the fifteenth century as an anchoress. Anchoresses were women who lived so completely devoted to God that they were declared dead, stripped of their names (Julian is the name of her church), and sealed inside a windowed cell attached to the church. They spent their lives in prayer, meditation, and offered counsel to those who came in need. Julian suffered a terrible illness that brought her to the edge of death where she was administered last rights. At that moment, she had a vision of the passion of Christ whose love changed her life. She recovered her health and wrote about her experience in *Revelations of Divine Love*, which was not published until 250 years after her death. In *Revelations*, she described a God who "is nearer to us than our own soul". The love she expressed describing God was full of female, maternal images.

This Sunday is the celebration of Mother's Day. As we celebrate the blessing of earthly mothers, reimagining God in this context may offer us a new glimpse into Christ's passion and move our hearts to respond in new ways. Let us consider Julian's own words, "Our true mother, Jesus, he who is all love, bears us into joy and eternal life. . . . He sustains us within himself in love and was in labor for the full time until he suffered the sharpest pangs and the most grievous suffering that ever were or shall be, and at the last he died. . . . Even this could not fully satisfy his marvelous love; and that he showed in these high surpassing words of love, 'If I could suffer more, I would suffer more.'"

-Rev. Becki

(As an aside, Julian was a lover of cats, is considered the patron saint of

cats....and who doesn't love her for that?!)

Collect: Triune God, Father and Mother to us all, who showed your servant Julian revelations of your nurturing and sustaining love: Move our hearts, like hers, to seek you above all things, for in giving us yourself you give us all.
Amen

Worship Leader Training

If you would like to begin or continue with Sunday Worship participation in the role of:

Usher
Acolyte
LEM
Lector
Intercessor

Please join us for a training on Saturday, May 24th and 10AM in the Piedmont Sanctuary for an hour training. Those desiring to participate as LEMs (Lay Eucharistic Ministers) will stay for an additional hour. You will receive a document via email that will cover the details of the roles pertaining to your specific area of interest. When we gather on Saturday, we will discuss those roles, run through specific details, answer questions, and pray over these valuable ministries. Becki will be blessing you and commissioning you to serve. If you have any questions or if you have not already let Becki know that you would like to participate, please let her know as soon as possible.

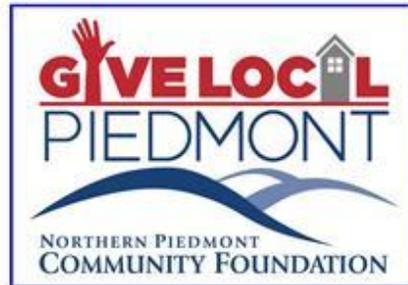


Madison Choral Society

is participating in
Give Local Piedmont,
an annual online
Day of Giving on May 13.

Donating is easy. Please ask your family, friends, and neighbors to join you in supporting non-profit organizations in the communities.

- ◆ Go to www.givelocalpiedmont.org.
- ◆ Select the organizations you wish to support (\$10 minimum).



Piedmont Parish Directory Completed!

Our 2025 parish directory is completed! Copies will be available starting this Sunday. Please pick up a copy. Thank you to all that helped gather and update this information and prepare this year's directory.



**Altar
Flowers**
Ministry Opportunity

Thank you to everyone who has provided flowers for our altar this year. There are only three pairs of Sundays remaining for making a gift of altar flowers in 2025. These available dates are July 27- August 3, August 24-31, and October 26-November 2. Please make a note on the bulletin board in the sanctuary and ask any altar guild member if you have questions.

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