

St. John's Episcopal Church

"Our mission is to know and to share the love of Jesus Christ"



November 9, 2025
Worship time - 10:00am

Rector's Essay

Stewardship of Community

God gives us the gift of community to remind us that 'love of neighbor' and 'love of enemy' are not abstract notions to embrace without regular application.

Following Jesus is not a solo activity. We are not allowed to say 'we do not need each other' - as St. Paul writes - first, because we only really represent Jesus through our diversity, and second, because we serve him best when our many different gifts come together.

As you get to know me, you will learn that for me "stewardship" names a set of practices that far exceeds the financial. Jesus was - of course - very concerned about the spiritual dangers that arise from a distorted relationship to money. He taught about this peril much more than any other opportunity for sin, including sex. However, Jesus calls us to live our whole lives in the presence of God with every aspect of our life supported by God and accountable to God.

We live *before* God. Not in time but in space, i.e. we stand before God. Life with God changes everything for a disciple.

A with-God life is not a compartmentalized life. Every area of our life is engaged by God's loving care and direction. We don't get to live our lives in separate buckets - a finance bucket, a family bucket, a school bucket, a work bucket, etc. Even our political activity - which is a species of care for the community - is conducted within our relationship with God. Where else do our moral resources come from besides our life-encompassing relationship with God?

Scroll down to continue reading this article.

Great Wednesday

5:30pm - Holy Eucharist in the Church

6:00pm - Dinner in the Undercroft

Suggested donation \$5.00.

7:00pm - Bible Study Class in the Bethlehem Chapel

The Book of Acts (also available on [Zoom](#))

Those attending class at home should have their Bible handy.

Those attending in person will have Bibles available in the chapel.

23rd Annual Solidarity Harvest

Please help us make 100 mini pumpkin loaves to support the 23rd Annual Solidarity Harvest. We need them in the freezer at church by November 9th so I can deliver them. Here is a recipe online if you are looking for inspiration:

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/6820/downeast-maine-pumpkin-bread/> .Thank you. Emma Perry



Fifty Years after the Vietnam War: Program of Remembrance and Reflection

On Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11 at 3:00 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church will present "Fifty Years After the Vietnam War: Program of Remembrance and Reflection" at 225 French Street in Bangor, Maine. The program will include poems by Michael Casey, Yusef Komunyakaa, Bobbi Trotter, and others, read by Nancy Dymond, Dillon Murray, Jerry Lyden, and Jeff Sychterz; reflections by Tom Bennett, Nancy Dymond, Rabbi Bill Siemers, and the Rev. Jarrett Kerbel; and music by Sergei Rachmaninoff and Carson Cooman, played by Marisa Solomon, Patricia Stowell, and Jack Burt. A reception will follow. The program will be livestreamed on [our YouTube page](#) for those who cannot attend in person. For more information, please contact the [office](#).

FIFTY YEARS AFTER THE VIETNAM WAR:

Remembrance and Reflection



VETERANS DAY

Tuesday • November 11, 2025 • 3:00 pm

• POEMS OF THE WAR •

John Balaban • Michael Casey • W.D. Ehrhart • Sharon Grant
Yusef Komunyakaa • Bobbi Trotter • Bruce Weigl
Read by Dillon Murray • Nancy Dymond • Jerry Lyden • Jeff Sychterz

• REFLECTIONS •

Tom Bennett • Lua Nguyen • Nancy Dymond • Rabbi Bill Siemers • The Rev. Jarrett Kerbel

• MUSIC •

Carson Cooman • Sergei Rachmaninoff
Played by Marisa Solomon, Patricia Stowell, & Jack Burt

Reception to Follow

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
225 French Street • Bangor, Maine



Livestream on St. John's YouTube channel

For information, contact Vanessa Young • Administrator, St. John's Episcopal • admin@stjohnsbangor.org • (207) 947-0156
Vietnam Wall and Flag courtesy of The National Archives

Warm Hearts, Warm Clothes

Too many individuals in our homeless community are facing harsh winter weather without the proper outdoor attire and shelter. We're seeking donations of gently used winter attire, feminine products, socks/underwear, and warm blankets/sleeping bags. This is a great time to clean out your closets and get ready for the season change! Donations can be dropped off in the entryway of the church in the designated collection area. Help us keep our most vulnerable neighbors warm. Contact person: [Hilary Graebert](#)

UPDATE

WARM HEARTS WARM CLOTHES

DONATIONS TO BE GIVEN DIRECTLY INTO THE
HANDS OF OUR HOMELESS COMMUNITY

Your donation will provide warmth, comfort, and dignity to those most in need who are living without proper shelter or winter attire.

Seeking donations of:

Hats	Gloves
Jackets	Sweaters
Sleeping Bags	Umbrellas
Blankets	Handwarmers
Underwear	Socks

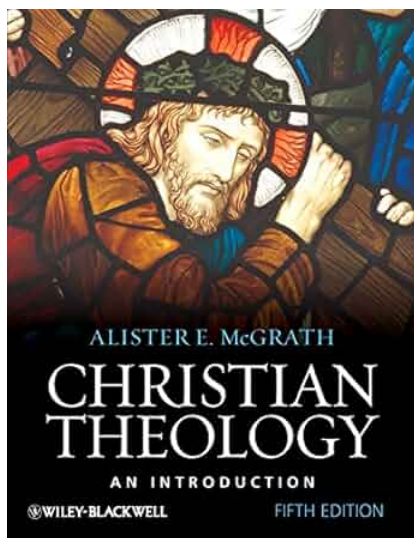
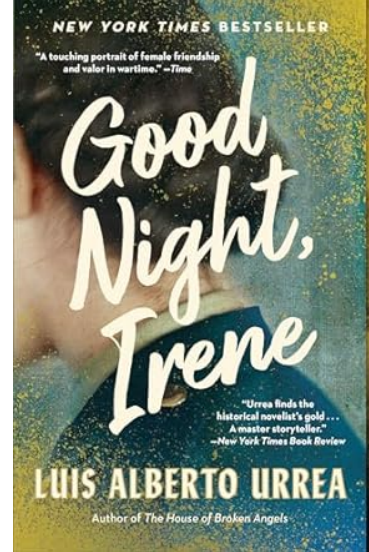


 **St. John's Episcopal Church**
225 French St. Bangor



Women's Book Group

The St. John's Women's Book group will meet on November 18 at 2 p.m. on [Zoom](#). The book of the month is [Good Night, Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea](#). It is about women in WWII, and many of us could share our family experiences. This book is available in hardcover, paperback, on Kindle and on Audible. If you have questions, please contact the church [office](#).



Christian Theology Class

Our next class will be held on Tuesday, November 18th, on [Zoom](#) at 6:30pm, covering Chapter Eleven "The Nature and Basis of Salvation" from the book Christian Theology: An Introduction. Please review the following video prior to the class - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQVRLCytBj0>.

If you have any questions or would like more information about joining the class, please contact [Pat S.](#)

Fill The Truck in Support of Bangor Area Homeless Shelter

As we look forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday where food and family will be at the center of many celebrations, we acknowledge that not everyone will be as fortunate. Let's 'Fill The Truck' and in turn help to provide a holiday meal to those at The Bangor Area Homeless Shelter this Thanksgiving. We will be collecting food donations on Sunday, November 23rd, from 9am-1pm. Seeking non-perishable Thanksgiving foods such as: stuffing, gravy jars/packets, canned green beans, cream of mushroom soup, instant mashed potatoes, etc. Contact person: [Hilary Graebert](#)

FILL THE TRUCK



IN SUPPORT OF:



As we look forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday where food and family will be at the center of many celebrations, we acknowledge that not everyone will be as fortunate. Help us 'Fill The Truck' and in turn help provide a Thanksgiving meal to those at The Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. Let us make a positive impact on the lives of those facing food insecurity.

St. John's Episcopal Church
225 French St. Bangor, Maine

**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER
23RD
9AM - 1PM**

**SEEKING NON-PERISHABLE
THANKSGIVING FOODS:**

- ▶ Stuffing
- ▶ Gravy jars/packets
- ▶ Cranberry sauce
- ▶ Turkey seasoning
- ▶ Canned green beans
- ▶ Fried onions for casseroles
- ▶ Cream of mushroom soup
- ▶ Instant mashed potatoes



Christmas Basket Project

St. John's is organizing a special Christmas project to provide turkey dinners and toys for needy families through Penquis Cap. This initiative is entirely funded by donations from St. John's parishioners, and we are reaching out for your support to help cover the costs of food and gifts.

This year, we aim to assist 15 families, benefiting approximately 30 children in total. Each basket of food costs about \$150, so the total cost for helping these 15 families will be \$1,950. If you would like to contribute, please send a check to the church and include "Christmas Basket Project" in the memo line.

In the next few weeks, parishioners will have the chance to choose a child's name and buy a toy for them. More to come on that soon.

Now, more than ever, many families need assistance during the Christmas season. Thank you for making a positive impact on their lives. For more information, please contact the office.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

We invite you to join us for a very special Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 26th, at 7:00pm.



**Support Neighbors While
Benefits are Frozen**

SNAP INTO ACTION

**Drop off non perishables, personal items and
baby supplies to your nearest food bank. Find
one at: gsfb.org/food-map or donate —>**

****Local food drives will be added
to ActivateMaine.com**



Rector's Essay

Stewardship of Community - Continued

More locally, stewardship of community means availing ourselves of Christ's teachings and behaviors in our life together. We gather in a covenant community constituted by our Baptismal Vows and from that foundation we strive - with God's help always - to embody forms of life that encourage human flourishing in our church. In all we do, we communicate respect for the dignity of each human person and integrity in our own actions. In agreement or disagreement, we conduct ourselves in a way that we can regard with self-respect.

Another thing to know about me is my love for acronyms. I use two acronyms to guide my conduct in community. One is GIVE and the other is FAST. GIVE stands for Generous, Inquisitive, Validating and

Easy Going. FAST stands for Fair, Apologize(less), Stand on Values and tell the Truth in love. More on these next time.

Family, Children and Youth Ministry

First, expect an email from me searching for the best time to meet with families. For now, I am proposing Friday, November 21, for pizza, a parent meeting and a movie for the kids. I want to get to know you and I want to hear what you want and hope for from the church. We will do some brainstorming together to come up with even more ways to live up to our Baptismal promises to children and families. Remember when the congregation affirmed their support for you and your children on your journey into the full stature of Christ during the Baptism service? We take that promise very seriously!

Second, I want to encourage you to share your Saints with your children! One great faith formation opportunity for family life is to read stories and share about the Saints that matter to you. Children need positive examples of human souls flourishing in service to Jesus and the saints are an excellent place to start! There are many children's books about St. Francis for example and you can find excellent resources on-line too. The Saints I learned about as a child are still with me to this day, especially Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jonathan Myrick Daniels, John Lewis, and the Berrigan Brothers, guiding my path to Jesus.

-Jarrett Kerbel

Phishing scam alert

If you receive an email or text from "Rev. Jarrett Kerbel" asking you for a favor and could you please email him back, please don't! Rev. Kerbel will never ask you to purchase gift cards for him and will not email or text you with a vague request of needing a favor. If you aren't sure about a request that you received from St. John's, please call or email the office at 947-0156 or office@stjohnsbangor.org.

Announcements and Prayer Requests

Please be sure to submit all announcements and prayer requests to [the office](#) by noon on Thursday for them to be included in the weekly announcements and bulletins. Please submit photos / posters as a JPEG. Thank you!

Serving on Sunday November 9th:

Lectors – Katharine F., Richard W. and Jacquie W.
Acolytes – Dakota M., Edmund H., Obi O. and Cindy L.
Chalice Bearers – Cassy P. and Dakota M.
Ushers – Katharine F. and Sheila S.
Counters – Delores L. and Rex B.

Serving on Sunday November 16th:

Lectors – Jacqueline C., Ruth G. and Chris M.
Acolytes – Grant P., Gavin G., Isaac P. and Molly M.
Chalice Bearers – David C. and Jacquie W.
Ushers – Andy H. and Patty H.
Counters – Marsha C. and Paul J.

Thank you to all who volunteer as Lectors, Acolytes, Chalice Bearers and Ushers. If you would like to serve in one of these positions, please let the [office](#) know.

Sunday's Readings

[Job 19:23-27a](#)

[2
Thessalonians
2:1-5, 13-17](#)

What's Happening This Week

Saturday, November 8th, 12:00pm: Second Saturday, our monthly community meal, in the Undercroft. For more information, contact [David C. or Rex B.](#)

Sunday, November 9th, 10:00am: Worship, in-person and [online](#) followed by coffee hour in the Undercroft. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.

***Sunday
Worship:***
[Worship
Bulletin](#)

[YouTube](#)

***Morning
Prayer
Monday -
Friday:***
9:00am
Morning
Prayer
[Zoom](#)
[Facebook](#)

***Tuesday-
Friday:***
in person in
the Bethlehem
Chapel

***Evening
Prayer
Monday -
Friday:***
5:15pm
live on [Zoom](#)

Sunday, November 9th, 11:30am: Vestry Meeting.

Sunday, November 9th, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

Tuesday, November 11th, all day: The Church Office will be closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Tuesday, November 11th, 7:00am: Men's Breakfast monthly meeting at the Coach House Restaurant at 457 Wilson Street in Brewer. For more information, contact [Jim B.](#)

Tuesday, November 11th, 3:00: Fifty Years After The Vietnam War: Remembrance and Reflection. In person and on [YouTube](#).

Wednesday, November 12th, 5:30pm: Great Wednesdays - 5:30pm Holy Eucharist (in the Church), 6:00pm Dinner (in the Undercroft) and 7:00pm Class on the Book of Acts in the Chapel (the class is also on [Zoom](#)).

Thursday, November 13th, 5:30pm: Choir rehearsal. For more information about joining our choir, please reach out to [Colin Graebert](#), our choir director.

Sunday, November 16th, 10:00am: Worship, in-person and [online](#) followed by a special Thanksgiving Potluck in the Undercroft. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.

Sunday, November 16th, 12:30am: Education and Evangelism Team Meeting.

Sunday, November 16th, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

For more information about these and future events, as well as ways to get involved, check out www.stjohnsbangor.org.

Nursery Care and Children's Chapel

Children should arrive between 9:45 and 10:00 am in the Undercroft on Sunday mornings for Nursery care, ages 0-3, and for Children's Chapel, ages 4-10.

In **Children's Chapel**, we celebrate the boundless curiosity and wonder of our young ones as we delve into the stories and lessons of the Bible. We aim to cultivate a nurturing and engaging environment that teaches our youngest members the stories of their faith and promotes spiritual growth and a strong sense of community. For inquiries or to register, please contact Mary-Frances Beesorchard at children@stjohnsbangor.org.

Opportunities to pray together:

Sunday Morning Eucharist, at 10:00am in person and on [YouTube](#)

Great Wednesday, with Holy Eucharist at 5:30pm

Morning Prayer, Mon-Fri, 9:00am on [Facebook](#) and on [Zoom](#)
and in person Tuesday - Friday in the Bethlehem Chapel

Evening Prayer, Mon-Fri, 5:15pm on [Zoom](#)

Volunteering is a wonderful way to give. Looking for the right Ministry Opportunity for you? Just click the link below for more information.

[OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY](#)

Parish Prayer List:

If you would like to add or reinstate a name or concern for our parish prayer list, please contact the church office or prayers@stjohnsbangor.org.

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed, and for those who have requested prayer: Esther R., Katie B., and Mikenzy M. **Continued prayers for** – Rachel M.T., Persis S., Duane P., Donald K., Jane Z., Steve S., Margaret

C., Elena B., Jay B., Susan S., Loretta, David B., Jane P., Kelly M., Phil C., Robin S., Ross M., Claude K., MarLynne M., Russell M., and Kyra H.

For our Homebound Members: Lilly P., Earlene B., and Eileen H.

For the World: for Peace and Goodwill among Nations and for peoples in places of violence or oppression, and for the many places in our world where there is danger and desperation. We pray for the people of Jamaica. We continue to pray for the people in Ukraine and the Holy Land, especially for the people in Gaza in this time of great suffering, and for the innocent people of Sudan caught in a brutal civil war. For an end to war and all forms of violence. For all who suffer for conscience's sake. For our enemies and those who wish us harm. For all suffering effects of climate change and of natural disasters. For refugees, immigrants, and those who are displaced.

For our Nation: For the healing of divisions and the celebration of diversity; for the recognition that no single viewpoint on any issue, no matter how important, is without human error; and for all who struggle to change our world and its systems of oppression and exploitation.

For the Leaders of our Country, State and Community: Donald J. Trump, President; Members of Congress, especially, Susan Collins, Angus King, Chellie Pingree, Jared Golden of Maine; Janet Mills our Governor; and Richard Fournier our Mayor; for those who administer justice in the courts of this land, that they all may serve our nation and the world with wisdom, civility, and compassion.

For our Military Personnel, especially those of this Parish: Sarah M., Dillan L., and Joshua M. and we also give Thanksgiving for all veterans and their willingness to lay down their lives for our country.

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the coming week including: Nancy M. and Eli N.

For the Departed:

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and to honor Duane Miller and K9 Ella, in loving memory of their lives and love, given by Kim, Haley and Dakota.



St. John's Episcopal Church

225 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

207-947-0156

<http://www.stjohnsbangor.org>



St. John's Episcopal Church | 225 French Street | Bangor, ME 04401 US

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