

St. John's Episcopal Church

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



November 16, 2025
Worship time - 10:00am

Rector's Essay **Stewardship of Community: Part 2**

Against all odds, the early church survived and grew because followers of Jesus provoked curiosity; "Who are these people?" and "What made them this way?" Which gave the early followers of Jesus the opportunity to say, "Jesus," "the Resurrection of Jesus," and "the forgiveness of sins."

God entrusts and empowers the church to be a visible and tangible outpost of God's death-defying love in a world that rejects Godliness at every turn. Gratitude is our first response to this gift from God, and the second response is trusting God, i.e. faith, and the third response is eagerness to grow into the full stature of Christ as a community.

In other words, with God's help, how do we become a beloved community that causes folks to say, "Who are these people?" and "What made them this way?"

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.

****The last Great Wednesday of the fall session will meet on November 19th. It will return in January.****

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



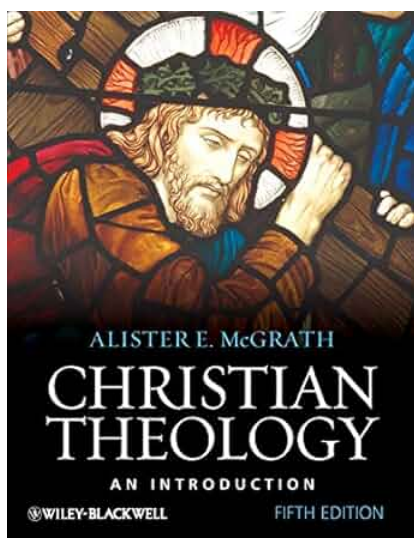
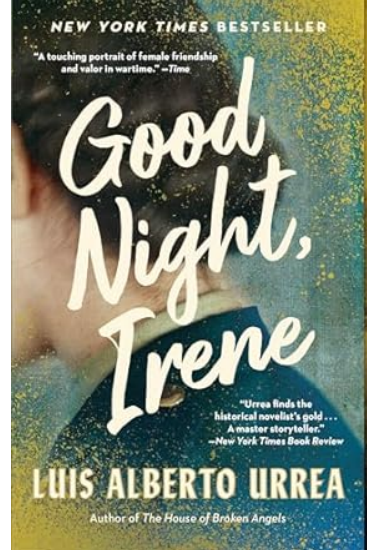
 St. John's Episcopal Church

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.](#)

Family Night

Join us for our first Family Night at St. John's Episcopal Church on Friday, November 21st at 6pm! We'll start the evening with a pizza party and fun activity for families to join together in. Afterwards, kids will head to the chapel for a supervised movie and popcorn; while the adults will convene a conversation in the Undercroft on the best ways to serve families and children as we all grow into "the full stature of Christ" together. This will be a night of fun and community building for all those who have kids or are kids at heart. Contact person: [Rev. Jarrett Kerbel](#)



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

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](#)

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.



St. John's Elevator

You may have noticed that our elevator has been out of order recently. We are working hard to get the issue taken care of as quickly as possible. Please note that we expect the elevator to be out of order for *at least* the next two weeks. We apologize for any inconvenience this creates.





THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2025

7PM Service

All are Welcome

Join us for our Thanksgiving Eve service to offer thanks to
God for the blessings of this life.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LOCATED AT 225 FRENCH STREET, BANGOR
947-0156 | WWW.STJOHNSBANGOR.ORG

Rector's Essay

Stewardship of Community: Part 2

Beside our marvelous Baptismal Vows, I use two skills I learned from Marsha Linehan to steer my behavior toward greater goodness. As promised last time, these skills take the form of two acronyms: GIVE and FAST. GIVE I will unpack this time and FAST next time.

GIVE stands for Generous/Gentle, Inquisitive, Validating and Easy Going. When I am operating from God's healing grace and the wisdom God nurtures in my soul, I interact with everyone I meet through the practices of GIVE. I am generous and gentle; meaning I give people the benefit of the doubt, look for and affirm the values and concerns we both share, and interpret their statements with generosity rather than suspicion or antagonism. I am inquisitive and curious: meaning I want to explore what people say whether I agree or disagree. I really want to understand the person and make sure they feel seen, heard and valued. I am validating: meaning that I acknowledge, affirm and accept the feelings, thoughts and experiences of the person as valid for them. Finally, I strive to be easy-going. Leaning on God's love and grace, leaning on God's promise to give me the words and spirit I need for any situation, I calm myself through prayer and remind myself that God is in charge. Conversations are not emergencies or crises unless I make them so!

Now, I commend to you all the practices of GIVE for the stewardship of our precious community life at St. John's. At the current moment our society is experiencing an erosion of norms, an evacuation of virtue, and a cataclysm of degraded character. This means that every community needs to work on articulating healthy, sustainable norms and expectations for our institutional good and for the good of our wider communities. We can no longer assume normativity, we need to come to agreement on norms and enact them in accountable spaces.

Of course, whenever we set norms and expectations we immediately create a situation of accountability. You may say, "Well, Jarrett, you say you live by GIVE, but I see you failing that standard this way and that!" To that I say, "Good on you!" You have held me accountable and therefore I have the information I need to grow and change, especially if you use the GIVE skills when you give me this feedback.

One final point; St. Paul taught us that the human soul can turn any divine or human teaching or guidance into a stick we use to bludgeon ourselves and each other. In Paul's sense, law is punitive and grace is redemptive, law is accusative and grace is restorative. When we rise and set norms and expectations we must always proceed in a spirit of redemption and restoration, utilizing our skills in repentance, amends making, and reconciliation.

-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 16th:

Lectors – Jacqueline C., Ruth G. and Chris M.

Acolytes – Grant P., Gavin F., Isaac P. and Molly M.

Chalice Bearers – David C. and Jacquie W.

Ushers – Andy H. and Patty H.

Counters – Marsha C. and Jim B.

Serving on Sunday November 23rd:

Lectors – Katherine F., Joe F. and Michele V.

Acolytes – Eric G., Ruth G., Obi O. and Scott B.

Chalice Bearers – Richard W. and Robert F.

Ushers – Ken H. and Joe F.

Counters – Mary W. 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***

[Isaiah 65:17-25](#)

**[2
Thessalonians 3:6-13](#)**

[Luke 21:5-19](#)

***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](#)**

What's Happening This Week

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.

Tuesday, November 18th, 2:00pm: Women's Book Group on **Zoom**.

Tuesday, November 18th, 6:30pm: Christian Theology Class on **Zoom**.

Wednesday, November 19th, 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 20th, 5:30pm: Choir rehearsal. For more information about joining our choir, please reach out to **[Colin Graebert](#)**, our choir director.

Friday, November 21st, 6:00pm: Family Night

Sunday, November 23rd, 10:00am: Worship, in-person and **online** followed by coffee hour in the Undercroft. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.

Sunday, November 23rd, 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., and Katie B. **Continued prayers for** – Mikenzy M., MarLynne M., Russell M., Kyra H., 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., and Claude K.

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 Susan Hawes 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: Robert C., Joeseeph C., Andrew K., Donald L., Eli Sh., Evan S. and Leith W.

For the Departed: Mary Louise Chin+

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of God's blessings by Jacquie Wingert.



St. John's Episcopal Church

225 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

207-947-0156

<http://www.stjohnsbangor.org>





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