

# St. John's Episcopal Church

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



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### Rector's Essay Celebrate the Start of Summer with Abundance!

A small joy of my Memorial Day weekend was discovering five volunteer apple trees in my meadow just below our porch. My best guess is that these apple tree saplings are the product of some apple cores I chucked off the porch after a snack. In the way of God's abundant nature, the seeds germinated and I now have saplings to plant in our apple orchard.

After decades of gardening and forestry I have observed that super-abundance is the way of nature when left on her own. My struggle in my forest is not with too few trees. My struggle is with the outrageous fecundity of maple helicopter seeds, acorns from oaks, pine cones, popple roots, and ash samaras. Trees sprout everywhere and vie for the sunlight. For me, it is a joy to dig up the saplings to plant where they are most needed and to thin out crowding.

**To continue reading this essay, scroll down.**

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# *Neighborhood* **PICNIC**

All are invited to a Potluck Picnic at St. John's Episcopal Church on **Sunday, May 31 at 11:30 am**

Cornhole  
Connect Four  
other outdoor games  
Fun for the Whole Family

**Come One, Come All - No Donation  
Required.**



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### **The Gospel of Mark as told by Alison Boden**

If you missed Alison Boden's memorized recitation of the entire Gospel of Mark when she presented it at St. John's, you have another opportunity to attend on Saturday, May 30 at 6 pm at Trinity Anglican Church at 56 Center St. Bangor, ME.



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### **Wet Weather Gear Needed for Neighbors**

Our neighbors who are homeless are getting soaked to the bone this Spring and they are asking for wet weather gear. We are collecting raincoats, rain ponchos, umbrellas and rubber boots. If you have any to spare or are willing to purchase new ones we will be collecting these items in the back of the church for the next two Sundays. Some will go to the Public Library where many unhoused people shelter during the day and some will go with me and other members who minister with our neighbors on the street.

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### **Great Wednesday**

Great Wednesday has concluded for the session. Please watch for an announcement about future sessions.

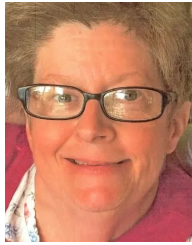
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### **Summer Music at St. John's**

Hello parishioners of St. John's Church. It is hard for me to believe that summer is close upon us and thus, the conclusion of the 2025-2026 choir season is this Sunday, May 31st. This means that, while choir members are always encouraged to vest and join Josh and I, we will have openings for musical offerings during the Offertory portions of our summer services. Please let me (Colin - [choirdirector@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:choirdirector@stjohnsbangor.org)) or Josh ([jbachsing@gmail.com](mailto:jbachsing@gmail.com)) know if you would like to make a musical offering this summer!

Blessings, Colin Graebert, Choir Director

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### **Kristin Weeks**

The Family of Kristin Weeks invites you to join them when Kristin is interred at Mt. Hope Cemetery on June 2nd at 11:00am. Please meet at the Superintendent's Office 15-20 minutes prior to the service so we can process to the burial site together.

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### **Faith, Fly-Fishing & Fellowship**

On June 5th at 6:00 pm the Rector will show the movie *A River Runs Through It* in the Undercroft. We will serve a simple meal and follow the screening with conversation about this deeply theological movie. The Rector loves movies, fly fishing and theology. All are welcome whether you fish for fish or fish for people. Thank you to the Men's Breakfast group for sponsoring! This is a *Reeling with the Rector* event.



### **Planting Day**

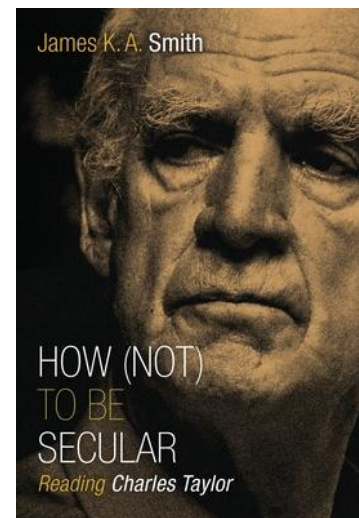
St. John's invites you to our "Planting Day" on June 7th, following the 10:00am service. Wear your gardening clothes, bring a trowel or other gardening tool, and a native plant to help beautify the grounds.

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### **Reading with the Rector: [How \(Not\) to be Secular by James K.A. Smith](#)**

**Wednesday, June 17th and 24th at 6:30 pm in person and on [Zoom](#)**

This is an excellent book about a great book. Charles Taylor wrote his massive 900 page book "A Secular Age" about 20 years ago. Smith offers a much shorter and accessible commentary on Taylor's magisterial work that speaks directly to the struggles of faith in a social imaginary dominated by exclusive humanism. Ever wonder how the world became so indifferent to the questions and answers offered by faith? This book provides a clear picture of how we arrived at this point and how faith still answers our deepest cravings for meaning and orientation in the world. I believe this book is VERY important for the mission of our church in a secular age. We must understand our context if we are to minister in it. Please RSVP with this [link](#).



### **Celebrate Pride at the Pride Parade in Bangor**

In fellowship with our sister churches in Orono and Brewer, St. John's will once again be marching in the Pride Parade in Bangor and sharing an Episcopal Pride Booth as well on June 27th. All ages are invited to



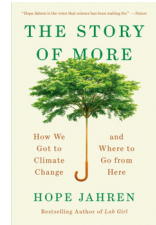
march in the parade and staff the booth. Once you sign up we will get back to you with information about our assembly point for the parade. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/DwkaNJHjEyMoUMJN7>

There will be t-shirts available in sizes M, L and XL that you can purchase.

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### **Women's Book Group**

The Women's Book Group invites you to their next meeting, on June 16th at 2:00pm, to discuss "[The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go From Here](#)" by Hope Jahren. The group meets on [Zoom](#) and all are welcome. Please contact the [office](#) with any questions.



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### **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, and announcements in Word (not in a PDF).

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### **Rector's Essay - Celebrate the Start of Summer with Abundance! - Continued**

Abundance is God's way with the world. We humans deface that abundance with our sinful imposition of scarcity which is the product of greed, hoarding, willfulness, and the misdirection of resources. We have always had more than enough, and will always have enough, especially when the folks with too much learn to settle for just enough.

As a parish we will celebrate abundance as summer begins with a neighborhood picnic on May 31 and a Perennial Planting Sunday on June 7.

Our Picnic is a potluck. In my experience church potlucks never come up short! We always end up with a super-abundance of food. As such, the Kingdom of God is like a potluck. Whether you signed up to bring something to share, bring something to share! We will provide hot dogs and hamburgers as well as games. Weather permitting we will be on the lawn. For inclement weather or a swarm of black flies we will be in the undercroft. For all who are bringing food to share, please drop it off in the kitchen before church and then retrieve and bring it to the picnic after church!

Perennial Planting Sunday is also a potluck of sorts. In this case, the pots are potted perennials that we will plant in our front garden and in the garden bed on the lower level. Up top we need full sun perennials - cone flower, daisy, black-eyed susan, sedum, bee balm, and phlox among others. If you are feeling super abundant - it would be great to have a forsythia or two and some winterberry or meadowsweet bushes. Double points for native plants like milkweed, yarrow, lupine, etc. Down below we need part-shade to shade plants especially: hostas, astilbes, lenten rose, huechera, jacobs ladder etc. For the children we will have a tray of annuals for them to plant. Wear your best gardening gear and bring a trowel and shovel. You can drop your plant donations by the church sign before worship!

-Jarrett

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**Serving on Sunday May 31st at 8:00am:**

**Lectors – TBD**

**Chalice Bearer – Cindy L.**

**Serving on Sunday May 31st at 10:00am:**

**Lectors – Zach W., Richard W. and William S.**

**Acolytes – Grant P., Isaac P. and David C.**

**Chalice Bearers – Grant P. and David C.**

**Ushers – Ken H. and John H.**

**Counters – Marsha C. and Don L.**

**Serving on Sunday June 7 at 8:00am:**

**Lectors – TBD**

**Chalice Bearer – Patricia S.**

**Serving on Sunday June 7th at 10:00am:**

**Lectors – David F., Alan B. and TBD**

**Acolytes – Eric G., Obi O. and Isaac P.**

**Chalice Bearers – Richard W. and Nancy D.**

**Ushers – Roger G. and Zach W.**

**Counters – Roger G. and Jim B.**

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***

[Genesis 1:1-  
2:4a](#)

[2 Corinthians  
13:11-13](#)

[Matthew  
28:16-20](#)

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

***Morning  
Prayer  
Monday -  
Friday:  
9:00am  
Morning  
Prayer  
Zoom  
Facebook***

***Tuesday-  
Friday:***

**What's Happening This Week**

**Sunday, May 31st, 8:00am:** Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

**Sunday, May 31st, 10:00am:** Rite II Eucharist with Choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by the Parish Picnic. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.

**Sunday, May 31st, 7:00pm:** [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

**Tuesday, June 2nd, 11:00am:** Kristin Weeks' interment at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Please arrive 15-20 minutes early and meet at the Superintendent's Office.

**Friday June 5th, 6:00pm:** Reeling with the Rector.

**Sunday, June 7th, 8:00am:** Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

**Sunday, June 7th, 10:00am:** Rite II Eucharist with Choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.

**Sunday, June 7th, 11:30am:** Garden Planting Party

**Sunday, June 7th, 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](http://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

in person in  
the Bethlehem  
Chapel

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

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sense of community. For inquiries or to register, please contact Mary-Frances Beesorchard at [children@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:children@stjohnsbangor.org).

**\*\*\*Nursery Care and Children's Chapel will be on Hiatus starting on June 21st and returning on September 13th\*\*\***

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**Opportunities to pray together:**

**Sunday Morning Eucharist**

8:00am in person and at 10:00am in person and on [YouTube](#)

**Wednesday Eucharist**

5:30pm in person

**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](#)

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**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](#)**

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**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](mailto:prayers@stjohnsbangor.org).*

**For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed, and for those who have requested prayer:** Ronald R., The Robbins family, all first responders, Will and Neal, Carl H., and Earlene B. **Continued prayers for** – Doreen W., Mikenzy, Jay B., Susan S., Loretta, David B., Jane P., Henry L., Lyla C., Dustin, Kelly M., D., M., L., Katie B., Ross M., MarLynne M., Kent C., Ann C., Esther R., Hunt and Allison, Haley, Mary W., Marcia & Richard, Russell M., Kyra H., Donald K., Jane Z., Susan J., and Elena B.

**For our Homebound Members:** Bonnie A., Kathy C., Ginny F., Carolyn L., Evelyn L., Roberta D., Carolyn S., Esther R., Gary S., Deborah T., Lee W., Donna W., Lura W., 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 continue to pray for the people in Ukraine and for the innocent people in Gaza, Sudan and Iran. For those suffering in other countries in the Middle East. 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. For all members of our military currently in harm's way. We pray for peace. 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:** Eric G., Eileen H., Claire M., Anna N. and Laura S.

**For the Departed:** Joshua Taylor Tibbetts and for our service members killed in the current conflict.



**St. John's Episcopal Church**

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207-947-0156

<http://www.stjohnsbangor.org>



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