

St. John's Episcopal Church

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



Parish Office

The Parish Office will have limited hours next week while Vanessa is on vacation. Please call ahead (207-947-0156 x1) if you are planning to come in to verify that Fr. Kerbel is available when you arrive.

The office will be closed on Friday June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

St. John's mourns the passing of three of our Parishioners

On June 4th, Sarah Braik passed away. Sarah was a parishioner at St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland, but our Morning and Evening Prayer participants will be very familiar with Sarah. We will share the details of the service once they become available.

On June 7th, Lewis "Lew" Phillips passed away surrounded by his family. Lew and his wife, Joan, were long-time members of St. John's before moving away. A service will be held at St. Albans in Cape Elizabeth in September. We will share details of the service once they become available.

On June 10th, Sarah Clark passed away. Sarah and her husband William (Bill) were long-time members of St. John's until they retired to Tucson, Arizona.

"Rest eternal grant to them, and let light perpetual shine upon them, O Lord; May Sarah, Lew and Sarah's souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."



The World Cup

Come watch World Cup Football with the Rector at 3:00pm today, Friday the 12th, at Paddy Murphy's. Canada v. Bosnia.

One ministry task assigned to me at my New York City parish was to coach the congregation into embracing LGBTQIA+ members as full and equal members of the body of Christ. The Church - All Angels' - had almost left the Episcopal Church when we ordained Gene Robinson in the 1990s. Gene was married to a man and this offended the congregation to the point that they threatened to take their toys and leave.

Ultimately their better angels prevailed, yet the congregation resisted reaching clarity about the full and equal membership of queer people, which resulted in real spiritual damage to long term LGBTQIA+ members and children of members who were discovering their identity and orientation.

One Sunday, I announced that we would participate in NYC Pride with a group called Kaleidoscope; an evangelical gay-friendly group that helps people discover that the church can be a loving, healing, happy place for queer people who love Jesus and are rightly scared of hateful churches. On the street we often heard, "I did not know there were Christians like you!"

A long time member approached me after church, and said, "But Jarrett, Pride is a sin! It is the worst sin in fact!"

To which I replied, "When can we get coffee and talk?"

To continue reading this essay, scroll down.



Planting Party

A big thank you to everyone who came out and helped to plan our gardens. The yard looks amazing!



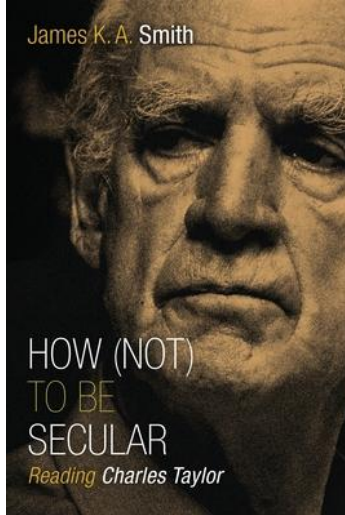
Celebrating Graduates!

On June 14th we will be celebrating High School and College Graduates at the 10 am service. We hope that you and your graduate will attend.



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. Aim to read the first four chapters prior to the June 17th meeting. Please RSVP with this [link](#).

Evening Prayer

My name is Nancy. Six months before COVID hit I became a member of St. John's. I attended Sunday worship on a regular basis, attended faith formation, and volunteered when I was able. I was interested in Evening Prayer, but I don't drive. So during the pandemic and person to person worship was called off, I was thrilled to see the opportunity to participate in Evening Prayer on [Zoom](#). We refer to this as a digital blessing. Yes, our lives can be busy in this present day world, but I take 20 minutes to reflect, pray, and support my faith community. This discipline has broadened my faith and allowed me to form a bond with those who participate. It has been over 6 years that I have been doing this. May I extend an invitation to you to join us and explore what evening prayer has to offer. You will find the [Zoom link](#) for Evening Prayer every week in This Week at St. John's. I look forward to seeing you at Evening Prayer.

Peace to all.

Nancy Matulis

A Summer-Long Retreat: AN INVITATION TO LOVE, a retreat in real life on the Great Commandment

Jesus' Great Commandment to each Christian was and is to "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind*". This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: *'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*" (Matthew 27:37-40)

Doesn't it seem increasingly true that the first part of this passage is relatively easy in comparison to the second? Do you think – or hope - we're given a pass on either part just because – in our opinion - so many of our neighbors are thinking and acting so very WRONG? Hmmm...

Please consider joining a group of your fellow parishioners as together we attempt to find a bit of spiritual renewal and strength over the summer. We will be following a set of readings and meditations in *An Invitation to Love* by William Barry, SJ who was one of the most experienced and best-loved spiritual directors of our time.

"An Invitation to Love provides a practical and adaptable sequence of prayer sessions on the great commandment of the Christian faith: to love God and love our neighbor. All other aspects of a healthy and hopeful life grow from our practices of love. When we experience God's love for us, we can respond with a growing love for God. Loving God will transform us into people who can love our neighbors, too, whoever they are. The voice that speaks in these pages so personally and warmly is that of William A. Barry, SJ, who for decades has gently accompanied people in their prayer. His understanding of Scripture, expertise in nurturing spiritual growth, and joyful confidence in God's desire for our friendship prepares a welcoming and walkable path to conversation with God and renewal in our hearts." - Amazon.com

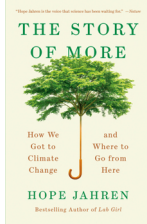
An organizational meeting will be held, on [Zoom](#), Thursday, June 25, 6:30 – 7:00, in which we will agree on a schedule of readings and meetings.

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 are t-shirts available in sizes M, L and XL that you can purchase for \$20.



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.

Divisi
CONTEMPORARY | CHORAL | MUSIC
PRESENTS:
Spectrum
THE HUMAN JOURNEY
SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST 2PM
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
225 FRENCH ST.
BANGOR
\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR

St. John's Young Adult Group

On **July 18th at 4pm**, the **Young Adult Group** will be gathering at Jarrett and Alison's house in Hancock. We will enjoy a variety of (optional) outdoor activities (hiking, kayaking, swimming, etc.) and conversation, followed by a communal dinner. Additional upcoming events include **Bass Park After Dark (June 20th, 4:00pm)** and the **Summer Sidewalk Art Festival (July 11th, 10:00am)** in downtown Bangor. Generally, anyone between the ages of ~25-35 is welcome to participate. For questions and to RSVP, please email William Somes at WilliamLauringSomes@gmail.com.

GROUNDWATER INSTITUTE TRAINING

Special invite-only session in support of broad-based organizing

~2-day in-person session on the roots of racial inequity, with additional content and conversation specific to the challenges of building multi-racial intersectional power in Maine

When: June 22 and 23, 2026 (~9-5 each day)

Where: Southern Maine, TBD Portland or Lewiston

Cost: \$150 (sliding scale available)

HOSTED BY:

Bay Love, Carla Hunt, Sarah Lentz, Reese Remington, Mohamed Khalid, Shana Cook Mueller

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

GROUNDWATER
INSTITUTE



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).

****Due to staff vacation, the June 14th & 21st bulletins have already been printed.****

Summer Service time change is coming July 5th. . .



Serving the Community since 1835
Join Us For
SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP
Sundays at 9:00am
Starting July 5th
www.stjohnsbangor.org

Rector's Essay - Pride and Joy - Continued

To his credit, he agreed and we had an excellent conversation over coffee. My bottom line was this: Pride can be a sin - especially for people who enjoy privilege - however, for oppressed people appropriate pride can be a path of healing. For LGBTQIA+ people who have been assaulted with shaming messages, physically and verbally attacked, taught that they are fundamentally disordered sinners, had their love reduced to sex acts, in other words dehumanized; developing an appropriate level of pride heals shame and sparks joy. God's grace facilitates this journey just as grace facilitates the journey to humility for the arrogant.

Mid-century white male theologians invested pride as the chief sin based on their experiences. When women, African Americans, Asians, Latinx, and out queer scholars entered the field, the very different experiences of these writers challenged the received orthodoxy. Jesus was healing these traditionally oppressed groups by recognizing their full humanity and dignity just as God had made them. When we know God's love in our soul, we experience the height of joy too!

One mark of Pride Parades and festivals is joy! People from privileged and dominant social groups often do not understand the joy expressed by people who have experienced historical violence and oppression. I do because I learned it at my home church where LGBTQIA+ people were full and equal members way back in the 1970s. Joy comes when you know that you have survived, when you feel the relief of acceptance in safe, loving spaces, when you can be your full-self without shame.

My beloved Harper Collin's Study Bible - 32 years old and stitched together with packing tape - was gifted to me at my ordination by three gay men who I called my clique. Cliff, Tom and Richard were part of my church life from my earliest memories. They shared the Gospel with me. I am still a member of Christ's body because of them. I will not be silent on Queer belonging in the church because of them. To do so would betray their love for me, and my love for them, and our love of Jesus.

Until the day comes that all churches are safe for queer people I will be sure that we are clear and explicit that we are. Silence is complicity with oppression and a barrier to all people coming to know the love of Jesus.

Serving on Sunday June 14 at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Chalice Bearer – Cindy L.

Serving on Sunday June 14th at 10:00am:

Lectors – Michele V., Eilon Z and Chris M.

Acolytes – Grant P., Obi O. Isaac P.

Chalice Bearers – David C. and Robert F.

Ushers – Andy H. and Patty H.

Counters – Paul J. and Don L.

Serving on Sunday June 21st at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Chalice Bearer – Patricia S.

Serving on Sunday June 21st at 10:00am:

Lectors – Jacqueline C., Katharine F. and Zach W.

Acolytes – Dakota M., Gavin F. And Robert F.

Chalice Bearers – David C. and Robert F.

Ushers – Katharine F. and Sheila S.

Counters – Ken H. and Hilary G.

*****Ministry Coordinators for the above ministries, please hand in your third quarter schedules to the office by June 21st. Thank you*****

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 18:1-15, \(21:1-7\)](#)

[Romans 5:1-8](#)

[Matthew 9:35-10:8\(9-23\)](#)

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

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

What's Happening This Week

Saturday, June 13th, 12:00pm: Second Saturday. For more information contact [David C.](#)

Sunday, June 14th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, June 14th, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist with Choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by Lemonade on the Lawn. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service (Last day of Nursery and Sunday School for the summer).

Sunday, June 14th 11:15am: St. Andrew's Guild Meeting

Sunday, June 14th, 11:15am: Pride Month Craft Project in the Undercroft.

Sunday, June 14th, 11:15am: Acolyte Training at the Altar.

Sunday, June 14th, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

Tuesday, June 16th, 2:00pm: Women's Book Group on [Zoom](#).

Wednesday, June 17th, 6:30pm: Reading with the Rector, in person and on [Zoom](#).

Friday, June 19th: The Parish Office is closed in observance of Juneteenth.

Sunday, June 21st: Happy Father's Day!

Sunday, June 21st, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, June 21st, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist with Choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by Lemonade on the Lawn.

Prayer
[Zoom](#)
[Facebook](#)

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

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

Sunday, June 21st, 11:30am: Vestry Meeting

Sunday, June 21st, 2:00pm: Divisi Concert "Spectrum: The Human Journey"

Sunday, June 21st, 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 Beesorchar at children@stjohnsbangor.org.

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

Opportunities to pray together:

Sunday Morning Eucharist

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

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: Joan P., Allison S. and Ronald R. **Continued prayers for** – The Robbins family, Ann C., Esther R., Marcia & Richard, Russell M., Will, Neal, Carl H., Earlene B., Donald K., Jane Z., Susan J., Elena B., Doreen W., Mikenzy, Jay B., Susan S., Loretta, David B., Jane P., Henry L., Lyla C., Kelly M., D., M., L., Katie B., Ross M., MarLynne M., and Kent C.

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 people in the Middle East and Sudan. 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.

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

For the Departed: Sarah Clark, Sheila Muniz, Kyra Hansen, Lewis Phillips, Sarah Braik, Thurston "Hunt" Smith and for our service members killed in the current conflict.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and loving memory of Duane August Miller in honor of his 81st birthday.



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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