

St. John's Episcopal Church

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



*Join Us for Sunday Worship
at 10:00am*

Starting September 13th

And

at 8:00am & 10:00am

Starting September 27th

Rector's Essay **Mercy, Mercy Me**

Sunday scripture in September is abundant with good news about God's Mercy. Like Jonah, we might find God's generosity offends our desire to see an enemy punished.

On this coming Sunday, we will encounter Jonah as he pouts and stewes in the shade of a plant God provides just for him. Why is Jonah out of sorts? Because God has had mercy on Nineveh, choosing not to destroy the city after the population heard God's judgment and repented.

Clearly, Jonah wants Nineveh to suffer. Nineveh is the enemy of Israel. How dare God have mercy on them and how dare God expect Jonah to welcome his enemy with generosity as God does.

Indeed, the book of Jonah is using satire to land a critique of Israel. The evil people of Nineveh know how to repent and return to God when Israel has forgotten both what they owe to God and how to repent. Israel is taking their specialness for granted and forgetting that their special relationship with the God who delivers and saves is a Gift of God's mercy.

Scroll down to continue reading.



Second Saturday

The Second Saturday group had a joy filled weekend in the Undercroft as a delicious community meal was prepared and served. On the menu this month was lasagna, buttered corn, garlic bread, garden salad, assorted cookies, and warm apple turnovers with sweet tea, fruit punch, and hot coffee. A to-go table was also provided with sandwiches, fruit, and snacks along with some hygiene items including socks and sweaters. A wonderful group of people were welcomed into our hall for a warm meal and fellowship. Our volunteers ate lunch alongside our guests and lively conversations could be heard from every table.



During last month's August Second Saturday, an expanded meal service was given a trial run coordinated by leaders Hilary Graebert and David Conaway. Through careful planning and research, an updated menu was made to especially stretch every dollar of the given budget to cook double the quantity of food. Their test of 'Second Saturday Plus' was a huge success!

Why so much extra food?? We are pleased to announce that Second Saturday is now in partnership with the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter to provide the dinner service once a month following the meal in our Undercroft. The homeless shelter is incredibly grateful to our church for the support and the Second Saturday group is enjoying the challenge of a much larger dinner prep and food transport to the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter kitchens. Second Saturday is now a two meal event! How exciting!!!

For those who may be asking themselves how can I help with this new expanded meal ministry - we encourage you to reach out to Hilary Graebert and David Conaway



Memorial Service for Lewis "Lew" Phillips

A memorial service for Lew Phillips will be held at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Cape Elizabeth on Saturday September 19th at 11:30am. Please see the obituary in the [Bangor Daily News](#) for more details.



CAT Conversation and Ice Cream Cones.

Join the exciting conversation about our Church Assessment Tool (CAT) results after the 10:00am service on September 20th in the Undercroft. The congregation did such a great job responding to the survey, now you get a chance to explore the results and give input that will lead to strategic planning. Activities for children in the chapel. Teenagers invited to participate in the CAT discussion.



Children's Chapel is back!

We are so excited for the children (ages 0-10) to return to Sunday School. Children should arrive between 9:45 and 10:00 am in the Undercroft on Sunday mornings for Children's Chapel. In the 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 about the program, please contact [Mary-Frances](#).



Contemplative Evensong

A serene and reflective service of simple songs, silence, scripture, and prayer. Come and refresh your soul in God's loving presence. Following ancient Christian traditions of contemplation and unitive prayer this worship is open to all who seek God, singers, so so singers, and non-singers alike.

SEPT. 20 - 5PM
225 French Street, Bangor
In the small chapel across the lawn.

Stjohnsbangor.org

Contemplative Evensong **September 20th at 5:00pm**

Simple service with centering music, silence, and prayers in the Chapel. A wonderful way to refresh your soul for the week ahead. Invite friends! For singers and non-singers alike.

Winter is Coming

Oil prices continue at a historic high and this is threatening news for our low-income neighbors who heat their homes with fossil fuels. LiHeap is one option people can turn to, another is the Rector's Discretionary Fund. If you would like to make a donation to the Rector's Discretionary Fund please send a check by mail or collection plate to the church with Discretionary in the memo line.



ALPHA

Begin Again with God

A space & time to ask every question and explore a relationship with God in a group of fellow seekers.

- Does God exist?
- Does God care about me?
- What is God's will for me?
- How do I pray?

Is this right for me? Try it out at the first, introductory session!

When: Sundays 2 pm
Sept. 27 to Nov. 15 - 8 Sessions

Where: 225 French St.

Who: All WELCOME!
FREE of CHARGE

For more information or to register:

alpha@stjohnsbangor.org



Great Wednesday Returns

Mark your calendar because Great Wednesday returns on Wednesday September 30th. We'll start with a 5:30pm Eucharist and then learn about The Parable of Jesus at 6:00pm while we eat a simple supper. We hope that you'll join us.

Please sign up for Great Wednesday at this link <https://forms.gle/5mFwbVc5KCxGUhaNA> or in the undercroft. We want to know you are coming so we can prepare enough food and plan ahead. We are asking all participants to pitch in by signing up to bring food, set up, or clean up for each session. Team work makes the dream work.





POLL CHAPLAINCY AND PEACEKEEPER TRAINING

BRING A CALM,
WELCOMING, MORALLY
GROUNDED PRESENCE TO
THE POLLS



SEPT. 30TH, 5:30 PM
OCTOBER 7TH, 5:30 PM
OCTOBER 9TH, 12 PM

ORGANIIZED BY MULTI-FAITH
JUSTICE MAINE

SCAN TO REGISTER



St. John's Episcopal Church

225 French St., Bangor

Pet Blessing in honor of St. Francis Day

Saturday October 3rd

Drop in between 1:00pm-3:00pm



All furry, feathered, scaly and gilled friends are welcome to receive a blessing.

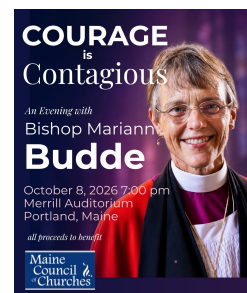
All critters must be secured with leashes or in carriers.



All are welcome

***Courage is Contagious* - An Evening with Bishop Mariann Budde**
Hosted by the Maine Council of Churches
October 8, 2026, 7:00 pm, at the Merrill Auditorium in Portland

Join the Maine Council of Churches for an inspiring evening with Bishop Mariann Budde (Episcopal Diocese of Washington DC). Known for her courage in speaking truth to power, she will reflect on what is required of us at such a time as this: to learn to be brave, stand for justice, and seek mercy for those in harm's way.



Tickets are \$56 (includes service fee) and can be purchased any time online:

<https://porttix.com/whats-on/maine-council-of-churches-bishop-mariann-budde/>

or in person at the PortTix box office, 400 Congress Street, Portland, Monday-Friday, 11am - 3pm

Proceeds will benefit the Maine Council of Churches, a coalition of denominations that speaks with a prophetic voice calling people to help build a more just, compassionate, and peaceful world.

*****Please let the Rector know if you will be attending and we can work on carpooling*****



Funeral Service for Dr. Esther Rauch

A funeral service for Dr. Esther Rauch will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church on Saturday October 10th at 3:00pm. A reception will follow.

Interacting with Wabanaki-Maine History with Wabanaki

REACH

**October 24th, 1 pm to 3 pm at the Wilson Center, University of
Maine Orono**

Join with fellow Episcopalians from St. Patrick's in Brewer and St. James in Old Town for this important educational opportunity offered by Wabanaki REACH. A 2-hour interactive experience will engage participants in a story of particular events in the history of 400 years of colonization of Wabanaki people by Europeans in this territory now called the state of Maine. This highly engaging experience requires full participation in order to genuinely increase understanding of colonization and what it means for current descendants and future generations; to reflect on what story we are writing for our grandchildren. We are hoping that at least 10 members of St. John's will register for this important learning opportunity. The Rector will be attending. Register by emailing the [Rector](#).



Our Voice, Our Vote

Click this link to download a non-partisan voter empowerment guide.
<https://mainecouncilofchurches.org/2026/09/our-voice-our-vote-2026/>

There are a few printed copies in the Undercroft and on the table behind the back pews.

Episcopal Maine Public Policy Network - 2026 Election Engagement

Election season is fast approaching, and as Episcopalians, we believe our faith calls us to civic engagement. To encourage prayerful, productive engagement in the election process, we have assembled a roster of events and resources for clergy, lay leaders, and congregations, including poll chaplain/peacemaker training hosted by Multi-Faith Alliance Maine. We hope these resources will be helpful to you as you help to get out the vote on Nov. 3!

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Election-Engagement-Issue---September-10--2026.html?sid=1102254033550&aid=nNEcyIaz0Oc>



Rector's Essay
Mercy, Mercy Me - Continued from above

Whenever I preach about Mercy - and I am preaching about it a lot this Fall - I am very aware that church people may forget that we are all dependent on God's mercy, and that as recipients of overwhelming mercy we owe the same to each other and to the world around us.

Our recent solemn remembrance of September 11, 2001 was tainted by an ugly bigotry toward our Muslim neighbors and fellow citizens. Some, often those claiming to be 'real' Christians, want to blame all Muslims and Islam itself for the horrific events. This is prejudice. Extending culpability to a whole group based on religion or ethnicity is the very definition of prejudice.

From the perspective of God's mercy, what will we do instead? For me, I am reaching out to my muslim neighbors to build trusting relationships with them of deep understanding. Recently, I met a young Muslim man from Lewiston named Abbas and we had a lovely conversation. He jokingly (I think) tried to convert me to Islam. I declined and said that I am a happy follower of Jesus. It was a good first step toward loving my neighbor.

-Jarrett

Announcements during the Sunday Service

This fall, the announcements will be made after the Prelude and before the Processional Hymn. If you would like to make an announcement or have the Rector make an announcement for you please let him know by the Friday before Sunday. We are making this move so our worship can be one unbroken focus on God.

Printed 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 email weekly announcements and printed bulletins. Please submit photos / posters as a JPEG, and announcements in Word (not in a PDF).

Serving on Sunday September 20th at 10:00am:

Acolytes - Grant P., Isaac P. and Evelyn S.

Chalice Bearers - Grant P. and Jacquie W.

Counters – Don L. and Hilary G.

Lectors – Nancy D., Ann H. and Kelsi H.

Ushers – Ken H. and John H.

Serving on Sunday September 27th:

10:00am Acolytes - David C., Robert F. and Dakota M.

8:00am Chalice Bearer: Robert F.

10:00am Chalice Bearers - Cassy P. and Nancy D.

Counters – Marsha C. and Paul J.

10:00am Lectors – Ben O., Hilary G. and Chris M.

10:00am Ushers – Andy H. and Patty H.

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

[Jonah 3:10-4:11](#)

[Philippians 1:21-30](#)

[Matthew 20:1-16](#)

Sunday Worship: [Worship Bulletin](#)

[YouTube](#)

Morning Prayer

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

Tuesday-Thursday:
in person in the Bethlehem Chapel

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

What's Happening This Week

Saturday, September 19th, 11:30am: Memorial Service for Lew Phillips at St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

Sunday, September 20th, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by **CAT Conversation and Ice Cream** in the Undercroft. Sunday School is available during the service.

Sunday, September 20th, 5:00pm: Contemplative Evensong

Sunday, September 20th, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

Tuesday, September 22nd, 9:30am: Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen at the Salvation Army. For more information contact [Claudia or Jim](#).

Thursday, September 24th, 5:30pm: Choir rehearsal

Sunday, September 27th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, September 27th, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist with choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by Coffee hour in the Undercroft. Sunday School is available during the service.

Sunday, September 27th, 11:45am: Baptism Class in the Rector's Office.

Sunday, September 27th, 2:00pm: Alpha Class

Sunday, September 27th, 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.

Children's Chapel

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

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

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

Morning Prayer

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

Weekday Meditation

Tuesday - Thursday, 9:30am, 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: Mary, Shirley G., Bruce N., Veronica Y., Ed C., and Buddy B.

Continued prayers for – Lilly J., Layla L., Robin S., Katie B., Ross M., MarLynne M., Russell M., Kent C., Ann C., Earlene B., Donald K., Jane Z., Mannone, Susan J., Elena B., Jay B., Susan S., Mikenzy, Patrick, R & L., Loretta, David B., Jane P., Henry L., Kelly M., D., M., and L.

For our Homebound Members: Bonnie A., Kathy C., Ginny F., Carolyn L., Evelyn L., Roberta D., Carolyn S., 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: Spencer S., 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: Patty H., Christi P., Gary S. and Bill V.

For the Departed: Esther Rauch, Pete McCarty, Valerie Buckner and for our service members killed in the current conflict.

**The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in honor of Lew Phillips by Mary & George Wright**



St. John's Episcopal Church

225 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

207-947-0156

<http://www.stjohnsbangor.org>



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