

St. John's Episcopal Church

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



Rector's Essay

Rejoice, I say again, Rejoice

There is a lot to celebrate here at St. Johns! Here are some aspects of our community that are causes for my rejoicing. This list is not comprehensive of every reason to give thanks but it is a start.

Circles of Care: My goodness does this church community know how to rally around fellow members in times of need! I have seen it again and again with my own eyes. When someone is sick, or grieving, or struggling, loving kindness flows from our members in concrete actions of caritas, in companionship, in hugs, and in prayer. Always let us know when you need support so a circle of care can form around you!

Prayerfulness: This is a truly prayerful community. Prayer is the air we breathe around here and I want to celebrate that fact and encourage it. In every situation we turn our hearts to God and say, thank you, help, and wow! We all pray, we all ask for prayer, we all step up and lead prayer when needed.

Scroll down to continue reading.

Sunday's Services

Fall has arrived and our 8:00am service is back this week!

8:00am Holy Eucharist: Rite II - spoken service, in person

10:00am Holy Eucharist: Rite II - with choir, in person and on YouTube

Healing Prayer

On September 27, healing prayer will be offered during communion at the 10:00am service near the Mary Icon on the left side of the church (facing the altar). Bring your need for prayer to our lay-minister and she will pray with you. We are hoping to offer this ministry regularly during worship. If you feel called to this ministry of loving kindness and intercession, please talk to the Rector.

Church Directories

Over the next few weeks, you will find 4 Church Directories in the back of the church. Please check your listing and make sure we have your information correct and also let us know what information would be ok for us to print in a Parish wide directory. If you are unable to come in, please let [Vanessa](#) know what information, (address, phone number, email), is ok for us to share in the Parish wide directory that will be available in the coming month.

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.



Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour stocks are gone, and we need you to sign up to bring in contributions to the feast! There's a sign up sheet in the undercroft, or if you prefer just send an email to StJcoffeehour@proton.me. Or if you prefer, just bring things in before the service and we'll figure it out! We know you run busy schedules; things from the store are just fine, and it doesn't have to be fancy. We appreciate you! Alison and Brian

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

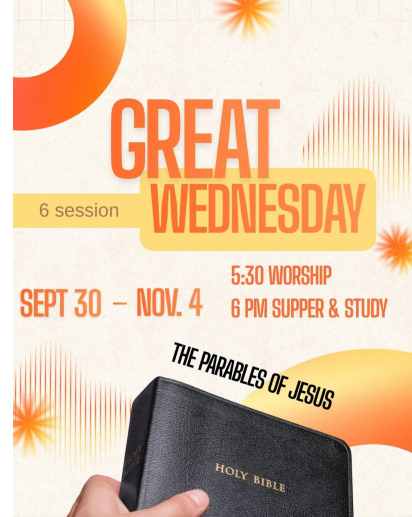


Great Wednesday Returns

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 (also available on [Zoom](#)) 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.



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.

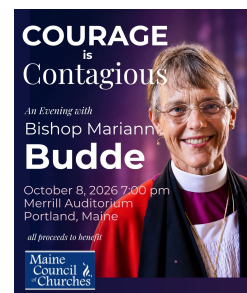
All critters must be secured with leashes or in carriers.



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.

One Book, One Church

Looking for your next book to read? The Reverend suggests ["The Scandal of the Kingdom: How the Parables of Jesus Revolutionized Life with God" by Dallas Willard.](#)

A major new work by Dallas Willard, the highly anticipated follow-up to his seminal work *The Divine Conspiracy*. In this groundbreaking book based on teachings he delivered to a church community, Willard delves into the transformative power of Jesus's parables, revealing how they show us how to live right now in the kingdom of God. Drawing from his extensive teachings on spiritual formation, Willard illuminates the timeless wisdom contained within each parable, revealing their profound relevance to contemporary life. With clarity and depth, he guides readers through the subversive messages embedded within these seemingly simple stories, urging us to break free from the grip of worldly values and embrace the radical teachings of Jesus.

The Scandal of the Kingdom is not just a book--it's a call to action.

Willard challenges readers to move beyond passive acceptance of comfortable dogmas and instead to actively engage with the values of the kingdom of God. He reminds us that the kingdom is not some distant future destination but a present reality, beckoning us, as the parables of Jesus did, to live with a new purpose and intentionality in the here and now.

Through insightful analysis and practical wisdom, Willard empowers readers to transform their lives and communities by embodying the radical love, compassion, and justice exemplified in Jesus's parables. This book is a beacon of hope for Christians seeking to deepen their faith and live more authentically in accordance with the teachings of Christ. Willard empowers us to:

Become more passionate about living the gospel in the full scope of Jesus's vision for us

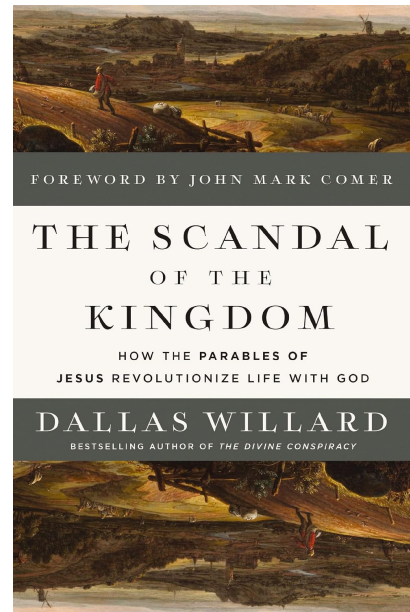
Better share the faith of Jesus with those disillusioned with Christianity

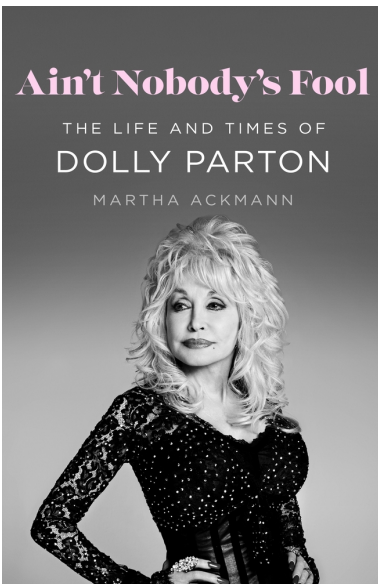
Unlock the excitement of living in the upside-down kingdom of God

Share the gospel of Jesus in the way he did

A significant new resource for Christians worldwide, this book offers a road map for spiritual growth and renewal in an increasingly complex and challenging world. With its profound insights and transformative message, it is destined to leave a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of believers everywhere.

(Description of book taken from Thriftbooks.com)





Women's Book Group

Our next Book Group gathering will be Tuesday, October 20th at 2 p.m. on [ZOOM](#) when we will be discussing “[Ain't Nobody's Fool: the life and times of Dolly Parton](#)” by Martha Ackmann.

We thought it might be fun to honor Dolly Parton by learning more details of her life, and Barbara has offered to lead the discussion. I think it should be an interesting, informative read.

The book we just read, “American Character” evoked a lot of good discussion. For more information, please contact the [church office](#).

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!



Rector's Essay

Rejoice, I say again, Rejoice *continued*

A Deep Bench: In sports we talk about having a deep bench, which means that we have so many talented players, some sit on the bench while others play. St. John's has a deep bench of spiritually mature and prayerful leaders - elders if you will - who bring wisdom, discernment and stability to whatever they do. Our elders include people in their 20s, and 30s, which is an extra-special blessing!

Every Generation: When we gather before God the body of Christ in this place is old and young and in the middle too. Unlike many congregations we have a wonderful group of children, youth and young adults. People comment on this fact when they visit. This is a sign of vitality and a rich resource of new experiences to learn from in our congregation.

Hospitality: Our congregation is welcoming. Just last Sunday I saw our members reach out to and welcome newcomers including two young adults. Nothing warms my heart as much as members who notice, pay attention to the newcomer and extend their hand in fellowship and lean in with interest. We still need someone to lead our welcome ministry so please see the Rector if you feel that calling.

One visitor recently shook my hand at the back door and said, "Something good is happening at this church! If I lived up here I would be attending this church!" Two visitors last Sunday - from my last church in Rhode Island - said, "Worship was wonderful and beautiful at St. Johns." Yet another visitor said, "I grew up Roman Catholic so your church had some familiarity, but it was also very different because it felt so personal." Wow. Thanks be to God. Let us be good stewards of that gift.

-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 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.

Serving on Sunday October 4th:

10:00am Acolytes - Grant P., Isaac P. and Obi O.

8:00am Chalice Bearer: Cindy L.

10:00am Chalice Bearers - Grant P. and Jacquie W.

Counters – TBD

10:00am Lectors – David F., TBD and TBD

10:00am Ushers – TBD and TBD

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***

[Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32](#)

[Philippians 2:1-13](#)

[Matthew 21:23-32](#)

***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***

What's Happening This Week

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.

Wednesday, September 30th, 5:30pm: Great Wednesday returns with 5:30pm Eucharist and 6:00pm Bible Study ([also available on Zoom](#)) and dinner.

Thursday, October 1st, 5:30pm: Choir rehearsal

Saturday, October 3rd, 1:00pm-3:00pm: drop in for a Pet Blessing

Sunday, October 4th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, October 4th, 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 October 4th, 11:45am: Vestry Meeting in the Rector's Office

Sunday, October 4th, 2:00pm: Alpha Class

Sunday, October 4th, 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.

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

Opportunities to pray together:

Sunday Morning Eucharist

8:00am in person

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

Great Wednesday Eucharist

5:30pm in person on Wednesdays

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.

In thanksgiving for the 90th birthday of Gary Smith.

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed, and for those who have requested prayer: Robin S., Mary, Shirley G., Bruce N., Veronica Y. and Buddy B.

Continued prayers for – Loretta, David B., Jane P., Henry L., Kelly M., D., M., L., Lilly J., Layla L., 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., and Mikenzy.

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: Jaxon S., Eviana C., Aidan K. and Tobenna M.

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



St. John's Episcopal Church
225 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401
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<http://www.stjohnsbangor.org>



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