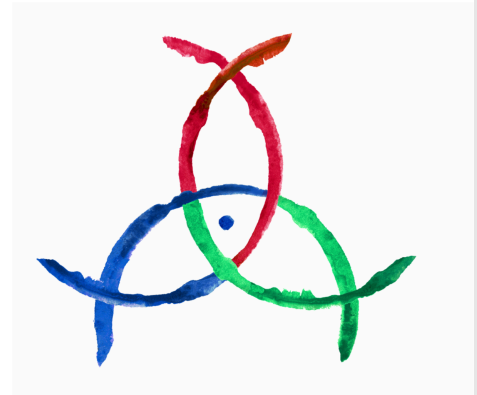


St. John's Episcopal Church

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



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

Rector's Essay Church Populism

Evangelicalism is experiencing a moment of reckoning. Having aligned themselves with policies and candidates who hardly accord with the teachings of Jesus, this already disparate American religious movement is fragmenting and reflecting.

As someone who has refused to yield the word evangelical to the populist religious right I am paying close attention to these discussions. For me, evangelical means that I know our God through scripture and so I hold the Gospel in highest esteem. It also means that, for me, Christ is at the center of my relationship with God, that grace converts and transforms our lives as we grow in communion with God, and that our faith is active and engaged in sharing the Good News in word and deed.

Dinner / Auction Fundraising Event

For the first time in years St. John's Episcopal will hold a dinner and auction on November 14th to raise funds for our various ministries, some of which are expanding substantially. A core fundraiser team is laying out plans for the special dinner and also developing a list of donated prizes for auction. The core team needs help from additional people, especially as the date is not so far off. If you have some time to help with logistics, food preparation and/or in the near term to work with others in the team assembling a list of donated items and services, both from other congregants and from local businesses, please contact vestry member Robert Ford. His email is fordsr58@yahoo.com and his phone is (443) 401-5689. And please mark the November 14 date on your calendars!

Church Directories

Over the next few weeks, you will find 3 Church Directories in the back of the church and in the Undercroft. 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. Also, if you'd like your picture added, please send a photo along to [the office](#).

(Please DO NOT take one of these directories, we need the corrections in them that people are making to make the most updated directory that we can. We will make directories available this fall.)



A Second Salvation Army Meal Team

For many years, St. John's has had a dedicated team of volunteers cooking and serving meals at the [Salvation Army](#). We now have the capacity to help a second day each month, and we're looking for volunteers to join us! Our new team will serve on the second Monday of each month from 9:30am-1:00pm at 65 S Park Street in Bangor. As churches have gradually stepped back from volunteering at the Salvation Army, we'd like to help fill some of those gaps and ensure this important ministry continues. If you're interested in cooking, serving, or simply lending a hand, we'd love to have you join us! Please contact [Robert F](#) or [David C](#).

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!

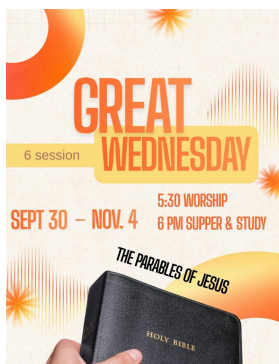
When: Sundays 2 pm
Sept. 27 to Nov. 15 - 8 Sessions

Where: 225 French St.

Who: All WELCOME!
FREE of CHARGE

For more information or to register:

alpha@stjohnsbangor.org



Great Wednesday has Returned

We start with a 5:30pm Eucharist and then learn about The Parables of Jesus at 6:00pm (also available on [Zoom](#)) while we eat a simple supper. We hope that you'll join us.

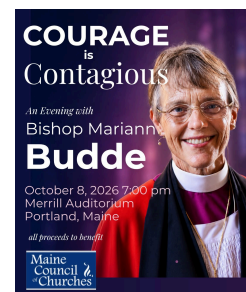
Please sign up for Great Wednesday at this link <https://forms.gle/5mFwbVc5KCxGUhaNA> or in the undercroft. We want to know you are coming so we can prepare enough food and plan ahead. We are asking all participants to pitch in by signing up to bring food, set up, or clean up for each session. Team work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

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



Second Saturday:

Second Saturday is coming on October 10th! This month, we'll be serving a pancake breakfast. We're looking for griddles to help us make plenty of pancakes for everyone. If you have a griddle you can lend, please bring it along! You're welcome to stay and man your griddle if you'd like, but there's no obligation to stay and cook. Thank you for helping make Second Saturday special! If you have any questions, please contact [David C.](#)

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 in the Undercroft.



Invitational 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.

OCTOBER 11
4PM - LEARN THE CHANTS
5PM - WORSHIP

225 French Street, Bangor
In the small chapel across the lawn.



Stjohnsbangor.org

Invitational Contemplative Evensong

Join us on October 11th at 5:00pm for 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.

For those that wish to participate more fully in the sung portion of the evening prayer service (Evensong), please join Colin by the piano in the church at 4:00 pm to rehearse the chants for the Contemplative Evensong. He will be thrilled to walk everyone through the sung portions of this service!

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

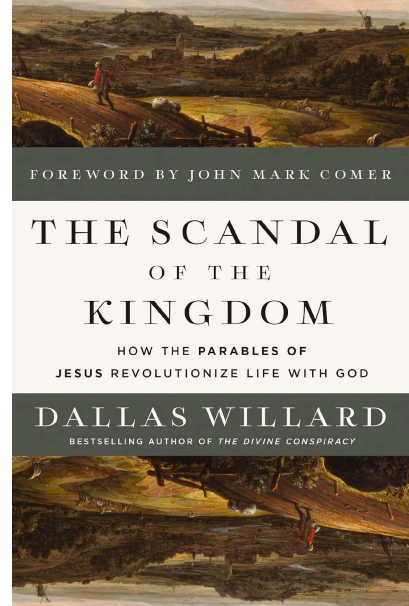
Better share the faith of Jesus with those disillusioned with Christianity

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)



Fresh Start

Come to Coffee Hour on October 18, where founder and president of Fresh Start Sober Living, Scott Parady, will discuss Fresh Start's mission and the four elements of St. John's ministry with the organization. Two of the elements are below!

Holiday Raffle

Fresh Start residents are eager to begin again, and sober living with others on the same journey is a critical key to their success. Most residents find employment quickly, but there is often a gap between move-in (often straight out of rehab) and income. Fresh Start does charge rent, but is flexible. All 30+ prizes have been donated by recovery-friendly businesses and individuals, and all proceeds will go directly to assist those residents struggling to make rent. **Please see the attachment for details.** **Tickets are ten dollars. Please buy as many as you can from Alison Barkley aka Coffee Commandant!**

Holiday Meals

Break bread with members of Fresh Start on November 26th (Thanksgiving Day) and December 25th (Christmas Day). Fresh Start residents and staff cook and gather for holiday meals each year at their large sober living residence at 89 Ohio Street in Bangor. They are grateful for St. John's ministry and invite us to join them! Meals will be served at 2:00pm. Please bring a friend, a spouse, a partner, or all of the above! The purpose of our attendance is fellowship and ministry of presence.

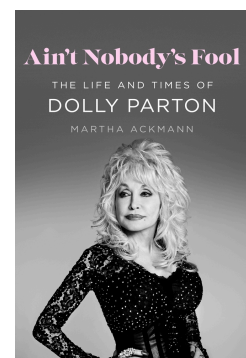
Please contact [Alison Barkley](#) or William Somes with questions and to RSVP.

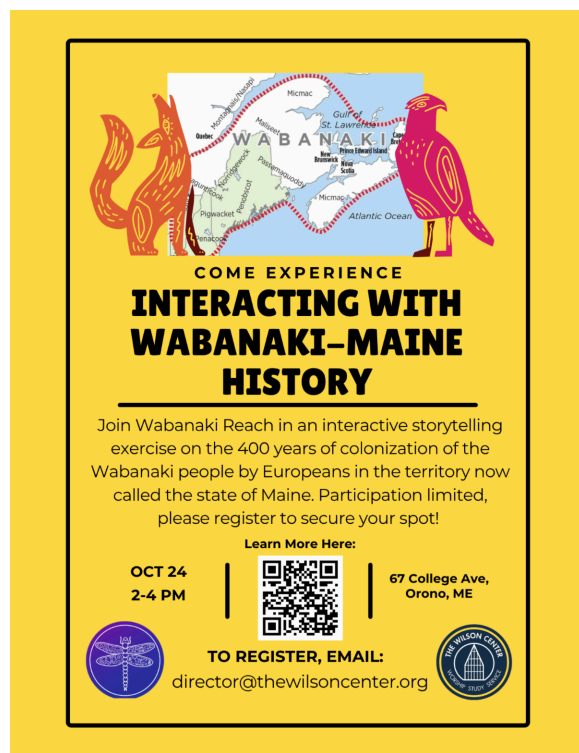
Women's Book Group

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, 2 pm to 4 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. You can register by emailing the [Rector](#).

Hello St. John's,

My name is Jesse Call, and I'm a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Bangor and one of the facilitators of T+ Support Group, a local support group for transgender and gender-diverse people and those exploring questions around gender identity and expression.

I'm reaching out because we're hoping to connect with welcoming, affirming communities throughout the area that may know people who could benefit from a little more connection and support.

T+ Support Group meets Thursdays from 6:00–7:00 PM at 115 Franklin Street in Bangor, with a Zoom option available as well. The group is designed to be a welcoming, low-pressure space for conversation, connection, shared experiences, and practical support. Topics range from gender identity and expression to relationships, navigating the world as a trans or gender-diverse person, and the many ordinary joys and challenges that come with figuring out who we are.

We want the group to be a place where people don't have to have everything figured out—or even know exactly what they're looking for—to feel welcome. There is no particular stage of transition, identity, or level of certainty required to participate.

As a local mental health provider, I know how meaningful it can be when people encounter communities that communicate, simply and genuinely, “You are welcome here.” We'd love for T+ to be one more place where people can find that kind of connection.

Thank you for the work you do to create spaces where people can find community, belonging, and care. We'd be glad to connect with you.

Warmly,

Jesse Call, LCSW

Speak Up Counseling

Co-Facilitator, T+ Support Group

115 Franklin Street, 3rd Floor

Bangor, Maine

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?soid=1102254033550&aid=nNEcyIaz0Oc>



St. John's is invited:

Please join us for a special screening of "Lightworkers," a new 90-minute documentary on defending democracy and providing hope through social action.

Sunday, October 4, 6pm prompt at Church of Universal Fellowship, 82 Main St., Orono.

Admission is free. Donations accepted for PCHC: Penobscot County Health Center. Light refreshments will be at hand. Sponsored by MDK Orono, a local grassroots org.

From the filmmaker, Bobby Roth: "I posed ten questions to a diverse and dynamic group of American citizens who I considered positive forces and recognized them as LIGHTWORKERS. I first asked what constitutes "activism" and followed with: "What can you do?"

Democracy Dies in Darkness: Are You a Lightworker?



A special screening sponsored by MDK, a local grassroots group:

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 4
6PM** at the
**CHURCH OF
UNIVERSAL
FELLOWSHIP
82 MAIN ST.,
ORONO**

"Lightworkers" explores the power of individual action and collective responsibility through a mosaic of voices from across civic, cultural, and creative life. The film avoids partisan framing, instead focusing on shared human values and the role each person plays in sustaining democratic ideals.

FREE. Donations accepted for PCHC, Penobscot Community Health Center.

A Bobby Roth Film
Written and Directed by Bobby Roth
Produced by Bobby Roth, Jesse Kane, Monica Valdes
Music by Paul Haslinger, Edited by Jesse Kane, Executive Producer Lon Bender
Featuring Louis Abramson, Ed Begley, Jr., Debora Benchoam, June Berke, David Brooks, Rabbi Sharon Brous,
Robbie Conal, Peter Coyote, Shepard Fairey, Jim Himes, David Hogg, Robert Hubbell, Adam Kinzinger,
Ann Kuster, Charley Lang, Wendie Malick, Tom Morello, Keith Olbermann, Betty Osceola, Carmen Perez-Jordan,
Peggy Dammond Preacely, John Quigley, Jamie Raskin, Adam Smith, Steve Van Zandt, Henry Winkler, Richard Wolff

Rector's Essay

Church Populism *continued*

Recently, Skye Jethani from the Holy Post podcast helped me by reclaiming 'evangelical' for any disciple who lives by the Good News, while renaming the mass movement commonly identified as 'evangelicalism' as "American populist or consumer religion." Populist Christianity is highly adaptable, and highly entrepreneurial. It goes with the flow of popular culture, is highly attuned to market forces, and is very careful to make the Gospel support secular visions of the good life. Churches in this vein strive to be entertaining, consumer friendly, trendy, performatively casual, and focused on personalities, and celebrities. Worship spaces are like theaters and worship is like a Ted talk with contemporary music.

The danger with populist, consumer christianity is that it sacrifices the integrity of the Gospel for the sake of easy popularity and success defined by attendance figures.

Historically, the Episcopal church is the opposite of populist in both good and not so good ways. First, we adapt very slowly. Our focus on tradition and liturgy cause us to put integrity and continuity ahead of adaptation and creativity. Second, we have identified with cultural elites and shown little willingness to sacrifice elite cultural markers and practices for the sake of reaching a wider demographic. For example, there are four times more Methodists in the country because historically they were mobile, adaptable, engaged, and ready to minister to anyone and everyone from the mill worker to the mill owners. Third, our focus on liturgical uniformity is a major obstacle to innovation and experimentation with ways to communicate the loving presence of God more effectively for more people.

These are just my takes. You can disagree and we can have a great discussion.

I am part of a generation of clergy that tried to graft entrepreneurial leadership and adaptability into the DNA of the Episcopal Church. It has not been easy. The grain of our church does not run toward populism. On the good side, this means that we have maintained the commonly held teachings of the universal church and the ancient wisdom embedded in our liturgy. It also means that we are willing to take the heat when it is time to stand up for justice, peace, and human rights as taught by Jesus. As the body of Christ, we are counter-

cultural and so we rub against the elements of our popular culture that are unhealthy for God's people and God's creatures.

If I did not value our tradition I would not be giving my life to it. At the same time I am always asking myself the pressing questions: How do we open the doors wider? How do we attend to the spiritual hunger for more people? What markers of cultural elitism are disposable if we are to love and welcome our neighbors more effectively?

-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 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 – Hilary G. and Roger G.

10:00am Lectors – David F., Ann H. and Hilary G.

10:00am Ushers – Mary W. and Scott K.

Serving on Sunday October 11th:

10:00am Acolytes - Eric G., Gavin F. and Ruth G.

8:00am Chalice Bearer: Cindy L.

10:00am Chalice Bearers - Nancy D. and Robert F.

Counters – Jim B. and Ken H.

10:00am Lectors – Brandon M., Ben O. Michele V.

10:00am Ushers – Zach W. and Ben O.

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 5:1-7](#)

[Philippians
3:4b-14](#)

[Matthew
21:33-46](#)

Sunday Worship:

What's Happening This Week

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.

**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](#)

Wednesday, October 7th, 5:30pm: Great Wednesday returns with 5:30pm Eucharist and 6:00pm Bible Study ([also available on Zoom](#)) and dinner.

Thursday, October 8th, 5:30pm: Choir rehearsal

Saturday, October 10th, 12:00pm: Second Saturday. If you are interested in helping out at Second Saturday, please contact [David C.](#)

Saturday, October 10th, 3:00pm: Funeral Service for Dr. Esther Rauch with reception in the Undercroft following the service.

Sunday, October 11th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, October 11th, 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 11th, 2:00pm: Alpha Class

Sunday, October 11th, 4:00pm: Contemplative Evensong rehearsal

Sunday, October 11th, 5:00pm: Contemplative Evensong

Sunday, October 11th, 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

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 Baptism of Carter Kenneth Huhn.

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed, and for those who have requested prayer: David, Bonny, Shawn, Robin S., Mary, Shirley G., and Bruce N.

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

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: Justin H., David H., Fr. Jarrett, Emma P. and Mary W.

For the Departed: for our service members killed in the current conflict.

**The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of Fred Jones on his birthday by Judy Jones**



St. John's Episcopal Church

225 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

207-947-0156

<http://www.stjohnsbangor.org>





Try email marketing for free today!