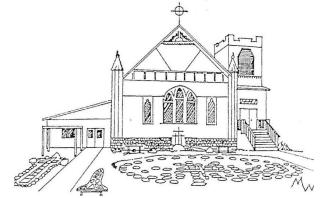


# ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY


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Curate

Tom Manney

Senior Warden

Becky Foster



## A Note from Tom

For quite awhile now, I haven't really been watching the news. This is unusual for me. Throughout my life I have been something of a news junkie, and even considered majoring in political science when I was in college (ended up majoring in English). But during much of 2020, I have found the news to be less interesting and more depressing. I tired quickly of the daily Coronavirus reports and I found the news regarding the protests (and government responses to the protests) left me with a heavy heart. So, I haven't been watching much news at all.

And now comes the presidential election. If there was ever a year when we might be better off without an election, 2020 would be that year. We live—as everyone knows—in a very divided society. And presidential elections tend to accentuate those divisions. We've been through so much already, isn't this election just going to make us more mad, more divided, and more depressed?

Well, I believe that it doesn't have to.

When asked if he should pay taxes, Jesus famously said:

Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

What Jesus means is that, while yes, Government issues are a reality of life in the world, they do not—and should not—supplant the rest of our lives (especially our spiritual lives). I think I tend to let politics upset me because I give it too much space. Instead of keeping things in proper perspective, I let political conflicts dominate my thinking. And my thinking should be dominated with—you guessed it—matters of God.

So I say to the presidential election, 'bring it on'. This year I am not going to let it lead me into arguments or anger. As I watch the news, I will watch it as a man trying desperately to follow the model of Jesus. I will render unto it some attention, but not too much. I will see Jesus in the faces of those with whom I disagree. I will listen with respect, not interrupt, and never raise my voice.

God help me.

-Tom

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Find us on Facebook!



St. John's Journey is published monthly. We're looking for your photos and articles. Please email them to "stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com" with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline for September is August 28th.



**Happy Birthday**  
Sherry Boyden 8/23

**Happy Anniversary**  
Wes & Kathy Wagester  
8/22  
Tom & Teri Manney  
8/03

## Vestry Notes....

Dear Friends,

I am so grateful for the blessings of this last month! Once again, we're holding services in our lovely church building; we had our first eucharist in months led by newly ordained Rev. Tom Manney; Jack and Ida Dodd have been keeping the grounds looking great and, as far as I know, all of our members are virus free.

This has created some energy to look around and take action. We've taken our first steps in going "live" online for Sunday services and may find other ways to connect with the wider world. Tom & I have been looking at reasonably priced options for replacing those faded and damaged road signs. And yes, we know we need to replace/repair the signs in front of and in back of the church as well. Even in this Covid shadowed world, we want to let people know that we're a going concern, a place to consider investigating. Trying to bring new members in during this pandemic might be difficult, but we still need to make the effort. And getting some of these things done feels SO good.

On a sadder note, Jim Fry and Corinne Fry have asked for a

breather from church ministries due to health issues.

It's not Covid – thank the Lord.



But a variety of chronic and stubborn ailments is making it hard for them to manage additional responsibilities. We will miss Jim's wry humor during Vestry meetings as well as his ability to take the longer, more strategic view of our possibilities. And Corinne seemed to get things going – from her help with the carpet/painting project last year, work with Altar Guild and getting our Eucharistic Visitor program moving forward. It's a blessing to have them as part of St. John's family. I hope they feel better soon and will join us in our worship when they are able. They will be in our prayers.

And we do not forget all those struggling with Covid, all those affected by hatred, fear and violence across our country. Let us keep them in our prayers even as we offer thanks for our many blessings.

Peace Always - Becky

*Becky Foster*

Senor Warden

STRATEGIC CLEANUP FOR ZOOM CALLS





Bishop Bonnie Perry (Diocese of Michigan) ordains the Rev. Thomas Manney to the priesthood.

Congratulations to  
Reverend Tom Manney  
on his ordination on  
July 18<sup>th</sup>



They're smiling behind those masks



Proud Parents!



**Wanted:** Person(s) interested in joining St. John's Vestry.

**Qualifications:** Must be a member of St. John's congregation and interested in seeing St. John's grow and blossom.

Other desirable traits include:

Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient , Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

**Job Requirements:**

Attend a monthly meeting (currently on Zoom) on the afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. Meetings are limited to 2 hours and include friendly banter as well as information about current projects

Listen with open mind and prayerful heart to members of the congregation and fellow Vestry members.

Watch local news and other religious groups for ideas that we might consider

Share with the Vestry what the Spirit gives you to share.

Look for opportunities to volunteer as lead or helper in our projects and ongoing efforts Be patient and flexible with yourself and other Vestry members – things don't always go as planned.

**Length of Term:** Through 2021 calendar year – although special circumstances may permit a Vestry member to request an early departure.

**Compensation:** Eternal gratitude of Sr. Warden, closer relationships with St. John's family and Vestry members, an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work through you for the good of our church and others.

**Start Date:** Immediately

**Please contact Becky Foster if interested.**

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What does Blessing mean to you?



Blessing, rightly understood, is the invisible bloodstream pulsating through the universe—alive and life-giving.

BR. DAVID STEINDL-RAST

# A Sunday of Firsts – First Eucharist, First Sunday for Live-Streaming, First Sunday with Covid Protections.

**It was a joyous day!**



Rev. Tom Manney ready to process for his first official Eucharist service. Notice the tastefully color coordinated mask in perfect seasonal colors.



Becky Foster at the computer ready to start live-streaming on Facebook.



Margaret Smith claimed her “official” seat.  
Pretty sure Don was sitting next to her.



We actually had people sitting on both sides of the aisle and up in the front!  
Given the need to space people out, we had a full house. And, boy, was it hot! Only three designated seats were open.



## Tethered by Hope

July 22, 2020

Rob Gieselmann  
from The Episcopal  
Café

I was sitting in a chair on the deck, looking broadly over hills of mown grass. Families gathered at the edge of the grass with balls and chairs and time. The afternoon sun was a balloon without string, drifting lazily towards the horizon. The day felt both empty and full, summer at its best. Not hot, not cool, just right.

Without warning, industrial sprinklers popped-up out of the lawn and sprayed water in a semi-circle of thirty, forty foot radius. Children – five, six, nine years old – began running around, dodging near to and jumping away from the water to tease it, playing chicken with the water, pretending to try to stay dry, yet getting wet all the same. Drops at first, then spray as they stuck fists and hands into the water. Eventually, the children dropped all pretense and ran straight into the spray. Water pushed them and splattered as halos around them.

Parents laughed, a dog barked, and water refracted the afternoon sunlight. The spray became glitter, prisms of rainbow circling the children, and the children still dancing and laughing and playing the way children are supposed to dance and laugh and play on lazy summer days. Like the Holy Spirit dances and laughs and plays on lazy summer days.

As I watched the children, my mind drifted to Jesus, and how he might have played as a child. How little we know about his world prior to the age of 30. And yet, this Son of God, Son of Man, this child of heaven, I am certain on lazy summer days would have jumped into

sprays of water, or pulled buckets from wells to toss water onto the head of his cousin John, or splashed in the shallows of the Sea of Galilee with his siblings. Do I hear Joseph, do I see Mary, at first telling the boys to slow down? To be careful? Not to disturb the others at the well, the women and men fishing the Sea? Relenting, and laughing, now they start splashing water at Jesus rather than chide him.

Abandon, and what might our days be like with a little more dancing and laughing and playing?

I don't know what tomorrow will bring, whether a vaccine will be developed, whether the right will shake hands with the left, whether the lion will lie down with the lamb any time soon.

I don't know whether tomorrow I will discover that I have terminal cancer, or whether the CPG will go bust, or whether a storm will blow through my life. I don't know much of anything, when you get right down to it. I wasn't invited into this world, I was inserted into it. Without permission, I might add, and each day I live carries enough uncertainty with it to fill a ten gallon hat.

No, I don't know much of anything, not much of anything at all of consequence. Not much of anything at all eternal.

Except for this. That there is a God in heaven, a Savior at hand, and a Spirit of joy and love and grace that for some inexplicable reason attends my life – that same uninvited life –

Which leaves me little choice but to dance. Little choice but to laugh. Little choice but to play like a child splashing in the summer sun and sprinklers.

For somewhere in the splashing and sunlight there glitters a rainbow. And I know for certain that I am, after all, home. On this earth. Tethered by hope.



## Zucchini Pancakes

Recipe courtesy of Ina Garten (The Barefoot Contessa) and the Food Network

With the abundance of zucchini this time of year, a new zucchini recipe is a welcomed add. This looks interesting and not hard at all....

### Ingredients

2 medium zucchini (about 3/4 pound)  
2 tablespoons grated red onion  
2 extra-large eggs, lightly beaten  
6 to 8 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
Unsalted butter and vegetable oil

### Directions

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F.

Grate the zucchini into a bowl using the large grating side of a box grater. Immediately stir in the onion and eggs. Stir in 6 tablespoons of the flour, the baking powder, salt, and pepper. (If the batter gets too thin from the liquid in the zucchini, add the remaining 2 tablespoons of flour.)

Heat a large (10 to 12-inch) saute pan over medium heat and melt 1/2 tablespoon butter and 1/2 tablespoon oil together in the pan. When the butter is hot but not smoking, lower the heat to medium-low and drop heaping soup spoons of batter into the pan. Cook the pancakes about 2 minutes on each side, until browned.

Place the pancakes on a sheet pan and keep warm in the oven. Wipe out the pan with a dry paper towel, add more butter and oil to the pan, and continue to fry the pancakes until all the batter is used. The pancakes can stay warm in the oven for up to 30 minutes. Serve hot.



**HUSBAND:** One nice thing about the quarantine is we haven't been out spending money.



**WIFE:** (clicks add to cart) So nice.

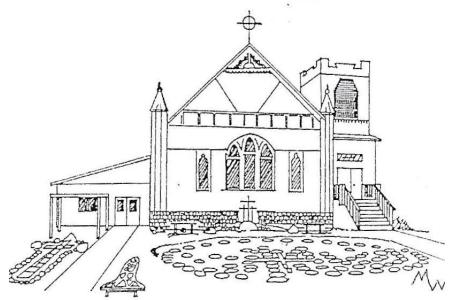


**Quarantine has me realizing why my dog gets so excited about something moving outside and going for walks and car rides.**

I just barked at a squirrel.



<u>Ministry Schedule</u>				<u>Counting Schedule</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Vestry Member 1</u>	<u>Vestry Member 2</u>
Aug 2, 2020	Ina Dockham	Mary Cameron	Rev Tom Manney	Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd
Aug 9, 2020	Margaret Smith	Neil Hargrave	Rev Barb Cavin	Ina Dockham	Tim Wright
Aug 16, 2020	Darlene Herndon	Mary Cameron	Rev Tom Manney	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster
Aug 23, 2020	Neil Hargrave		Becky Foster	Tim Wright	Neil Hargrave
Aug 30, 2020	Tammy Turnipseed		Neil Hargrave	Becky Foster	Ina Dockham



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