



April 2025



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

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Pastor's Corner

April 2025

Dear people of St. John's,

I believe spring is trying to arrive in its usual way. We had had some comforting warm days and terribly cold and snowy days mixed in. This is what we have grown to expect. We have also grown to expect the disciplines and self-examinations of the Lenten season. I hope you all are living into your disciplines and looking forward to Holy Week and Easter.

Holy Week is the heart and center of our liturgical year. Theologically and liturgically, if not in practice, the Great Vigil of Easter is the central service of the church year, but the services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are closely related to it. They usually receive our best efforts, however many are disappointed in the results. Palm Sunday and Easter are the high points, but often the rest of

the week does not fulfill our hopes and expectations.



One thing which discourages many small churches is the memory of how the services were celebrated in large churches with their musical and clerical resources. We think our little church could never hope to duplicate the worship of the large parishes in the big city. This may be true but largely irrelevant. Our little church is different than those large cathedrals, just as our parish life is different, and the advantages are not all one-sided.

Our parish achieves a larger degree of participation than those large churches. Holy Week services are effectively celebrated using music and available resources and are carefully planned to encourage congregational participation. *(continued on page 2)*

St John's Episcopal Church
 4074 S. Mill St.
 PO Box 86
 Dryden, MI 48428
 (810)795.2371

Website: www.stjohnschurchedryden.org
 Email: stjohnschurchedryden@gmail.com
 Find us on Facebook!



Editor: Beth Ann Tesluk

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 May is April 21st.



Happy Birthday!

Becky Foster
Roxanne Todd
Connie Ogg
Sarah Underwood

Vestry Notes

Dear Friends,

It's two days after the start of Spring and my yard is covered in white! That's Michigan for you. But there are small signs of better days – spring bulbs are starting to push above ground. The robins are staking out their territory. And the squirrels are getting frisky. I hope we all can enjoy this gradual transformation.

At St. John's, we're doing our spring work too. Ash Wednesday was a solemn start. And Fr. Harold did NOT stint on the ashes! We've started a Lenten Study group which is reading a book called *Embracing the Uncertain* by Magrey R. De-Vega. What a perfect topic for the moment! As always, we have a pot-luck style dinner but this year it's a simple supper of soup and bread. It might be simple, but it's still yummy. The discussions are thought provoking and often heart felt. We have two more sessions (6:30 p.m. on March 26th & April 9th) before Easter. You are welcome to join at any time.

Fr. Harold has been busy with home visits and stops at The Bells. He is getting very

good response to his Bible Study at the Bells. And it looks like he may be adding another location! Look for an article in a later newsletter.



April's focus is on Holy Week and Easter. We will have a Seder meal this year as well as an afternoon Stations of the Cross. The schedule is listed in this newsletter. I hope you can attend as many of these services as possible. Taken together, the Holy Week services immerse us in a complex and distressing story. It seems very dark on Good Friday. As a child I used to think Good Friday was the whole point of Lent. I was wrong – it's the victory over darkness and death that Christ gave to us all on Easter Sunday. I hope you join us for the journey from those dark moments to the brightest dawn anyone ever experienced. St. John's always does Easter Sunday well. See you there!

Peace & Love,

Becky Foster, Senior Warden

(continued from page 1) I am extremely proud of our "little church" and the effort which goes into each service. I am also proud of the people of this "little church" who participate wherever possible, and make this building a wonderful place to worship our Lord and Savior.

I pray you all will continue your journey through a holy Lent and celebrate the end of the journey with Holy Week to remember and a joyous Easter commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In God's love,

Rev. Harold



HOLY WEEK

AT ST. JOHN'S DRYDEN

Palm Sunday - April 13th

*10:00 Worship Service with Palms
6:30 p.m. Seder Meal*

Maundy Thursday - April 17th

*6:30 p.m. Worship Service
with Foot Washing*

Good Friday - April 18th

*1:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
6:30 p.m. Worship Service*

Easter Sunday - April 20th

10:00 Worship Service

A joy-filled service with music & flowering of the Cross

Why is this night different from all other nights?

Contributed by Beth Ann Tesluk.

So begins the series of questions asked during a Seder. The first time I participated in a Seder was in the 5th Grade. Our focus that year was on world religions, and our teacher, Mrs. Paauw, had the Christian kids research Passover while the Jewish kids had to research Holy Week traditions. My mother and I went to the home of Mrs. Rhoda Levin, who served us cookies and tea, and gave me a small Haggadah, which is the book that sets forth the order of the ritual Passover meal, the Seder. We each were assigned a dish to prepare for our class, and I chose Charoset, the sweet dish of apples, honey & walnuts meant to symbolize the mortar between the bricks the Israelites were forced to make by their enslavers in Egypt.

Because Passover is a fixed feast and Easter is moveable, the two events don't always overlap ([Here's a great explainer for this](#)). In scripture, we know that Holy Week is set against the backdrop of Passover. The Maundy Thursday meal shared by Jesus and the disciples was a seder - they were a group of observant people, deepening their commitment to God through fellowship, much as we do through Lenten studies and practices. This year, the holidays do overlap, and so we are celebrating this with our own interpretation of the Seder meal. We do this with honor and respect, in the hopes of reminding ourselves of the shared traditions of Judaism and Christianity, and with no sense of cultural appropriation. Senior Warden Becky Foster adds this context, "We hold a Seder at St. John's to better understand the significance of the Passover for Jesus and his disciples, and to recognize how it influences our worship today. The Passover script emphasizes the story of the deliverance of the Jews from Egypt. It also emphasizes trust in God to deliver his people from darkness. There is thanks and praise throughout. This is a heritage for all Christians and it is worth recognizing how Jesus saw his last Seder, and how He transformed it for those who would follow."

We hope you can join us on Sunday, April 13th, at 6:30 p.m. for this special meal. Look for the sign-up at Coffee Hour for how you can help, and please RSVP so we know how many we should prepare for!

*Seder at St. John's
Sunday, April 13th
6:30 p.m.*



Easter Flower Dedications

It's time to start thinking about Easter flower dedications! If you would like to make a donation towards the Easter flowers, please let Kitty Underwood know by April 13 so that we can include your dedication in the Easter bulletin.

Easter
DEDICATIONS



It's all relative...



While doing some genealogical research, Jason Foltz found out that he and Fr. Harold are distant cousins! Check out these sweet photos he found of Fr. Harold's parents, including this one with Baby Harold!



Birthday boy Mark Wagner enjoying his cake with Becky Foster & Neil Hargrave's grandson Lathan.

Why Do We Do This?

Contributed by Kitty Underwood, Music Director

Several people have asked why we use Rite I during Lent and Advent.

Lent and Advent are both seasons of the church year when we reflect, repent and prepare. The Elizabethan language of Rite I (which was the **only** rite prior to the introduction of Rite II in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer) emphasizes the penitential themes of these two seasons. The Episcopal Church allows cler-

gy the option to use either rite, and for modern churchgoers, this seasonal shift to a more formal language can also help revive worship, ensuring that the liturgy never becomes rote or routine. As Senior Warden Becky Foster puts it, "Making changes like these helps to activate spiritual muscles that might be resting over time." The service music that is sung during Lent (Kyrie, Sanctus and Agnus Dei) is also selected to further solemnize the Rite I service.



Save the Date!



Northbound 23

May 3rd, 7 pm

Bluegrass, New Grass, and then some!

[Save the Date! Northbound 23 is headed our way on May 3rd](#)

The spring concert at St. John's is bound to be a roof-raising good time! On May 3rd, join us for an evening with Northbound 23, a local bluegrass/acoustic band. Curious about their sound? You can check out their YouTube channel (just search "Northbound 23") which has a handful of videos from a recent show at Sullivan's Public House. As always, this concert is free & open to the public so please invite your friends and family.

[Outreach Teen Relief Gets a Boost from Local Business](#)

Russ & Kitty Underwood had a piece of art being framed at Art Concepts in Metamora. In the course of conversation, Russ brought up the work of Outreach Teen Relief, which Janet, the owner, was quite interested in. When they went back to pick up the completed piece, Janet handed Russ a donation for Outreach Teen Relief in the amount of \$500!



Dianne Bishop shared that her granddaughter Madelyn Gucciardi has been selected for a 6 month internship at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island! Madelyn is currently attending the Culinary Institute of Michigan, and is a pastry chef. Congratulations to Madelyn!

Wes & Kathy Wagester's granddaughter Lily Fallarme will be graduating from college in May! Lily will complete her degree in nursing from Northern Michigan University, and has already been offered (and accepted) a position with a hospital in Marquette. Congratulations, Lily!

If you have some good news to share in the newsletter, please send it to Beth Ann no later than the 3rd Monday of the month.

**BREAKING
NEWS**

February 2025 Financial Report by Becky Foster

This is the most recent month for review.

February 2025	This Month	The Year So Far
Income	\$5,347	\$12,554
Expenses	\$5,472	\$11,560
Cash Flow Balance	-\$125	\$994

Overview: Since we canceled a Sunday service in February due to weather, we had lower donations for the month. And our expenses, especially Utilities were on the high side. Still, this isn't a major problem. Our Year-to-Date figures are solid and we often see "catch-up" donations in later months. That is very much appreciated. Although the monthly Cash Flow figure is negative, the Year-to-Date figure is still positive. That's a bit of cushion but we shouldn't rely on that going forward.

Vanguard Funds:

Total Stock Fund Balance as of February 28, 2025 is \$83,818, down roughly \$5,000 from end of January.

One CD of \$22,000 will mature this April.

Oxford Bank CD: \$10,000 matures in August



Inkjet Printer for Sale! \$200 OBO

Canon Megatank GX4020 All-in-One Wireless Supertank Printer with Print, Copy, Scan and Fax | Auto Document Feeder | Mobile Printing | 2.7" LCD Touch Screen

With additional refill bottles – 3 black, one each of cyan, magenta and yellow

This printer was purchased last year for our church and has worked well until last month. It no longer prints double-sided, and this cannot be repaired. It prints single-sided just fine, and it copies and scans too! But we need that duplexing option, so we have ordered a new printer. Selling the "old" printer will help defray some of the replacement costs.

A new version on Amazon is priced at \$340. The refill bottles are worth over \$120.

We will be having a rummage sale May 9th & 10th! Bring your treasures to church by Thursday, May 8th (or the Sunday before). We will definitely need help on Saturday to clean up.

Let Ina know if you can lend a hand.



Ministry Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson Readers</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Videographer</u>	<u>Vestry Counter 1</u>	<u>Vestry Counter 2</u>
4/6/2025	Tammy			Neil	Sherry	Becky	Connie
4/13/2025	Wes	Jack	Neil	Rev Schneider	Ina	Neil	Russ
4/17/2025	Mary	Neil	John	Rev Schneider	Ida Lynn	Connie	Mary
4/18/2025	Ina	Tammy	Jason	Rev Schneider	Becky	Russ	Beth Ann
4/20/2025	Jack	Mary	Neil	Rev Schneider	Sherry	Mary	Becky
4/27/2025	Neil	Jack	John	Rev Schneider	Wes	Connie	Neil
5/4/2025				Kitty	Ina	Becky	Connie
5/11/2025	Beth Ann	Neil	Jason	Rev Schneider	Ida Lynn	Neil	Russ
5/18/2025				Becky	Sherry	Connie	Mary
5/25/2025	Wes	Tammy	Jack	Rev Schneider	Wes	Russ	Beth Ann

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 4074 S Mill St.
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