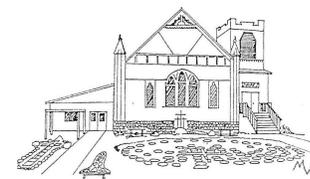


ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



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

(810)795.2371

Priest
Tom Manney



A Note from Tom

Lessons from COVID

We were all pretty excited by the news of the various relaxations of COVID restrictions announced by Governor Whitmer two weeks ago. This was followed up by a similar announcement by our bishop—Bishop Skip—who likewise relaxed some of our church restrictions. To be clear, we are a long way from the end of COVID. The disease is still spreading, and people are still dying. But the rate at which the disease is spreading is, finally, starting to slow in Michigan. It feels like there might be some light at the end of the tunnel. And so—while it is far too soon to celebrate the end of this horrible pandemic—it might be time to look back at the last 14 months and consider some lessons learned.

Worship can happen without attending church.

What counts most in our faith is our individual relationship with God. This can happen—and should happen—wherever we are. While church is important, it does not replace our personal connection to God. Prayer is best when it is done frequently from home, work, the grocery store, in the car, etc.

Families matter.

When the pandemic resulted in isolation, it became apparent that having healthy relationships with families and friends is crucial to an individual's well-being. I felt very blessed for the family members with whom I could interact—even if just by phone—during the quarantine.

Religion and science must live together.

The science behind the COVID vaccines has proven to be highly effective in the prevention of the spread of the coronavirus. It is an indisputable truth (in my mind) that God created both the world and the science within it. To quote Einstein, "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind."

Community is crucial.

We have all recognized during the quarantine that people tend to be happier in the company of others. What was missing from our Facebook worship services was the chance to worship God *together*. For me, it has fostered a new appreciation for coffee hour and all church fellowship activities.

Technology is here to stay.

We have been blessed with great support from our diocese enabling us

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



Editor: Becky Foster

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 July is June 25th.



Happy Birthday...

Bob Miller

to purchase updated video cameras. We have been likewise blessed by Zoom and Facebook, enabling us to gather (sort of) safely and conveniently from the convenience of our own homes.

Reach out to those who are alone.

Jesus said, "...for I was in prison and you visited me." During COVID, isolation and loneliness were intensified. Picking up the phone and reaching out fulfills our baptismal vow: "...loving your neighbor as yourself".

Self-care is critical. COVID showed us just how easy it is to fall into a

rut. Taking time to get out of the house, enjoy nature, cook healthy meals, etc. remains an important part of leading a healthy life. We must be fit in order to do God's work and spread the Good News of Christ.

One thing's for sure: one pandemic during a lifetime is plenty. I would not shed a tear if we have to wait another 100 years for our next infectious disease to sweep across the world. When the quarantine was first implemented, I prayed that God would deliver our church through it. So far, God has answered this prayer.

+ Tom

Vestry

Dear Friends,

Well, we made it to summer. And it looks like we're about to emerge from the worst of the pandemic, at least locally. We will have coffee hour again after service. We are getting closer to being able to share the peace by shaking hands. I'm hoping that soon we can include both species, both bread and wine, during distribution of the Eucharist. We're starting to discuss a church picnic later this summer. These are all good things – but it still feels a little strange. I feel like I'm carefully walking on a surface that might not be totally solid.

Take a step, look around, check my footing, take a breath and move forward a bit more. So far, all is good. I pray this continues. But let's be patient with each other as each of us finds our way in this new time.

Meanwhile, there is good news for St.

John's. The roof and gutters have been completed and we will have a blessing of our new roof the first Sunday in June. That is also the Sunday we will restart coffee hour. I'm hoping we can do it outside if the weather is agreeable. This has been a big project made possible by your generous donations and Jack Dodd's care and perseverance. Thank-you, Jack. You made it look easy – and we know better.



Did you catch Kitty Underwood's first Sunday as Worship Leader? Not only did she guide us through the prayers, she preached a good sermon AND managed the keyboard and choir to boot! Great job, Kitty! Looking forward to future Kitty services.

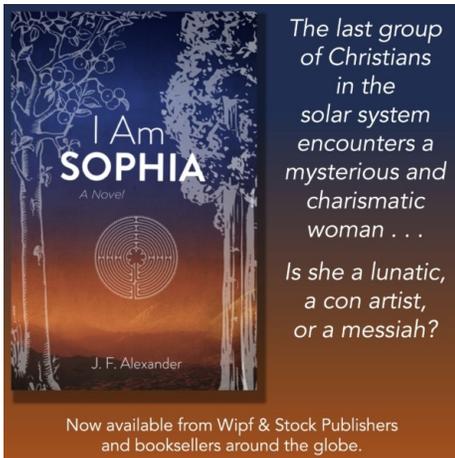
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Continued from page 2 . . . Through contributions to Double Help-ing, we donated \$300 worth of gift cards for Dryden Coney Island to Linked Hearts. We are hoping to expand the list of restaurants to include Maria's in Almont and another restaurant in Imlay City. If you have a candidate, let me know. And please contribute if you can – it's a way to help in multiple ways.

picture of the group in this newsletter. It's been wonderful to see everyone again. I know that folks tend to travel in the summer but I hope to see all those smiling faces during our summer Sundays. It feeds my spirit, and I think you probably feel the same.

Peace

We had a great turn-out for Pentecost Sunday. You'll see a **Becky Foster**



A possible summer read?

A 2021 Gallup survey found that less than half of Americans now claim membership in a religious congregation for the first time in history. *I Am Sophia*, a new novel by Episcopalian author J. F. Alexander, imagines a not-so-distant future in which organized religion is gasping its last breath.

When a mysterious and charismatic woman insinuates herself into a fringe religious group, its dozen members wonder whether she is a lunatic, a con artist, or a messiah. Sophia quickly upends the routines and expectations of the group—the last Christians in the inhabited solar system—while Peter, their struggling leader, becomes increasingly obsessed with her. Before long, Peter finds himself following Sophia on a perilous interplanetary adventure which may cost both of them their

lives.

Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves, managing director of The College for Bishops of The Episcopal Church, calls *I Am Sophia* “beautiful, poignant, and theologically insightful . . . it uncovers eternal truths by engaging with real life in all its grittiness.” The Rev. Dr. Jann Aldredge-Clanton, author of *In Search of the Christ-Sophia*, writes that Alexander “combines the gifts of a compelling storyteller, religious scholar, and visionary.” Half of the novel is set at a future version of San Francisco’s Grace Cathedral.

J. F. Alexander is writer-in-residence at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in San Jose, California. Raised in the Texas panhandle, he earned degrees at Austin College, Tufts University’s Fletcher School, and Stanford Law School and was a U.S.-Germany Fulbright fellow and a Newbin fellow in theology. He has worked in law, business, and NASA’s human space-flight program.



Pentecost Sunday

Q&A: The Rev. Nurya Love Parish on food, faith, church-owned land and the future

By Heather Beasley Doyle

Posted Apr 30, 2021



You may have heard of a different kind of ministry in Western Michigan. Here's something that is getting attention from many in the church throughout the nation.

The Rev. Nurya Love Parish is rector of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Belmont, Michigan, and executive director of Plainsong Farm & Ministry, both located in the Diocese of Western Michigan. Photo: Rachael Holt

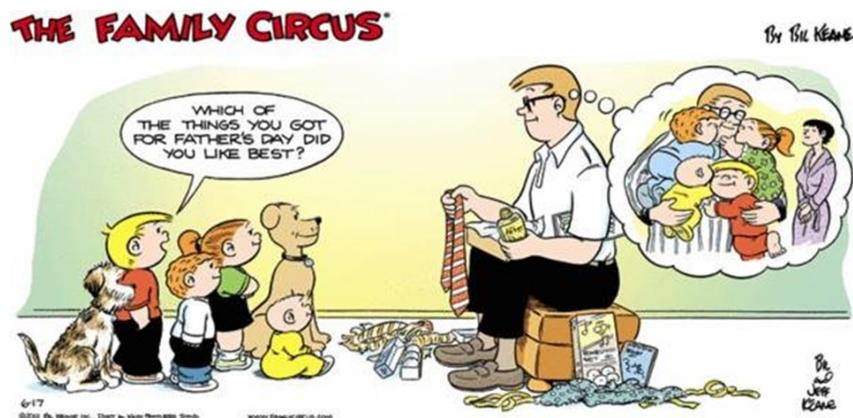
[Episcopal News Service] Start talking with Episcopalians about food and faith or reading about new ways to worship, and the Rev. Nurya Love Parish's name is likely to come up. She's written the book "[Resurrection Matters](#)" and been interviewed by [Civil Eats](#), and she imagined [her own Good News Gardens](#) program last year almost simultaneously with The Episcopal Church's.

Love Parish, who grew up questioning the ecological wisdom of her Las Vegas, Nevada, home, began her ministry career in the Unitarian Universalist church. In 1997, that work took her to Michigan, where she's lived since. An Episcopal priest since 2011, she's rector at [Holy Spirit Episcopal Church](#) in Belmont and executive director of [Plainsong Farm & Ministry](#) in Rockford, which she co-founded in 2015 with Bethany and Mike Edwardson — Bethany serves as artist-in-residence, Mike is farm manager.

Located in the Diocese of Western Michigan, Plainsong Farm & Ministry serves as a nexus of sustainable agriculture and Christianity. Its offerings include a community supported agriculture program, a young adult cohort and monthly worship (currently suspended due to the pandemic). It's also home to ChurchLands, an initiative [dedicated to mapping The Episcopal Church's properties](#) and encouraging people to think about them with sustainability in mind.

"We struggle in America to articulate a Christianity that is about ecology, justice and health," Love Parish told Episcopal News Service. "I hope the Christian food movement can help the wider public recognize that Christianity can be about these things."

— Heather Beasley Doyle is a freelance journalist, writer and editor based in Massachusetts.





Double Help-ing **A Fund Raiser** **Two-fer**

One donation with two benefits.

It will help clients of Dryden's local food bank, Linked Hearts, AND it will help local restaurants which still face financial challenges due to Covid restrictions.

St. John's Episcopal Church in Dryden will use the funds to purchase gift cards from local family style restaurants. Cards will be distributed by Linked Hearts.

To donate, please

Go to this link <https://www.stjohnschurchdryden.org/online-giving>

Click on the Green "Giving" button

Use down-arrow (right side) to select Double Help-ing

Fill in your name and other information

Confirm donation

OR

Send a check to St. John's Episcopal Church with Double Help-ing in the memo line.

And



Rhubarb Breakfast Cake



This is a classic, puffed up, fruity snack cake ~ the kind your grandma made, if you were lucky. It's packed with jammy bits of sweet/tart rhubarb and it's a great way to start the day.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup half and half, cream, or buttermilk
 - 1 tsp lemon juice
 - 1/2 cup unsalted butter at room temperature
 - 1 cup granulated sugar plus 2 tsp for sprinkling
 - 1 large egg, at room temperature
-
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
 - 2 cups all purpose flour, saving out 1 Tbsp to toss with rhubarb
 - 2 tsp baking powder
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 2 cups thinly sliced rhubarb

Instructions

Set oven to 350F Lightly butter a 9x9 square baking pan. I like to line the pan with parchment paper with overhanging ends so I can easily lift out the cooled cake for cutting. That's optional.

Stir the lemon juice into the half and half and set aside.

Cream the soft butter and sugar in a stand mixer, or with electric beaters, until fluffy and pale yellow. Beat in the egg and vanilla, scraping down the bowl as necessary.

Take 1 Tbsp of the flour to the rhubarb and toss well.

Whisk together the remaining flour, baking powder, and salt.

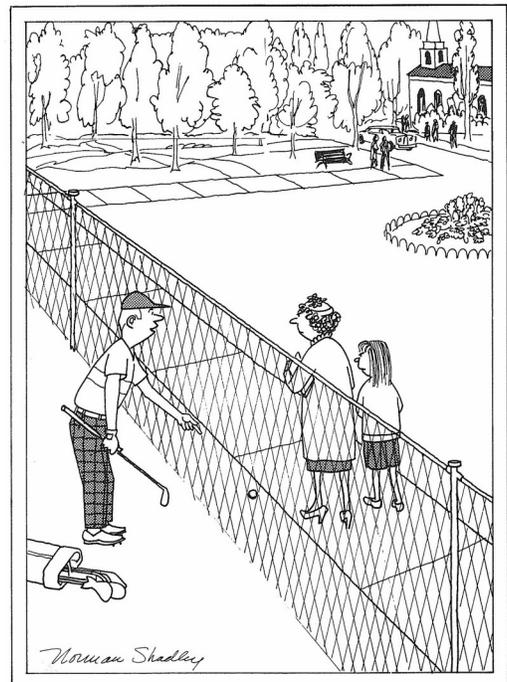
Add half of the flour mixture to the bowl and blend in. Add all of the half and half, and blend in. Finally add the rest of the flour and blend just until combined, don't over mix. Fold in the rhubarb. Note: the batter is on the thick side.

Spread the batter into the prepared pan and sprinkle the top evenly with a little sugar. Bake for about 40-45 minutes, or until the cake is turning golden and a toothpick in the center comes out without wet batter clinging to it (moist crumbs are fine.)

Let the cake cool slightly before cutting.



A great picture for the year! Hope you can recognize the faces without masks.



The Mystery of the Door



We were wondering what might be in the crawl space behind the small door on the north side of the church. Hopes dashed! No pot of gold! But there's a lawn mower, an extension cord reel, a ladder, gas can and various tools. Does anyone remember when these were in use?



Continuing Saga of Our Church Bell



Just to give you an idea of the size.



Here's the clapper
– flattened by decades of use





Invitation to Attend the Blessing of our New Roof!

Date: June 6th

Time: After Service

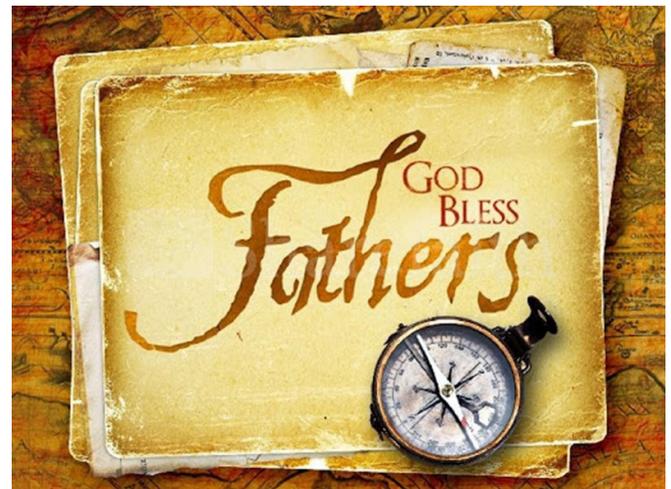
Coffee Hour will follow outside, weather permitting.

Ministry & Counting Schedule

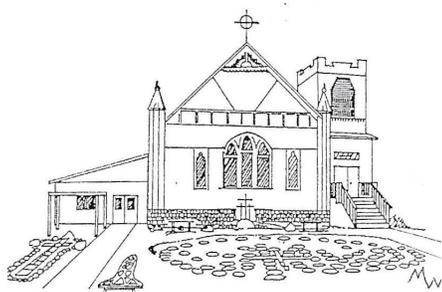
Date	Lector	Eucharistic	Worship Leader	Counter 1	Counter 1
Jun 6, 2021	Kathy Wagester	Corinne Fry	Rev Tom Manney	Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd
Jun 13, 2021	Wes Wagester		Kitty Underwood	Wes Wagester	Lelia Wagner
Jun 20, 2021	Jim Fry	Neil Hargrave	Rev Tom Manney	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster
Jun 27, 2021	Mary Cameron		Becky Foster	Lelia Wagner	Neil Hargrave
Jul 4, 2021	Neil Hargrave	Mary Cameron	Rev Tom Manney	Becky Foster	Wes Wagester
Jul 11, 2021	Tammy Tur-nipseed		Neil Hargrave	Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd
Jul 18, 2021	Ina Dockham	Tammy Tur-nipseed	Rev Tom Manney	Wes Wagester	Lelia Wagner
Jul 25, 2021	Lelia Wagner		Kitty Underwood	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster

Livestream Schedule for the Summer

Date	Livestream Videographer	
June 6	Becky Foster	
June 13	Ina Dockham	
June 20	Mary Cameron	Father's Day
June 27	Ida Lynn Dodd	
July 4	Wes Wagester	Independence Day
July 11	Sherry Wagner	
July 18	Lelia Wagner	
July 25	Ina Dockham	
August 1	Becky Foster	
August 8	Mary Cameron	
August 15	Ida Lynn Dodd	
August 22	Wes Wagester	
August 29	Sherry Wagner	



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10am - Morning	31 Memorial Day	1 10am - Office Hours	2 4pm - Bible Study	3	4 10am - Office Hours	5
6 10am - Worship-Rev	7	8 10am - Office Hours	9 4pm - Bible Study	10	11 10am - Office Hours	12
13 8:30am - Eucharist 4pm - Vestry	14	15 10am - Office Hours	16 4pm - Bible Study	17	18 10am - Office Hours	19 Juneteenth
20 Trainers Day	21	22 10am - Office Hours	23 4pm - Bible Study	24	25 Newletter Deadline 10am - Office Hours	26
27 10am - Morning	28	29 10am - Office Hours	30 4pm - Bible Study	1	2 10am - Office Hours	3



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PO Box 86
4074 S Mill St.
Dryden, MI 48428