

# ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



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## St. John's Episcopal Church

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### A Note from Tom,

As I look out the window on this very pleasant October morning, I see that the trees are really starting to shed their leaves.

The last vestiges of warm temperatures are upon us, and it won't be long before winter coats and boots will be a daily requirement. Such is life in Michigan. This year we have been blessed with an absolutely beautiful October. God's in his Heaven to be sure.

When you read this, we will be just days away from the presidential election. I recently came across what I thought was a perfect quote from the great English preacher John Wesley. He wrote, on October 6, 1774, the following:

"I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them

1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy
2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and
3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

Elections are divisive by nature, but we do well heed Wesley's advice. We are, after all, disciples of Jesus, and his command to love our neighbors did not include an exception for politics.

Another event we look forward to in the church is All Saints Day. All Saints, also known in medieval times as All Hallows Day (from where we get the word 'Halloween'), is one of the seven principal feast days\* in the liturgical year. Its purpose is to solemnify the spiritual bond between the saints in heaven, and ourselves on earth.

In addition to commemorating the saints, we will also pause to pray for our family members and friends who have gone on before us. Although this is technically the purpose of All Souls Day (November 2), it has become common practice in the Episcopal church to combine the two observances.

And so, as we put away our summer clothes, we can look back at October with a warm heart as we look ahead to the colder part of Autumn and the eventual arrival of the season of Advent. I pray that we all continue to find the love of God in our lives. And may we share that love with others, as God has shared it with us.

-Tom

\*The others are Easter Day, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Christmas Day, and the Epiphany.



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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 December, November 27th.



**Happy Anniversary**

Myron & Sherry Petrie  
Jon & Nancy Steele  
Sue Thornton

Dear Friends,

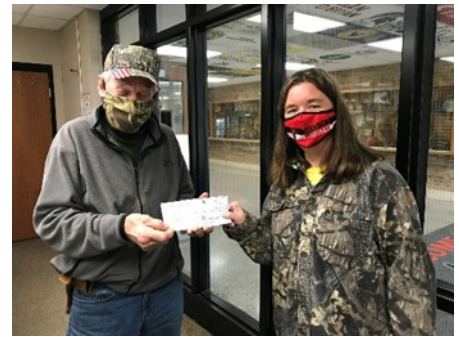
This last month has been filled with the familiar push to get summer projects done before the cold



weather moves in. Thanks to your generous contributions and a helpful referral for a contractor, the repair of the bell tower was finally completed. It was a pretty interesting process, complete with a cherry-picker for the high work. The finished product looks great – I wasn't expecting the repair would make the whole front of the church look better, but it does. If you haven't been by in a while, you should stop by and check it out. The exterior wasn't the only area improved – the bell rope, which had been frayed to threads, was replaced. Not only that, but the contractor found old rusty screws had been rubbing the rope as it was pulled which made the rope fray and the rope difficult to pull. All is well now, as you will see from the picture of Wes Wagester with the new rope.

Our efforts to improve our sound system and to do live streaming of our services have also been completed. Rev. Tom discovered that the Diocese was offering grants to help cover the cost of live-stream equipment and submitted an application – which was approved! You may remember that they are also funding Rev. Tom's salary for us for a while. We are grateful for Rev. Tom and for all the help we've received from the Diocese this year.

Covid has definitely made working with the schools different this year but Russ Underwood has not given up on Outreach Teen Relief. He heard about a fund drive to help with a spring celebration called Project Graduation and was there on the spot. Here's a

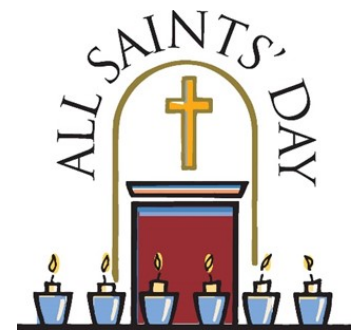


picture of him giving a check to Lori Hall who supervises the effort. Looks like it was so important that they both left their deer blinds to do it.

November is the month when we give thanks for our blessings and start to plan for the new year. If you haven't sent in your Pledge form, please do so – it help with our planning. But what I really want to emphasize is how grateful we are for each other, for our community, for our health and for the steady support you have provided to our efforts to work through this year's challenges. Given the increase in infection levels, I am not sure what our future holds. We may need to staying at home and worshiping online for a while. But I am confident that God will hold us close and keep us together. He is with us always and we are never alone.

Peace Always,

Becky



Remembering those who have gone before.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving during this most unusual year, it helps to focus on all the gifts we've been given by our Creator. Here is an exercise that you can do throughout the month of November.... Becky Foster



## Gratitude Prompts –

### 100 Things to Give Thanks For

By: Marelisa Fabrega

daringtolivefully.com

I've already written about [the benefits of gratitude](#), of which there are many. Although we should be grateful all year round, November is often recognized as the month for giving thanks. The Thanksgiving holiday on the last Thursday of this month is often a time for taking inventory of just how blessed we are.

A couple of Novembers ago I published a post that contains [22 gratitude exercises](#). One of those exercises is to create an inventory of 100 things that you're grateful for. To help you with this exercise, I've created a set of gratitude prompts which I've published below.

I hope the prompts above help you to create your own list of 100 things to be grateful for. [Live your best life](#) by giving thanks.

I'm grateful for these three things  
I hear:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three things  
I see:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three things  
I smell:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three things  
I touch/feel:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three things  
I taste:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three blue  
things:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three ani-  
mals/birds:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three  
friends:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three teach-  
ers:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three family  
members:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three things  
in my home:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three people  
who hired me:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three trips:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three physi-  
cal activities:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three holi-  
days:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three books I love:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three character traits:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three strangers who helped me:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three things I love to wear:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three technology gadgets:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three things I take for granted:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three things that make me laugh:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three TV shows I enjoy:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three things I'm good at:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three opportunities I've had:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three luxuries I love to engage in:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three life lessons I've learned:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three service people:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three simple pleasures:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three gifts I've received:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three goals I've achieved:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three fond memories I have:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for these three things from last week:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I'm grateful for one more thing:



## Old Liza Tells of Love

Friends Journal August 1, 2020

By [James Littwin](#)

When you love, it's true,  
you don't see bad teeth,  
or turnip toes peeking  
from the cutaway shoe,  
or if you do, God bless you,  
they are somehow endearing.

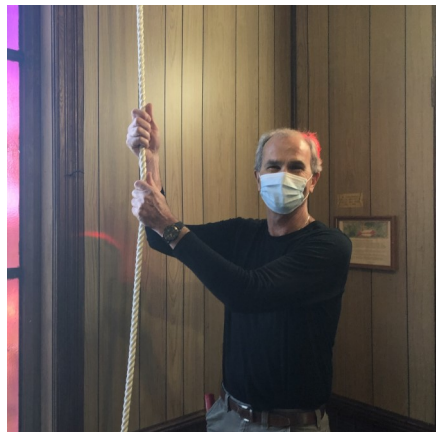
When the soul shines through,  
the blemish, the bruise,  
the sagging breast, the bumpy nose,  
the bundled veins or spotted hands  
are ways of masking light  
otherwise too bright.

They are markers that you've  
drawn near to something dear,  
the mud from which brooks bubble up,  
the blood of birth, the winter tree,  
the cracked cup in trembling hands  
that holds the drink you need.

The little son curled like a root,  
the bald wife softly brush-  
ing air,  
broken soldiers doctors  
can't repair,  
the soul is there. We love.  
We cannot help but love,  
beyond hope, or death, or  
prayer.

And if you love, it's true,  
and simpler than it seems,  
someone first loved you.  
Your soul welled up. You had  
a place. You grew in light  
and ran in grace.

Or perhaps it happened late,  
but when it did, your soul  
rushed like water through your bones,  
cooling sin, soothing shame.  
For the first time, you were wholly here  
because love pronounced your name.



St. John's has a new bell rope! Seeing as how the old one was quite literally down to its final threads, we are pleased to announce that we have a nice new nylon rope, and that the wood screws that were protruding out of the ceiling (and causing the previous rope to fray) have been removed. Thank you Jack Dodd for fa-

“Thanks to your generous contributions and a helpful referral for a contractor, the repair of the bell tower was finally completed. . . I wasn't expecting the repair would make the whole front of the church look better, but it does.”



## A Busy Month at St. John's and an even busier Jr. Warden!



Working on our bell tower – really like the lift. We could use it to replace light bulbs in the sanctuary. They replaced rotted boards and even found evidence of leaks. Screens behind the louvres should keep pushy squirrels at bay.

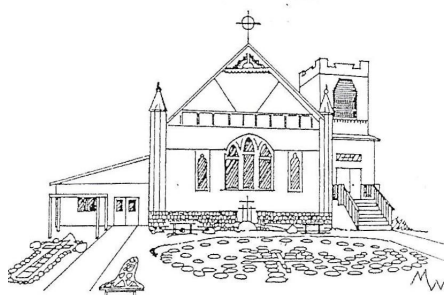
We have a new bell rope. PLUS – the contractor found that the old rope was running across some exposed, rusty nails which not only made it difficult to pull, but frayed the rope as well. Wes says it's super easy to ring our bell now!



New signs in front and back. Even the neighbors noticed!

<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>
Nov. 1, 2020	Mary Cameron	Sherry Boyden	Rev Tom Manney Neil Hargrave/	Ina Dockham	Tim Wright
Nov. 8, 2020	Ina Dockham		Rev Barb Cavin	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster
Nov. 15, 2020	Margaret Smith	Neil Hargrave	Rev Tom Manney	Tim Wright	Connie Ogg
Nov. 22, 2020	Darlene Herdon		Tim Wright	Becky Foster	Neil Hargrave
Nov 29, 2020	Tammy Turnipseed		Neil Hargrave	Connie Ogg	Ina Dockham
Dec 6, 2020	Kathy Wagester	Mary Cameron	Rev Tom Manney	Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd
Dec 13, 2020	Wes Wagester		Becky Foster	Ina Dockham	Tim Wright
Dec 20, 2020	Neil Hargrave	Sherry Boyden	Rev Tom Manney	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster
Dec 24, 2020	Mary Cameron		Rev Tom Manney	Tim Wright	Connie Ogg
Dec 27, 2020	Ina Dockham		Tim Wright	Becky Foster	Neil Hargrave

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving 10am - Worship-Rev	2	3 Election Day 10am - Office Hours	4 8pm - AA	5	6 10am - Office Hours	7
8 10am - Morning 4pm - Vestry	9	10 10am - Office Hours	11 Veterans Day 8pm - AA	12	13 10am - Office Hours	14
15 10am - Worship-Rev	16	17 10am - Office Hours	18 8pm - AA	19	20 10am - Office Hours	21
22 10am - Morning	23	24 10am - Office Hours	25 8pm - AA	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Black Friday Native American Newsletter deadline 10am - Office Hours	28
29 10am - Morning	30	1 10am - Office Hours	2 8pm - AA	3	4 10am - Office Hours	5



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