



July 2025



## ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

*LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE*

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**NEW!**

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July 2025

Dear people of St. John's,

We have finally arrived at the long season Pentecost. This is a time of vacations, fun in the sun, and a time to unwind and relax. It may be a time for those seeking a spiritual home. They may be inspired to visit our church and receive a sense of God's presence through our worship together and the hospitality we share.

A new person comes to church and then never returns. A new person comes to church and gets so excited they want to join everything. They stay for a few months and then never return. A new person drives into the parking lot, pauses, and then decides to go get some coffee instead. A new person comes to church and fully integrates and there is much joy in our community. It is almost like there is only one winner. Don't you think God is actively working in all four of these new people? Don't you think, even for the per-

son who drove into the parking lot, even in the ten second stop, God might have done something wonderful?

When and how do you pray? People pray in the light of the day, working in offices, while driving, and sitting in a class. Prayer happens on the darkest night, when fear creeps out of the shadows, worries weigh more, and sorrows seem to fill the heart more than blood. Do you always notice when you are praying? Prayers are not only for clasped hands, closed eyes, and wishful thinking on Sunday Morning or at bedtime. Prayers are often sighs, too deep for words. God hears your sighs. God knows the meaning. God knows every form of prayer.

Have you ever thought about Eucharistic overtones? Jesus takes



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Email: [stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com)

1 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 August is July 24..



## **Birthdays**

**Jack Dodd  
Jason Foltz  
John Malinich**

bread, blesses it, breaks it, and distributes it to the people. Notice, Jesus feeds the people first with teaching and then with bread. At the Eucharist we first hear the Word and then receive the bread and wine: word and sacrament lie at the heart of Christian life.

I pray you all may endure the heat of this summer and rely on our Lord to grant you peace and rest.

In God's Love,

Rev. Harold

Dear Friends,  
"Summer's here and the time is right for dancing in the street"  
I know, my Motown is showing. But since it's over 90, I'd say we made it to summer. Time to reach for lemonade or iced tea to cool off, and to look at our summer plans for St. John's.

As of yesterday, Fr. Harold confirmed that we have at least 40 folks going to the Lansing Lugnuts baseball game on **July 18<sup>th</sup>**! This is SO summertime! There will be games, 50/50 raffles and impromptu shenanigans. I expect there will be loads of pictures in next month's newsletter.

On **August 24<sup>th</sup>**, we'll have our annual Sunshine Service but at a new location, - my house! We had looked at General Squier park but they wanted to charge us a fair amount of money to bring sacramental wine. So, I took a look at my front yard and talked it over with the vestry and Fr. Harold, and we all agreed it would work just fine (I promise to clean up my dogs' surprise packages). We'll have plenty of space for the service, an outside picnic and any games you might want to bring. Just start those prayers for good weather now, please.

Russ & Jack have been busy with some building-related projects:

Russ trapped a squirrel in the basement.

We're hoping that's the last critter within the building.

Those cracked and peeling plaster areas on the walls in the sanctuary are scheduled to be fixed later this summer.

Jack & Mark got up close and personal with the flashing on the roof to tar the daylight out of it and hopefully fix a leak that was pretty serious. Given our recent rains, that was just in time.

Finally, we have an opportunity to partner with Dryden High School and two local foundations to provide equipment for a STEM lab over the next two years. More info on that in this newsletter. Based on our congregational meeting on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, we've agreed to proceed with our part of the project. It's not totally confirmed since there are other parties involved in the process, so we'll keep you posted. But this is SO exciting! I never expected that we could be part of something so impactful for our young people.

So enjoy this summer. I hope to hear all about your adventures when we see you on Sundays.

Becky





**Save the Date!**

**Sunshine Service**

**August 24<sup>th</sup>**

Time: Arrive around 9:30, service starts at 10AM

Where: Becky's House  
4096 Waterland Drive  
Metamora

More information will come during announcements & August Newsletter.



**Lord God Almighty**, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn:

Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**



## Sunday Readings for JULY

You can always get ahead of the readings for Sunday by checking the Lectionary (online at <https://www.lectionarypage.net>). We are currently in Track 2

Sunday, July 6th, the 4th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6:(1-6)7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sunday, July 13th, the 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17

Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

Sunday, July 20th, the 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12

Psalm 52

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, July 27th, the 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10

Psalm 85

Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13

# Liturgical Calendar



What's on your Summer Reading List?

Whether it's a beach read, a bestseller or catching up with your TBR, summer is a great time to read! Let Beth Ann know what you've been enjoying this summer, and we'll share the list in the AUGUST newsletter (just in time for some last minute suggestions!)

## *A message to The Episcopal Church from Executive Council: June 2025*

Following the conclusion of its June meeting, The Episcopal Church's Executive Council shared its letter to the church, excerpted below. Read the full letter, plus prior council letters to the church on the website of the Episcopal Church ([www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs)).

We arrived the day after the U.S. dropped bombs on Iran, so it was no surprise that we began with prayers for peace led by our chaplain, the Rev. Cameron Partridge, and Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe.

The rising tensions in our nation also were addressed. President of the House of Deputies Julia Ayala Harris said, "We've seen families ripped apart, with children taken from schools, parents taken from grocery stores, young people taken even while fully participating in the legal mechanisms for asylum and migration—at appointments, hearings. Across this country and across the world, waves of protest call for justice and accountability.

"This is not a moment of chaos. It is a moment of consequence," she said. "The tactics we are witnessing are not random. They are strategic: deliberate efforts to co-opt public institutions, erode the rule of law, and blur the boundaries between faith and state. These are hallmarks of what scholars call theocratic and state capture—the systematic merger of religious and political authority reshaping how power operates in our world."

Bishop Rowe called us to become "a strong, adaptive church that communicates and embodies the depth of Christian spirituality and works toward

The Episcopal Church's vision of God's kingdom by supporting ministry on the ground in dioceses."



In such a time as this, how does the seemingly dry work of a board of directors respond, react, and raise up such a church?

We were reminded that Christian witness is increasingly a matter of life and death as, in the words of our presiding bishop, Christian nationalism's "distortion of the gospel message causes dehumanizing attacks on transgender people, foments fear of migrants, and grows antisemitism and anti-Muslim bigotry."

Bishop Rowe reminded us that all over the church, "we are offering an alternative Christian witness, centered in our relationship with God in Christ and with humanity and proclaiming God's reconciling love. When we get it right, we Episcopalians are capable of resolute commitment to both justice and unity, and to extending grace to one another and to all of God's people, even those who don't agree with us.

"This kind of Christian witness changes people's lives. In fact, it saves people's lives, and our work to build more capacity for it in The Episcopal Church is urgent."

### News of the People

Got some good news to share? God moments? Blessings of any kind? Let Beth Ann know ([bethann.tesluk@gmail.com](mailto:bethann.tesluk@gmail.com)) before the 24th of each month, and we can add it to the newsletter! Pictures always welcome!



## A Big Step for OTR and St. John's – Do we take it?

Over two years ago, Ina Dockham and I met with Mary Finnigan and Kim Fleming, principal and counselor from Dryden High School, to discuss how St. John's might best support the students and staff. We talked about our coat drive, school supplies collections, and financial support for the spring dance and senior party. Ina and I were curious if there were ways to improve our current efforts AND if there was anything else that our small church could do for our young people. At that time, nothing was really visible. In the last year, something has emerged.



Have you heard about STEM? It stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. It's pretty much expected that every high school will integrate this curriculum in as many ways and classes as possible. It's not just computers. It's about knowing how to analyze and apply these principles in everyday life. Sometimes, using specialized equipment takes the theoretical into the concrete, appealing to students who might otherwise tune out.

Dryden High School does not have the financial ability to build an extensive in-house technology lab. They have partnered with various colleges and technical programs to fill the need as best they can. However, there are students that are not able to participate in those programs. They still need this knowledge and experience for their future. How to move forward for them?

Russ Underwood and I met with the principal and the counselor to discuss a project they think would fill that gap. They do have a modest technical lab with a 3D printer and some computers. They want to add a laser cutter to that lab. They also want to create a fabric arts lab with a sewing machine and a special printer for fabric designs. They think a Photography Lab would be of interest to the students AND possibly save folks some money when it comes to purchasing special pictures for things like Senior Portraits. They envision a two year program to purchase and install equipment and design the related curriculum.

They proposed applying for grant money to cover the tab of \$24,000 with St. John's being a contributor. Russ and I were very excited to learn about this opportunity and I knew that it was financially feasible for us. We've been saving over the last few years – we have over \$100,000 in stock funds and CDs. A contribution of \$10,000 would still leave us in a good place financially. The high school will approach local foundations for the remainder of the funding.

We presented this project to the congregation after the June 29<sup>th</sup> service. After some discussion regarding the project and the financial impact this might have on St. John's, we asked for a vote and the donation was approved!

I'm so excited that St. John's can participate in this project. It is one more example of how we find ways to "do the work that has been given us to do". I've asked that we get some project updates and see what the students create. And I'm sure we'll be part of the "grand unveiling" when it occurs. Look to future newsletters for the unfolding story.





## Southern Style Potato Salad

Submitted by Beth Ann

I don't know why or where my Canadian grandmother picked up the Southern style of making potato salad (by adding eggs) but this is the way she always made it! Please note that the radishes are not my favorite and I always pick them out, but everyone else seems to like them. Adding paprika for garnish gives the whole thing a deviled egg vibe, which is never wrong.

4 pounds russet potatoes

3 hard-cooked eggs, finely chopped, plus 1 cut into wedges or slices for garnish

1 cup mayonnaise

1/2 cup sour cream

1/4 cup celery, finely chopped

2 tablespoons onion, finely chopped

2 tablespoons sweet pickle relish

2 small radishes, finely chopped, plus additional for garnish

1 tablespoon yellow mustard

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Paprika (sweet or smoked) for garnish



Cook the potatoes:

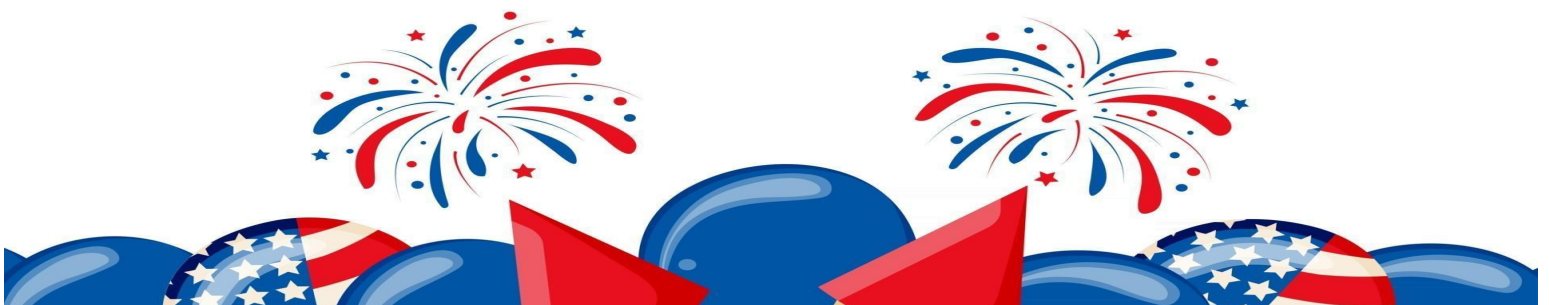
Cook potatoes in boiling water to cover for 40 minutes or until tender; drain and cool. Peel potatoes, and cut into 1-inch cubes.

Combine eggs and potatoes.

Stir together potatoes and eggs.

Make dressing:

Stir together mayonnaise and next 7 ingredients; gently stir into potato mixture. Cover and chill. Garnish with additional radish slices, wedges of hardboiled egg, and paprika (sweet or smoked) if desired.



May 2025 Financial Report

This is the most recent month for review

May 2025	This Month	The Year So Far
Income	\$5,707	\$29,891
Expenses	\$6,586	\$29,671
Cash Flow Balance	\$879	\$220

**Overview:** Monthly Income was slightly below budget while Expenses were above budget. Accounts with highest variance were Diocesan Tithe (we made two payments in May) and Office Supplies (for 4 printer toner cartridges). YTD Income numbers are slightly over budget but Expense numbers are over budget – due to May’s activity and a slowly reducing Utilities account overage from the winter months. We are pretty much even so far this year.



**Vanguard Funds:**

Total Stock Fund Balance as of April 31, 2025 is \$86,516 - up roughly \$5,092 from end of April.

One CD of \$22,000 at 3.9% will mature in April of 2026.

			<u>Ministry Schedule</u>				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Counting Member 1</u>	<u>Counting Member 2</u>
07/06/2025				Kitty	Ida Lynn	Connie	Russ
07/13/2025	Jack	Mary	John	Fr. Schneider	Sherry	Russ	Mary
07/20/2025				Becky	Wes	Mary	Beth Ann
07/27/2025	Mary	Jack	Jason	Fr. Schneider	Becky	Beth Ann	Becky
08/03/2025				Kitty	Ina	Becky	Connie





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