



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

June 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Corner	1
Vestry Notes	2
Return to BCP	3
Uncommon	3
Happy Father's Day	3
Together in	4
Pentecost	4
Downbound 23	5
Ina & Becky in Concert	5
Camp Chick	6
Financial Report	7
Ministry Schedule	7



Dear people of St. John's,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It appears summer is not far away. We have experienced some warm days mingled with too much rain, gale force winds, and grass which seems to thrive. I need a few breaks from the above just to mow the lawn.

As we step into the month of June, we are invited by the sacred words of Scripture to deepen our faith, reflect on our spiritual journey, and renew our commitment as disciples of Christ. The Gospel readings for this month offer profound lessons in love, discipleship, and the transformative power of grace.

Each week, the Gospel calls us to encounter Jesus and the Holy Spirit in a fresh way to find meaning and spiritual nourishment as we witness the events of the Day of Pentecost and move into the long season of Pentecost, called ordinary time. It is appropriate to study racism, sexism, and all other attitudes and actions which deny God's love for all people. Consider the global perspective of how the church has journeyed from the time of Paul to

today and how the message of Christ has spread in many forms and traditions. However, without any major reason to look at the church, many

who are beyond the church simply will not look. This does not mean we should not evangelize or provide services in ways which speak to the reality of the Kingdom. We must be bearers of the Good News in practical, tangible ways.

As June unfolds, we are called to embrace the radical love of Christ. When Jesus calls us to follow him, he asks for more than words, he asks for our hearts, our devotion, and our willingness to walk in faith, even when the road is uncertain. The Gospel continually reveals discipleship is not merely an invitation, but a way of life.

I encourage you to reflect on the Scriptures for June, pray on them, and allow them to shape your heart and mind. Ask yourself: How is Jesus calling me to a deeper faith?



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1 Find us on Facebook!



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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 July is June 27.



Watch this space!

Where can I surrender more fully to him? What does it mean to truly live the Gospels in my daily interactions?

May the Spirit guide you in wisdom and understanding. May your faith be strengthened in the knowledge that you are loved, re-

deemed, and called. And may we, as the body of Christ, continue to support one another in our journey.

In God's Love,
Rev. Harold

Dear Friends,

I think it's safe to say winter is over, right? And we needed all that springtime energy during the month of May. Somehow we scheduled two major events within 4 days of each other. Several folks got a workout moving tables and chairs in and out of the parish hall. And there was a dedicated effort to make the yard and gardens look as good as possible during spells of frost, wind, rain and other fun stuff. Many thanks to our gardening friends and furniture movers.



Working together and relying on God's support, St. John's was ready for our guests. The concert was a great success – about 50 people, fun music, the band loved being here, and we raised a nice amount to help with our outreach efforts. Then there was the Garage Sale. Thanks to Ina and her helpers, we sold lots of stuff including our old printer, met lots of nice folks and raised extra funds as well. But I have to tell you, I was pretty pooped at the end of the week. I'm kind of glad June is less hectic from an event standpoint.

Even though we don't have big "do's" scheduled, we still want to connect with each other over the summer. Several of our faith family have had "adventures in health care" of the most disagreeable sort. We are all praying for them but maybe drop a line or make a call too? We intend to have an outside service this summer.

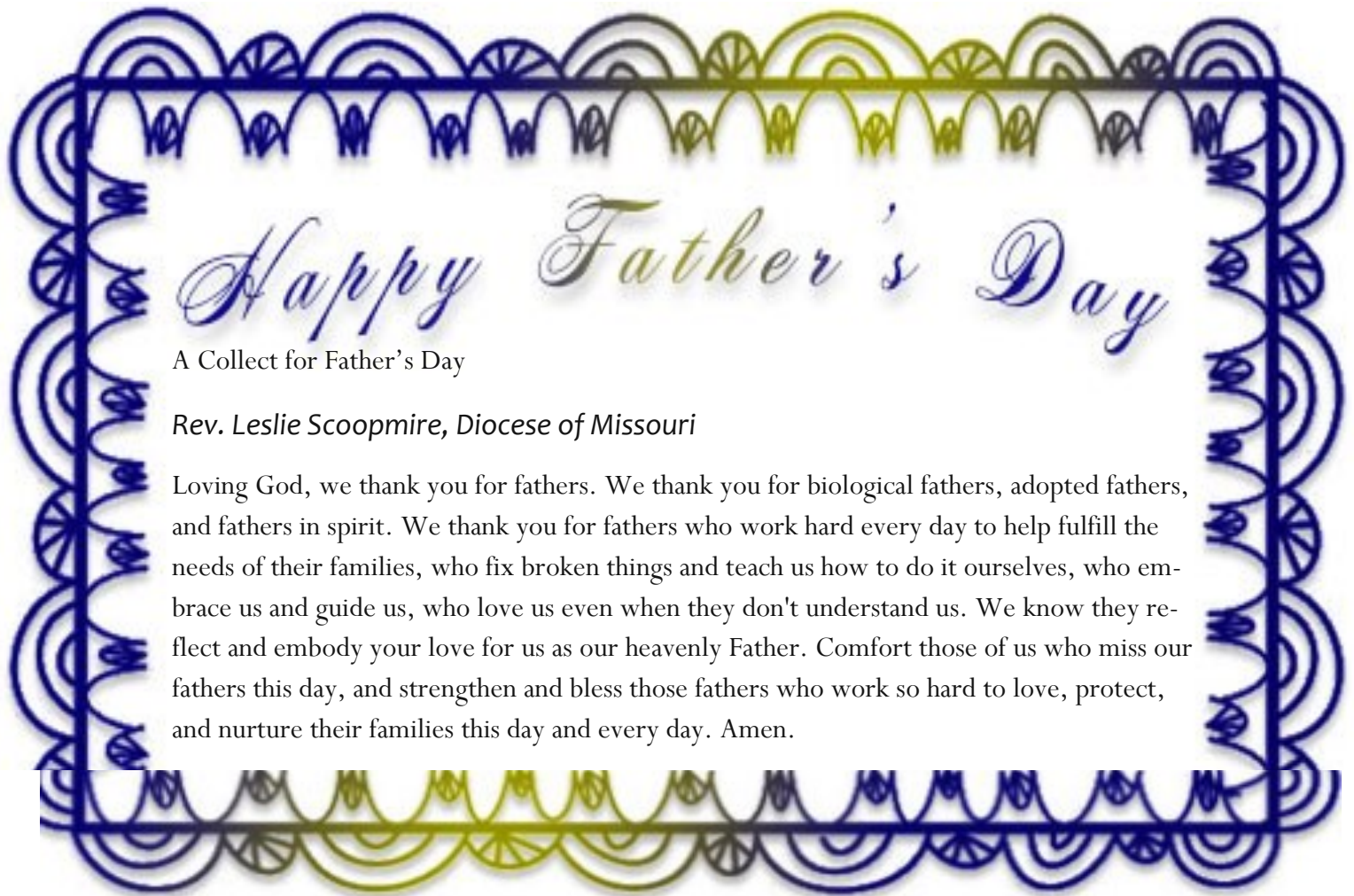
I'm going to be on vacation the last week of May and the first week of June. Since I'll be several time zones away, if you need to contact someone, I suggest you call Fr. Harold or Russ Underwood. I'm sure they'll provide prompt assistance. I promise to take pictures to share when I return. If you have vacation plans for these next weeks, I pray you enjoy the time away and have safe travels. Happy Summer!

Returning to the BCP by Becky Foster

After some thoughtful discussion, the Vestry has decided that we should return to using a simplified bulletin in conjunction with the Book of Common Prayer for our Sunday services. This will save lots of paper, printer ink, and preparation time for Roxanne.

We had adopted the augmented bulletin (which includes the text from the order of worship) during Fr. Tom Manney's time with us, thinking it would make it easier for visitors to follow the service. With this in mind, we intend to have an augmented bulletin on Christmas, Easter, and other services when we are likely to have visitors. But what if we have visitors on a "normal" Sunday? We can demonstrate our hospitality by saying hi and asking if they are familiar with the Episcopal service. If they say no, offer to sit close by and help them. That's what Don Smith did for me the first time I came to St. John's, and I've never forgotten that.

We'll start the "new" process in mid-June. Thank you for working with us as we make the transition.



An Uncommon Practice for Ordinary Time by Beth Ann Tesluk

Summer marks the return of Uncommon Prayer, a more conversational and interactive approach to the service of Morning Prayer. If you aren't familiar with Uncommon Prayer at St. John's, this service is lay-led, and lectors volunteer as the Spirit moves. After the worship leader gives a brief reflection on the scriptures, we are invited to engage together in discussion and observations about what we've just heard and read. I look forward to these services because they are a great introduction to the people of St. John's. Everyone engages, and we learn not only about scripture but about one another and each other's perspectives. We will be starting Uncommon Prayer some time in June.

Joining Together in Faith

Excerpted from the Episcopal News Service, May 18th

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe joined a 19-member Anglican delegation and tens of thousands of people who on May 18 attended Pope Leo XIV's inauguration Mass in the Vatican's St. Peter's Square.

Throughout the service, the pope returned to "unity," a call he has stressed since his election. His "first great desire," he said, was for a united church.



"In this our time, we still see too much discord, too many wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the fear of difference and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth's resources and marginalizes the poorest," Leo said.

"For our part, we want to be a small leaven of unity, communion and fraternity within the world. We want to say to the world, with humility and joy: Look to Christ! Come closer to him! Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles!"

It is a message that is especially relevant today, Rowe, who also serves as primate of The Episcopal Church, told Episcopal News Service in a telephone interview.

"Now more than ever, Christians need to show our unity; particularly in a divided world, we could be an expression of the body of Christ that is whole rather than fragmented," Rowe said. "And the number of ecumenical guests present at today's liturgy, and the way we were treated as extended family, is a sign of that unity."

You can read the full press release on the Episcopal News Service website: <https://episcopalnewsservice.org/>



WEAR RED FOR

Pentecost

SUNDAY, JUNE 8



Northbound 23 Concert

Working together and relying on God's support, St. John's was ready for our guests. The concert was a great success – about 50 people, fun music, the band loved being here, and we raised a nice amount to help with our outreach efforts.



Fr. Harold attended the Classic Chorale Community Chorus concert in May, and captured some nice photos of Becky and Ina performing! You can see the whole concert on YouTube - just search for "Classic Chorale + Oxford MI" and it pops right up.



Let's Go See the Lugnuts!

Fr. Harold has arranged for us to take a trip to see the Lansing Lugnuts play! We'll take a bus, so no one has to worry about the drive.

When: Friday, July 18th

Where: Meet at the Lapeer Meijer to board the bus at 4:30 p.m.

How Much: \$50 per person to cover the bus and the ticket.

Bring your own bus snacks & beverages - what you bring is up to you, e.g. a cold one (or two!)

We need to fill the bus to please invite your friends, neighbors - anyone but Yankee fans (kidding!)



This should be a really fun outing - nothing says summer like a ball game!

Support Camp Chick

You may have received a letter or email from the Diocese about the damage suffered at Camp Chickagami in the storms of the late spring. Much of the damage was covered by insurance, but there is a lot more that needs to be managed before the camp can safely open at the end of June.

The Standing Committee is currently trying to raise \$60,000 to address critical safety and infrastructure repairs and enhancement. Here is the list of projects they are trying to cover with this campaign:

\$10,000: Immediate Risk Tree Removal & Downed Tree Clean Up

Our woods, trails, and common spaces must be made safe for all who visit Camp Chickagami before the start of our 2025 season.

\$8,000: Chapel Clean Up & Repair

In addition to tree and branch removal in our chapel, we need to replace and rebuild many of the benches, the credence table, pulpit, and altar cover.

\$3,000: Wood Splitter

Immediate storm recovery and ongoing forest maintenance requires this equipment to help us manage and use the wood that has fallen or will be felled.

\$10,000: Secondary Access Road

Currently, Camp has a single, two-track access road which is difficult for emergency response vehicles to traverse and presents a significant risk for any emergency situation which would require evacuation. Local first responders have identified a route for a serviceable secondary access road through the property which would better accommodate fire trucks and ambulances and provide a second emergency exit.

\$5,000: Sustainability & Risk Mitigation Forestry Plan

With professional foresters, we will develop and maintain a sustainable forestry management plan which, among other risk mitigating benefits, would reduce the risk of a fire emergency.

\$24,000: All-Terrain Side-by-Side for Emergency Response & Accessibility

As we look to the future, the ability to quickly and safely reach all areas of our nearly 100-acre campus in emergency situations while ensuring that the camp experience is accessible for people of all abilities is of paramount importance.

If you are in the position to make a gift to this campaign, please do so!

Give online: bit.ly/chickagami-safety

With a check: Make out your check to "Camp Chickagami" and include "2025 Safety Campaign" in the memo line. Send your check to:

The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

124 N. Fayette St.

Saginaw, MI 48602



April 2025 Financial Report - submitted by Sr. Warden, Becky Foster

This is the most recent month for review

April 2025	This Month	The Year So Far
Income	\$5,599	\$24,185
Expenses	\$4,557	\$23,596
Cash Flow Balance	\$1,042	\$588

Overview: We're in the black again – thanks to everyone for their donations. As far as expenses are concerned, several of the seasonally impacted accounts that were quite a bit over budget last month such as Utilities, Lawn/Snow/Trash were much lower for the month and the YTD budget performance is looking much better. The income from our Concert and the Garage Sale are not in this month's reports. That will come next month.

Vanguard Funds:

Total Stock Fund Balance as of April 31, 2025 is \$81,424, down roughly \$600 from the end of March. Even with recent market volatility, the account shows an increase of more than \$15,000 over our original investment. However, the Vestry is considering diversifying into Bond funds or additional CDs to dampen the effects of market fluctuations.

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

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



<u>Ministry Schedule</u>							
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</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>
06/01/2025				Neil	Ida Lynn	Mary	Neil
06/08/2025	Jack	Mary	Neil	Fr. Schneider	Becky	Neil	Connie
06/15/2025				Kitty	Sherry	Becky	Russ
06/22/2025	Neil	Jack	John	Fr. Schneider	Wes	Beth Ann	Mary
06/29/2025	Beth Ann			Becky	Ina	Connie	Jack

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