



# *Evangelist Easter 2021*

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## GOD IS REAL.

But, while God's reality may seem credible to many of us, we are becoming a minority. Recent polling reveals that fewer than 50% of Americans 'believe' in God. And that startling number includes all religious faiths, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, etc. Many of us feel 'attached' to God in our hearts and minds and souls, but the majority apparently do not. One wonders, then, what becomes of life's goodness. In what do others place their faith? From where do they derive their hope? What could possibly be their model of righteousness, their motive for justice? When God goes unknown, I fear for the state of our right relationships.

## GOD'S PROMISES ARE TRUE.

The Bible scriptures provide compelling examples of God's desire for covenant relationship with us, but arguably the most relevant 'scriptures' are written on our hearts. God promises to love us, and to lovingly give us freedom, opportunity, wholeness, restoration, mercy, encouragement, eternal significance, wisdom, and all manner of good will, with the hope that we will thrive. God is like a reliable parent. God chooses us for adoption. And God wishes that we will crave that embrace. Many have benefited from experiencing these truths.

## GOD'S CHRIST IS ALIVE.

The brief earthly lifetime of Jesus, God's anointed emissary to humankind, was not a 'one-and-done'. This is the Easter message. Since the beginning, God's Christ has been active among us as teacher, companion, confidant, champion, and model. Listening with the ear of their hearts, many have heard him say "You are not alone, for I am with you." And his advice has been priceless for many as well. He bids all to join him in rising from deathly conditions, leaving useless and empty tombs behind. He bids us follow his enlightened path.

## GOD'S SPIRIT SWIRLS AMONG US.

That breath of fresh air which many have enjoyed comes from God's own 'lungs'. It is the inhalation of creativity, inspiration, and love, which bring renewal to life itself. The gifts it brings can both comfort and challenge. It is called by some 'the Holy Spirit', for it is from a source unlike any other. It is indelible evidence of the Christ's work around and within us, as he stirs up the currents of growth and change. Many have been saved by his holy CPR. The Spirit persistently seeks to invigorate each and all as she flies low and close in every habitat.

## ABIDE IN LOVE, AND SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS.

Jesus has given his disciples these two imperatives, and should we choose discipleship in his Name, then they are for us as well. I pray that I may speak for all of us at St. John's that it is our joy to receive them. God is real, God's promises are true, Christ is alive, and the Holy Spirit swirls among us. As mysterious as all this is, it is yet not a secret. It has been shared and cherished by many. It is the deep delight of many. But many, many more should be invited to experience this faith. Let it be our mission this Eastertide to see that it happens.

With Love, Nick+

We give affectionate thanks to those who have donated towards the flowering plants which adorn our worship space this Easter

Norita Kane, giving thanks to God and remembering Dick Kane, Roland and Dorothy Woodcock, and Sally Foster.

Anne Hill, with love for her eternal partner, Arthur Hill.

Jack and Peg MacMullen, honoring their Patterson and MacMullen families

Doug and Gerrie Miller, giving thanks for our church family and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and fondly remembering Russ and Elizabeth Todd, Don and Lena Miller, and Bradley.

Suzanne Bauer, lovingly remembering Thomas Bauer and Helen and Rodger Bathke.

The Bennett family, with undying love and tribute for Laura Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Peter, John Schneider, Wendy Bennett, and Arthur Bennett.

Althea Davis, lovingly remembering her husband, Jim Davis.

Valerie Hill, giving thanks for the love and support of her friends and family, and remembering Dorothy and Rodger Hill, Inat Otis Drummond, and her dear father, Arthur.

Bob Wilkins, giving thanks for the family and friends with which God has blessed him.

Tom and Shelly Sears, faithfully honoring Bruce and Grace Olin, and Thomas and Althea Sears.

Carol and John Reinhardt, giving thanks to God for their children and grandchildren, and remembering Carl and Pauline Maxeiner, and Kenneth and Katherine Reinhardt.

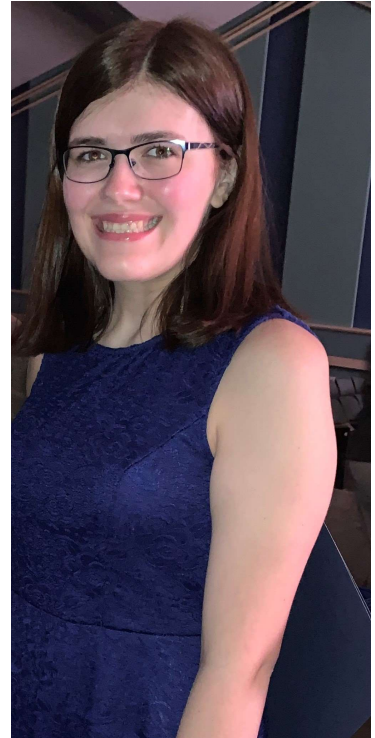
Ann Hodgins, thanking God this Eastertide for her children and grandchildren.

Nick and Gale Smith, giving thanks for our St. John's family and for the lives we have shared with all those whom we love but see no longer.

*(we apologize if names have been inadvertently left out, and we invite your corrections to the list)*



## Congrats to Megan



Megan is 9<sup>th</sup> in her class

ALSO.....



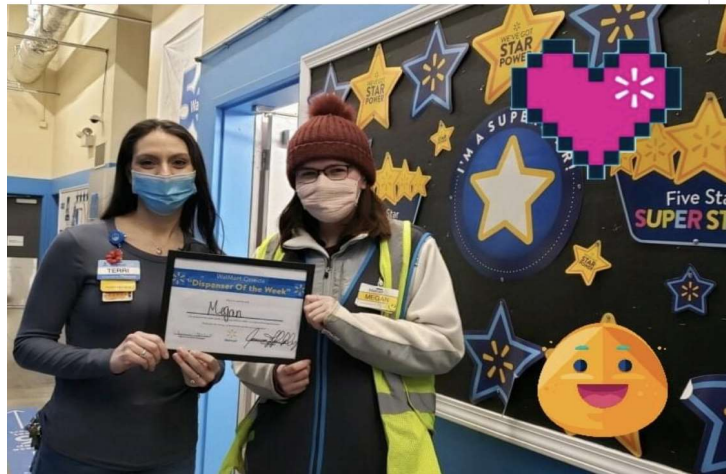
Walmart Oneida - Genesee St

5h · 🌐



#OnlineGrocery Associate, Megan, is our "Dispenser of the Week" ! 🛒 Megan does an amazing in our online grocery department dispensing grocery orders to our customer!

#ThankYou Megan! 🙌 #5StarSuperstar





## Birthdays

### April

4<sup>th</sup> Marc Aylesworth  
6<sup>th</sup> Jasmine Kahler  
9<sup>th</sup> Autumn McLain  
11<sup>th</sup> Raven Brown  
12<sup>th</sup> John Maxey  
14<sup>th</sup> Christopher Meeker  
15<sup>th</sup> Peg MacMullen  
20<sup>th</sup> Grace Livingston  
21<sup>st</sup> John Reinhardt  
Sean Coppola  
28<sup>th</sup> Cindy Kolceski  
29<sup>th</sup> Mike Chyrywaty

### May

1<sup>st</sup> Shelia Aylesworth  
11<sup>th</sup> Bob Wilkins  
Suzanne Clark  
14<sup>th</sup> Stan Janczuk  
23<sup>rd</sup> Emma(Adams)Smith  
David Meeker Jr.  
Shannon Elizabeth Vair  
24<sup>th</sup> Brian Hodgins  
25<sup>th</sup> Ethan LeRoy  
26<sup>th</sup> Justin Madonia  
28<sup>th</sup> Gregory Hodgins  
30<sup>th</sup> Scott Youngkrans



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### April

4/17/1982 Mark & Leslie Zebrowski  
4/28/1962 Roger & Beth Wieland

### May

05/04/1985 Tom & Shelly Sears

## Our Parish Prayer List

Doug & Gerrie Miller Steve Donlon Louisa Jeanie MacAlpine Beth Wieland  
Sterling Shirley Coppola Natalie Laverne Marta T. Sandra & Jerry Aylesworth  
Laura Weismore Melanie's family Eden Kulas Andrew Thurber Marie Medina  
Erika & Darrel John & Mimi Bill & Joyce Sherman Dave Arnold Howard Williams  
Theressia Anne Hill Carol Reinhardt Brian Hodgins Carol Madonia Dottie  
Sheila Aylesworth Kristin Rabbi Stuart Robinson Deborah Dawn Lanz Elaine  
Lorrie Dean Bill & Esther VanVolkenburg Bill Novak The Rev. Sahad Adid  
Courtney Daviau Butch English Melinda & Julianne Jane Armstrong Kelly Thurber  
Peg MacMullen Colette Coppola Joan Livingston Joe Smith Petter Dwyer Victor  
Gary Donovan Debbie Miller Misenhimer Tom Dryer Robin Pike Lucille Veal  
Kathryn Brian Chris Vail Alan Demascus Dr. John D. George family  
MaryAnn & Ken Martzden Landon, Blake & Porter Patty & Sandy



## FOOD PANTRY

Please continue to not bring items to the church but instead make a cash donation to these organizations below:

Karing Kitchen  
116 W. Grove St.  
Oneida, N.Y. 13421

Church on the Rock  
164 Madison St.  
Oneida, N.Y. 13421

Food Bank of CNY  
7066 Interstate Island Rd  
Syracuse, N.Y. 13209

I would also like people to consider donating to the CNYSPCA for the animals in need as well. Unopened packages of pet food and litter are appreciated or contact them at [FrontDesk1@cnyspca.org](mailto:FrontDesk1@cnyspca.org) to find out what they need the most.

CNYSPCA  
5878 East Molloy Rd  
Syracuse, N.Y. 13211

## Too Blessed To Be Stressed

Our ongoing ZOOM activities at St. John's:

Wednesdays: Hug A Mug Coffee Hour 930 a.m. to 1030 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Study @ 7p.m.

Sundays: Church Service on Facebook Live @ 930 a.m. Please Join Us !

For Hug A Mug, Bible Study, as well as Sunday services, please watch your emails for the correct links (or email Father Nick and ask)

## **Church is hard**

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.

Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.

Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend, When I've fought with my husband because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

Jacob Waldron



**FORGIVE**

Because it's easier than math. Math is hard.



St. John's Episcopal Church  
341 Main St.  
Oneida N.Y. 13421  
Phone: (315) 363 -1940

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe

Rector: The Very Rev. Arthur W. Smith

Parish Administrator: John Reinhardt

Treasurer: Jack MacMullen

Clerk of the Vestry: Valerie Hill

Senior Warden: Leslie Zebrowski

Junior Warden: Peter Slaunwhite

Vestry:

Sandra Aylesworth

Sheila Aylesworth

Suzanne Bauer

Cathy English

Valerie Hill

Garry Hirst

Ann Hodgins

Shelly Sears

Bob Wilkins

Loving God, by your grace you have gathered us from many walks of life to become a loving family at St. John's. Help us to sustain the miraculous love within this parish, and guide us in sharing this love with our neighbors. All this we ask through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Please submit Evangelist articles to Laura Weismore @ [snowkittens7311@gmail.com](mailto:snowkittens7311@gmail.com)

Thank you to Gale, Ann and Kim for submissions for this issue.