



The Evangelist

Easter 2024

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 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+

Holy Week and Easter services at St. John's Oneida



Mar. 24th 9:30 am: Palm / Passion Sunday : Remembering Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem, and the circumstances of his sacrificial death

Mar. 28th 7 pm: Maundy Thursday Eucharist,: memorializing the Last Supper with the disciples, and the stripping of the Altar

Mar. 29th 12 noon: Community Good Friday service: shared with other Oneida congregations at St. John's, and the cross walk to Memorial Park for public prayers

7 pm: Stations of the Cross: remembering Jesus' steps toward Calvary and the Crucifixion

Mar. 30th 7 pm: The Easter Vigil" transforming the hopeful watch-fire into the abiding light of Christ, and the first proclamation of the Easter Resurrection

Mar. 31st 9:30 am: The Easter morning celebration of the Resurrection

St John's Insurance Inventory Project

For the past year a few of us have been working on putting together an inventory of the objects in our church. Shelly has been taking photos and Colette has been working on putting them on a zip-drive. Now it's time to start counting everything in the church. The insurance company has provided us with an extensive list of things that should be counted. God forbid we never have to use this list because of a fire or natural disaster. We have printed out the forms that will help us in this adventure. After Easter I will put out a call for volunteers to start this process. When we are done with this project the report will be kept in multiple locations for security sake.

I'm starting to ramble so I'll end on this note. Please consider helping us.

Suzanne Bauer



GOD SIGHTINGS

Thank you Gloria



- Beautiful!

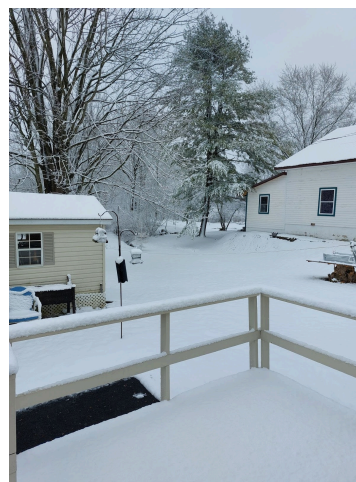
Ministry Schedule April/May 2024

	4/7/24	4/14/24	4/21/24	4/28/24
Celebrant	Nick+	Nick+	Nick+	Nick+
Preacher	Nick+	Nick+	Nick+	Nick+
LEM	Gloria	Colette	Kellie	Leslie
Organist	Colleen H	Colleen H.	Colleen H.	Colleen H.
1st Lesson	Ann	Beth	Colette	Peter
2nd Lesson	Shelly	Bob	Gloria	Roberta
Acolyte	Val	Jessica	Sarah	Stan
Ushers	Suzanne/Norita	Beth/Gisela	Bob/Ann	Shelly/Gisela
Computer	Susan	Kelly	Leslie	Marc
Camera	Gale	Leto	Bob	Kelli
Altar Guild	Leanne/Gale	Leanne/Gale	Leanne/Gale	Leanne/Gale
Counters	Leslie/Kelly	Leslie/Kelly	Leslie/Kelly	Leslie/Kelly
Coffee Hour			Shelly	Hirst
St. Pauly Box	Stan	Stan	Stan	Stan
	5/5/24	5/12/24	5/19/24	5/26/24
Celebrant	Nick+	Nick+	Nick+	Nick+
Preacher	Nick+	Nick+	Nick+	Nick+
LEM	Peter	Gloria	Colette	Kellie
Organist	Colleen H	Colleen H.	Colleen H.	Colleen H.
1st Lesson	Kelly	Ann	Gale	Beth
2nd Lesson	Susan	Kelli	Shelly	Bob
Acolyte	Shelly	Jessica	Sarah	Stan
Ushers	Beth/Bob	Suzanne/Norita	Shelly/Ann	Gisela/Beth
Computer	Susan	Kelly	Leslie	Marc
Camera	Colette	Gale	Leto	Bob
Altar Guild	Ann/Kellie	Ann/Kellie	Ann/Kellie	Ann/Kellie
Counters	Colette/Val	Colette/Val	Colette/Val	Colette/Val
Coffee Hour	Peter		Shelly	
St. Pauly Box	Bob	Bob	Bob	Bob

If you can not serve on one of the above dates - please find a sub for you. Also Let Nick and Leslie know about the switch (via email please) and mark changes on the copy of this schedule on the bulletin board.

Thanks!

IS IT REALLY SPRING?



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

April

4th Marc Aylesworth
6th Jasmine Kahler
11th Raven Brown
12th John Maxey
13th Peg MacMullen
17th Christopher Meeker
20th Grace Livingston
21st Sean Coppola
29th Mike Chyrywaty

May

1st Sheila Aylesworth
5th Porter Fitch
9th Bob Wilkins

More May Birthdays

11th Suzanne Clark
14th Stan Janczuk
30th Scott Youngkrans

Happy Anniversary!

April

17th Leslie and Mark Zebrowski
28th Beth and Roger Wieland

May

4th Thomas and Shelly Sears

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



and the Temple Curtain split from top to bottom. **Mt 27:51** leaving some temple priests in denial with the signs of the day, **AND..** the temple insurance policy **DID NOT** cover supernatural acts of God.

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for.

"People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him.

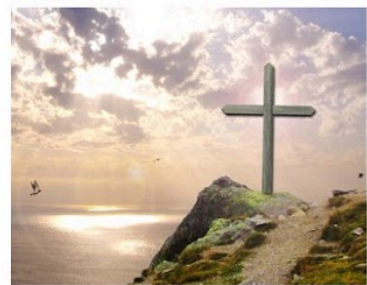
"Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."

Prayer WALK

OACC's Way Of the Cross Prayer Walk

An outdoor reflective, prayerful and mediative walk based upon the Way of Christ to Calvary
New Hope Christian Community Church (Rt46)

Sat, March 23 2-4



Not a Walker?

Join us for Indoor Reflection of Prayer and mediation
at St. Patrick's Church (Main St)

2 to 3 pm

All are Welcome

Both are self directed at your own spiritual pace.
Children's reflections are also included

Easter EGG Hunt for Children at NOON New Hope

Ecumenical Good Friday Service St. John's Friday March 29,
Noon with Cross Walk to Triangle Park ending with Prayer at
Oneida Baptist Church.

Ecumenical Sunrise Service Easter Sunday
7am at Tri Valley YMCA.

Looking ahead.

The OACC's National Day of Prayer will be
Thursday, May 2 in front of Oneida City Hall at 7:30 am.

Our Parish Prayer List

Roger Wieland	Robert	Barb Arnold
Beth Wieland	Peg MacMullen	Eden Kulas
Joan Livingston	Kathi Hirst	Jim Harriff
Jane Armstrong	Jessica	Christine Sears Franklin
Laura Weismore	Dan Stilwell	Alice Hannold
Birdy Burdick	David Dauchy	Doug
Grace Livingston	Betty Kline	Gerrie
Brian Hodgins	Carol Dwyer	Bishop Curry
Theressia	Carl Cameron	Megan Roberts
Tom Campanie	Matt Buell	Victoria Ramundo
Sandy Aylesworth	Sally Olin	Anne Hill
Dawn Lanz	Joe Donlon	Bill Sherman
Joe Smith	Roger Hill	Suzanne Clark
Courtney Daviau	Karis Vaillancourt	Robert Simms
Larry Knipp	Veronica S.	Roberta Eliason
Mimi	Ross T.	Bella
Shelia	Faye S.	Joann Harris
Butch English	Diane A.	Mike Conley
Ron Hirst	Bob Vanlangenham	Sharon
Jennifer Wattles	Jim Messenger-Harris	Lanny Walrath
Zander	Charlene Lewis	Colette Coppola
Dick Williams	Heidi	Kathryn Zebrowski
Patrick Key		

One Easter Sunday morning as the pastor was preaching a children's sermon, he reached into his bag of props and pulled out an egg. He pointed at the egg and asked the children, "What's in here?" "I know, I know!" a little boy exclaimed, "pantyhose!"

Food Bank Donations

April

7 Peanut Butter
14 Jelly/Jams
21 Mac and Cheese
28 Pudding Cups

May

5 Soup
12 Pancake Mix
19 Syrup
26 Canned Vegetables

Clearing out Stuff - Remember our Rummage Sale

As you begin that spring cleaning - think about St. John's for your used items that still have life in them. We are storing items now for the sale. Thanks Colette Coppola

St. Pauly's Box

Thank you to all who volunteer selflessly taking care of this weekly. It is a wonderful fundraiser for us and it does so many good things for many people.



**Thanks to all for the
fellowship laughter and
fun at the Pancake
Supper**

There was a moment when Moses had the nerve to ask God what God's name is. God was gracious enough to answer, and the name God gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as YHWH. Over time we've arbitrarily added an "a" and an "e" in there to get YaHWeH, presumably because we have a preference for vowels. But scholars and Rabbi's have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds, or aspirated consonants. When pronounced without intervening vowels, it actually sounds like breathing.

YH (inhale): WH (exhale).

So a baby's first cry, a baby's first breath, speaks the name of God. A deep sigh calls God's name – or a groan or gasp that is too heavy for mere words. Even an atheist would speak God's name, unaware that their very breath is giving constant acknowledgment to God. Likewise, a person leaves this earth with their last breath, when God's name is no longer filling their lungs.

So when I can't utter anything else, is my cry calling out God's name?

Being alive means I speak God's name constantly. So, is it heard the loudest when I'm the quietest? In sadness, we breathe heavy sighs. In joy, our lungs feel almost like they will burst. In fear we hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down. When we're about to do something hard, we take a deep breath to find our courage. When I think about it, breathing is giving God praise. Even in the hardest moments!

This is so beautiful and fills me with emotion every time I grasp the thought. God chose to give Godself a name that we can't help but speak every moment we're alive.

All of us, always, everywhere. Waking, sleeping, breathing, with the name of God on our lips.

By Teri Lewellen

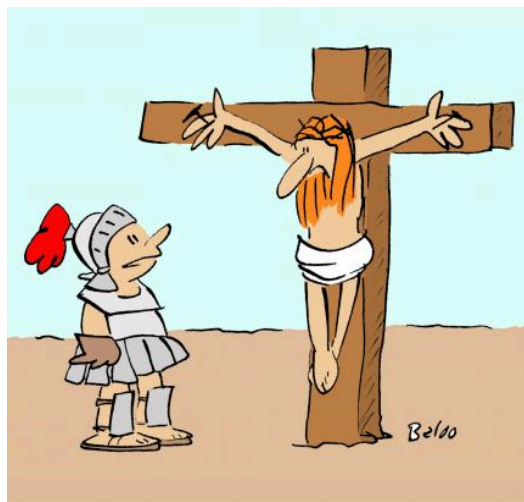


Karing Kitchen

A crew from St. John's helped out during February break at Karing Kitchen. We enjoyed each other's company while preparing food for families who are food insecure. We prepared 120 bag lunches; assembled hundreds of small bags with ketchup, mustard, and relish for future use; and served a hot meal to those who came in for lunch at the Methodist Church. One family had a little girl who was going to be two years old the next day, and we had a beautiful birthday cake for her!

St. John's is asked to provide volunteers a few times a year. It's a great opportunity for us to be Christ's body in the world. All are welcome to volunteer for this important ministry.

~ Gale Smith



"Sorry about all this — It was Pilate error."



Upcoming Issues of Evangelist

May 24th

Deadline for articles will be two days prior to these dates. We appreciate all of the articles that were given to us and look forward to the many more that will be shared in the future. If you see little stories, jokes, etc that you'd like to share. Please send them at any time to Colette in her email. Please write in the subject area that it is for the newsletter.

St. John's Episcopal Church
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 Oneida N.Y. 13421
 Phone: (315) 363 -1940
 Website: stjohnsoneida.org

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe
 Rector: The Very Rev. Arthur "Nick" Smith
 Office Manager: Kelly Brown
 Parish Administrator: Gloria Wilkins

Treasurer: Jack MacMullen
 Clerk of the Vestry: Colette Coppola
 Senior Warden: Val Hill
 Junior Warden: Suzanne Bauer

Sandra Aylesworth
Kellie Highers

Kelly Brown
Stan Janczuk

Vestry Members
 Colette Coppola
 Doug Miller

Garry Hirst
Leanne Youngkrans

Ann Hodgins

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.