



Evangelist November 2020

Eucharist means Thanksgiving

Dear friends, Eucharist means “**Thanksgiving**” in Biblical Greek. In the Gospel of Luke, the author describes what Jesus does when observing the Last Supper with his friends and disciples on that evening before he was betrayed by Judas and arrested by the authorities. The text includes the word Eucharist when saying “And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’” Luke’s Gospel, like all the other New Testament books, was written in Greek, the ‘universal’ language of the day. Even today, when we celebrate the Last Supper, or Holy Communion, the sacramental liturgy we use is called “the Eucharist.” When we pause from our random lives to faithfully receive this sacrament, the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer calls it “our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving”.

Sadly, this time of pausing from our usual routines because of the virus has generally prohibited us from receiving the Eucharistic sacrament together in the manner to which we had become accustomed. Gathering together in person has been discouraged, and eating any kind of meal, including communion bread, has been difficult to arrange outside family groups. So, our Sunday morning services have been online rather than in person, and the thanksgiving we share has been spiritual rather than physical. Our service, done the way we have been celebrating it, could be called ‘ante-Eucharist’ or ‘before-Eucharist’, since we finish at the virtual passing of the Peace without going on to the liturgy of the Communion table.

And as we would normally pause this month to celebrate the national holiday of **Thanksgiving** with family and friends, this year the opportunity has become awkward, too. Travel is either complicated or even restricted, and our traditions will likely be interrupted as we are being cautious about spreading or catching the persistent disease. Our annual celebration will probably be more spiritual than physical. But I hope, just the same, that you will be able to carry the gratitude and joy of thanks-giving in your hearts, knowing that love has been immune to the virus, and may be shared in so many ways. It may seem like more of a ‘sacrifice’ than usual, but the joy it brings is also contagious.

At St. John’s we have designed a way for us to receive the Eucharistic sacrament in-person and indoors while observing appropriate precautions. By completing the online Sunday service later on that same day in the church, we can adjust our traditional customs and do our best to keep each other safe. On October 25th, twenty parishioners met in the afternoon, wore masks, stayed a ways apart from other families, and spent about 15 minutes finishing-up the Sunday morning service by receiving the bread of Communion. Colleen played piano music for us, Leslie displayed the liturgy on the screen, and together we asked God’s blessing on separate portions of wafer. We held ourselves and the world in prayer, and were nourished by the representative presence of Christ’s body. We joined in a safe sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

On **November 8 th** we will gather at 3 pm for a similar experience, and then again on **November 29th** during Thanksgiving weekend. Our covenant with the diocese will permit us up to 50 participants. I invite you to join us, but ask you to prayerfully consider whether this is the correct thing for you personally, given the conditions which persist. We are taking the precautions which we believe are necessary and helpful, and trust you to make a decision that is best for you. Meanwhile, our parish family wishes each and all a Thanksgiving full of grace, and a November of peace and good-will!

Sincerely, Nick+

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 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:

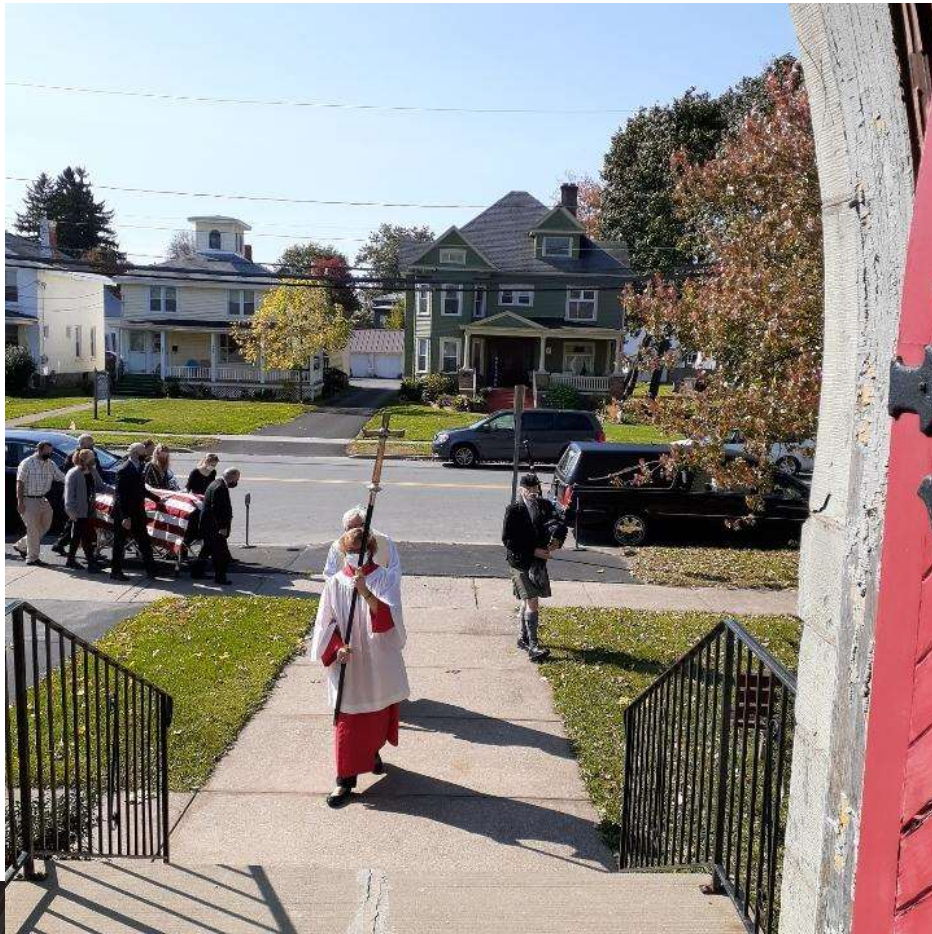
Wednesdays: Hug A Mug Coffee Hour 930 a.m. to 1030 a.m.

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)

Goodbye to our dear friend Art Hill



A letter from our Wardens

Dear St John's Family,

This year has been one for the books. So many things in our lives have been turned up-side-down. We hope that everyone has been able to find a way to manage during these difficult times. Through all of this there has always been one constant, Jesus Christ. You may not have felt Him or heard Him, but He has been there. St John's has also been there, with Fr. Nick as our faithful coach. Fr. Nick has made sure we are all trying to stay connected. He has given us a current directory so we can keep in touch with each other. He has made sure we have Zoom connections; Hug-A-Mug, Bible Study, and for a while Saturday night parties. We are also invited to the Sunday morning Facebook live services. Fr. Nick has invited us to gather safely in each other's backyards. And now, we will begin to gather for a reflective service together again. Thank you Fr. Nick!

Our church family isn't just Fr. Nick and Gale, it's every one of us. Look how much Fr. Nick has done (and all of the phone calls, visits, and other things are too many to list) The church isn't just Fr. Nick, it is ALL of us. And we need to do our part. Now, we as wardens, are asking what can you do to help our St. John's family. Since we have not been able to gather each Sunday and put what we can in the offering plate, our cash flow is in the **RED**. That means we are operating in the negative. Where does that money come from that pays our bills? You and your pledge help with these bills. Our fundraisers help with these bills also. Do you know how many fundraisers we've had this year? **ZERO**. Now more than ever St. John's needs your help. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for the next year. Pray that you can give a little more. We know that many of you may be struggling, but so is St John's. We know it seems like we are always asking for money for special projects (windows, trees for troops, North Broad Street School), but sometimes you have to take care of your own, too.

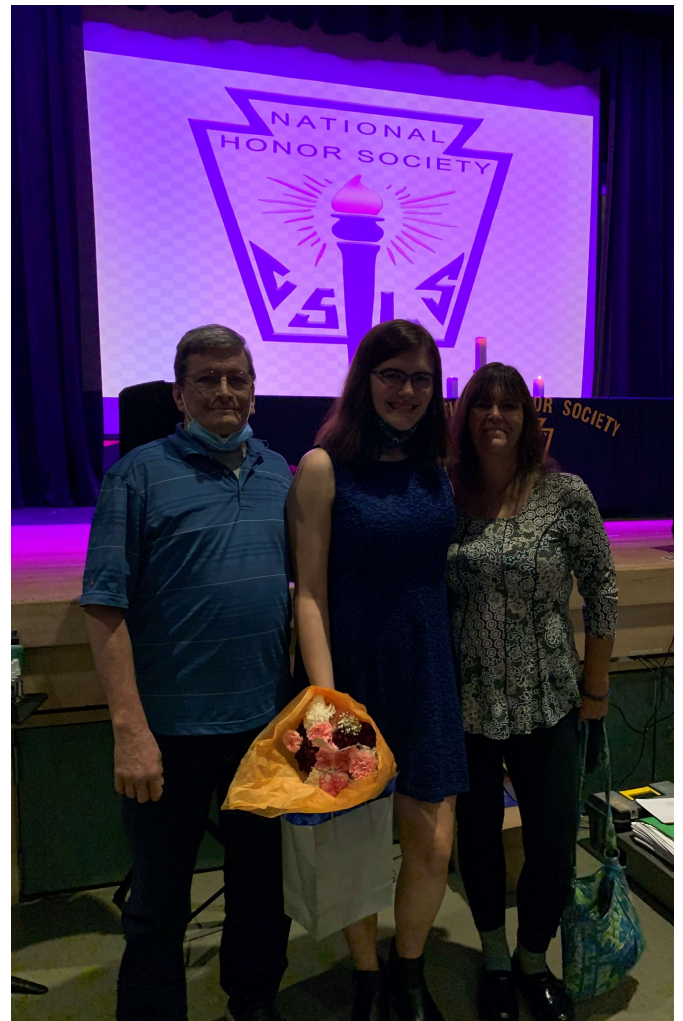
The offerings to God we make during our lives are often called a witness of "stewardship". That is to say, we faithfully take up our roles of caring for our communities, our families, ourselves, and all which God has created for us to experience. We do this, as we have heard, by offering our time, talent, and treasure. Now, when we consider how much of any of these we wish to contribute, we naturally ought to weigh our ability, our intentions, our vulnerability, and our bravery. It is no small thing to give away that which we have earned, but when we can do it soberly and with gratitude for God's own faithfulness, such personal sacrifice can actually be invigorating! Our parish budget isn't exactly exciting; It mostly has to do with office supplies, energy consumption, diocesan assessments, cleaning of the building, required pension payments, music to accompany worship, and of course our rector's part-time salary. But, without your contribution, even these necessary things cannot be funded appropriately. When it comes to mission and outreach, we typically sponsor fund-raisers and inspiring special collections with which to engage the broken world, but our normal day-to-day expenses also require stewardship. So, we ask you to prayerfully consider your contribution to next year's parish revenue, knowing that the faithfulness of your contribution will be matched by our own prudence.

Your faithful Wardens,

Susan Slaunwhite and Leslie Zebrowski

Congratulations

Megan Dwyer was inducted into the National Honor Society and was asked to sing the National Anthem at the ceremony. Our church family is very proud of her and her many accomplishments.



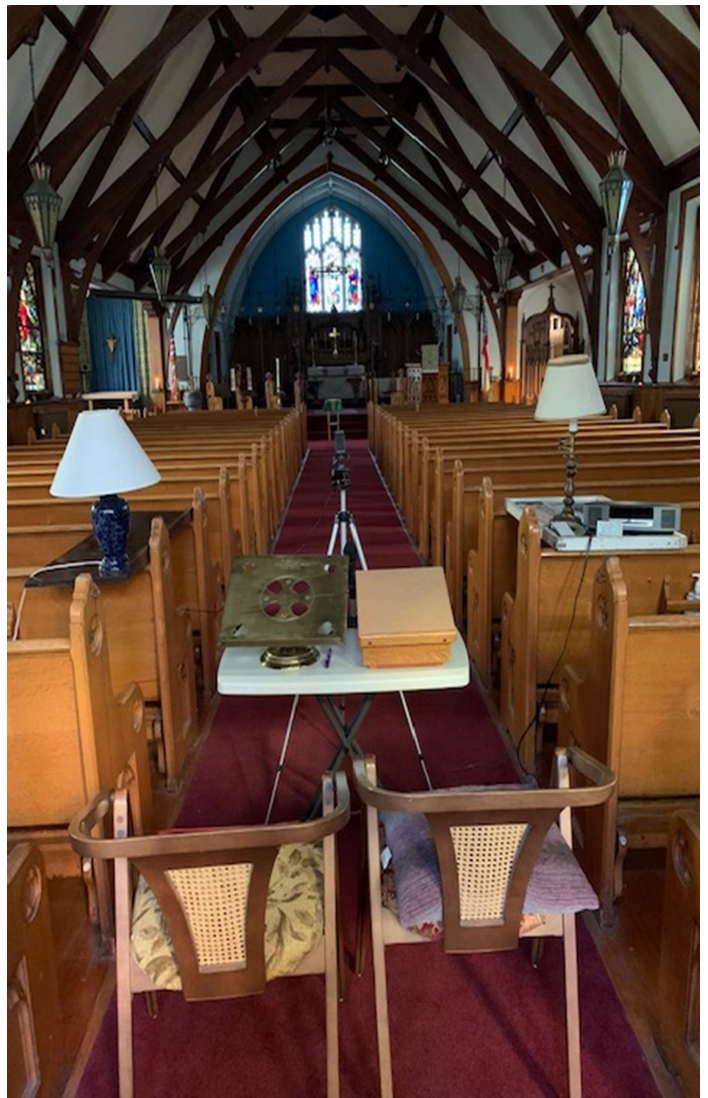
Our Return to St. John's Oct.25th,2020



Photo by Ann Hodgins

Our Sunday Facebook Live Setup

May today there be peace within you. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use the gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content with yourself just the way you are. May you know you are loved.
~~paraphrased from Saint Terese of Liseaux



Photos by Shelly Sears

KARING KITCHEN

Karing Kitchen has seen and responded to the need from our community. Over 40,000 lbs of food was delivered in October. Unfortunately, the need is not decreasing. We know that the need is larger when it comes to the holidays.

As our doors are closed, Karing Kitchen's programming will continue to remain open. Can you assist Karing Kitchen in delivering food to those in need? The Foodsense program has reopened. Would you consider purchasing a package to be given to a school family in need at the end of the month? Or delivering to a family? Assisting with the annual Used Toy Giveaway? Adopting a child in need for Christmas? Providing some hygiene items?

Karing Kitchen will be hosting it's gently used toy distribution for the community at large in December and we are currently taking donations for that event. (Please note Share a Caring Christmas is not occurring this year) We try to collect games, books, toys, trinkets, Christmas decor, ornaments and other trivial stuff. The goal of this event is to enable families that would not be eligible for new toy distribution (grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, parents with older children) to find something to give to their loved ones while encouraging a message of paying it forward.

We will also be looking for assistance with the Christmas baskets. This includes cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing and additional donations for the cost of meat, as well as assistance with preparation and distribution.

Meanwhile for Thanksgiving, as the Rotary will not be hosting their annual dinner, Karing Kitchen will be utilizing the Foodsense program for our Seniors for Thanksgiving . We have a need for 175 seniors from our community. It is appropriately sized to their family size and easy to heat up.

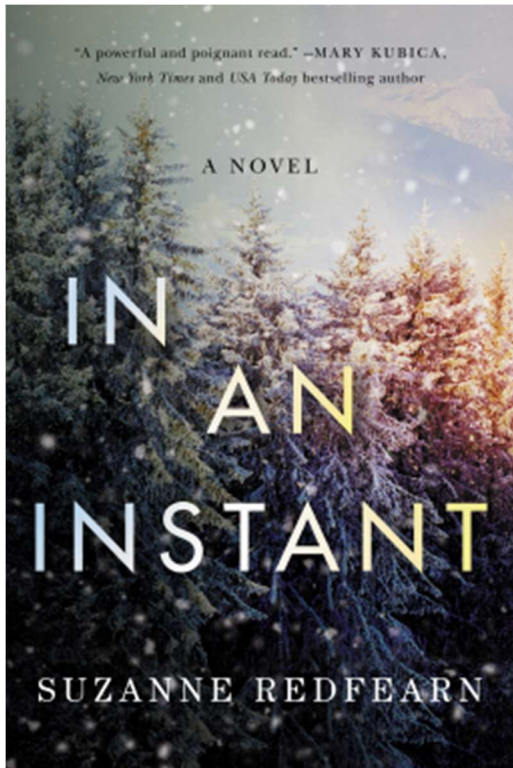
Karing Kitchen works closely with Catholic Charities to provide hygiene and cleaning supplies to those in need.

FUM Annual coat giveaway is this Saturday. All donated winter gear is needed by Wednesday. Office is open from 9-noon. You can call to arrange a pick-up as well, [363-2450](tel:363-2450).

We will let everyone know when we are able to reopen our doors safely to the community. Meanwhile if you are available to assist us in delivering, preparing, know of a family in need or any other measure, please reach out to us [315-280-0869](tel:315-280-0869). We thank you in advance for your continued support of our programming.

Melissa King

Laura's Book Review



A fun family getaway quickly becomes tragic as our main character Finn loses her young life in a most horrific way. We follow her family dealing with the repercussions of her death, and we see the hard and sometimes questionable choices they make just to survive. This book follows along the same lines as The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold, in which our story is told through the eyes of someone who has passed on. Gripping and heart-wrenching. I finished this book in 2 days and highly recommend it.

Submitted by Gale Smith

A GUIDE TO PUTTING YOUR CLOCKS BACK



SMARTPHONE
Leave it alone,
it does its magic



SUNDIAL
Move one house
to the left



OVEN
You'll need a
Masters in
Electronic
Engineering
or a hammer



CAR RADIO
Not worth it,
wait six months

Email Fraud Warning

Email fraud alert: Members of our diocese have reported increased levels of email fraud attempts lately. Spammers are sending emails posing as your rector/priest, your bishop, members of the diocesan staff, or other trusted individuals. Please check email addresses carefully before opening attachments or clicking links, and never provide personal information, cash, or gift cards over email! Learn more at cnyepiscopal.org/phishing

The diocesan office has received reports of fraudulent emails purporting to be from Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe.

How to spot these emails:

1. Subject Lines in ALL CAPS such as "MANY BLESSINGS"
2. Sender is "revdededuncanprobe@gmail.com"
3. Asking recipient to purchase gift cards to help people with COVID-19 infections, and/or
4. Informing the recipient that the bishop is in a meeting, and asking for a prompt response by email

Remember, the Bishop and her staff will never ask you for gift cards, money, or personal information over email. If you have received one of these suspicious emails, please report it through your email provider or to support.google.com/mail/contact/abuse.



River Road Farm and Greenhouses

9182 River Road

Marcy, NY 13403

Phone 315 736-3252

Fax 315 736-8960

Jan's Cell 315 368-4497

Leif's Cell 315 264-1739

NEW Email: rrgreenhouses@gmail.com



Christmas 2020 Church Price List

The Advent season will soon be here. We at River Road Farm and Greenhouses have been preparing for the season by growing a beautiful poinsettia crop.

We pride ourselves in growing quality poinsettias and providing all our customers with personal attention. We look forward to working with you to beautify your sanctuary. This season's offerings include:

4 ½" Branched; 3- 4 blooms, available in Red, White, or Ice Crystal	\$3.50
6 ½" Branched; 5-7 blooms, available in Red, Pink, White, or Ice Crystal	\$6.35
8" Branched; 12-15 blooms, available in Red, White, or Pink	\$17.50
10" Branched; 14-16 blooms, available in Red or White	\$25.00

Christmas Wreaths with Red Bow:

12" Wreath	\$12.50
18" Wreath	\$17.50

All poinsettias come with a festive holiday pot cover available in Gold or Green.

Orders may be picked up at your convenience any day of the week. If you are a new customer, please bring a signed copy of your church's tax-exempt form at this time.

Delivery of your order is available for a minimal fee.

Please call or come and see us to discuss your order. We are located on River Road in Marcy, ¼ mile west of Cavanaugh Road and ¼ mile east of Lock 20.

Please have orders in by December 2nd . For orders placed after this date, we cannot guarantee availability of all sizes and colors!

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Oneida First United Methodist Church

Corner of Main and Grove Streets, Oneida

Annual Coat Give Away

Saturday November 7, 2020

**“Safe shopping!” Coat Give Away is OK’d by the Health Department
and all COVID-19 related protocols will be in place!**

BY the #s:

21st year for the CGA
200 + individuals visited last year

1000 + items available
ZERO dollars paid, all FREE!

WHAT we need:

Gently used winter clothing

ESPECIALLY NEEDED:

Children’s coats
Children’s snow pants
Children’s boots
Adult XL, XXL, and XXXL coats

DROP OFF information:

Monday-Wednesday 9:00 am to
12 noon (now thru Wed Nov 4)
Thursday October 22 and Tuesday October 27
from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

HOW “shoppers” register:

MUST register, no walk-ins
Go to OFUMC Facebook to register

Please spread the word and release/post this flier to inform your staff, students, congregants, and everyone you know! Please contact the church office if you need more information or if you would like to help collect items or volunteer!

Oneida First UMC
116 West Grove Street
Oneida, NY 13421

315-363-2450
oneidafirstoffice@gmail.com



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: John Macmullen

Clerk of the Vestry: Valerie Hill

Senior Warden: Susan Slaunwhite

Junior Warden: Leslie Zebrowski

Vestry:

Sandra Aylesworth

Sheila Aylesworth

Cathy English

Valerie Hill

Ann Hodgins

Shelly Sears

Laura Weismore

Shane Weismore

Beth Wieland

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 by the 15th of each month. Anything not submitted by the then will go in the next newsletter.

snowkittens7311@gmail.com