



St. John's Episcopal Church

The Saint

*The Mission of St. John's Parish is to glorify God
by growing in Christ's love and sharing that love with others
through worship, fellowship, and service .*

*...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been
given to us...Romans 5:5*

From Mother Barbara

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Established by St. Benedict in the 5th C., Benedictine spirituality is foundational for the Anglican/Episcopal Church. When we think of St. Benedict, we most often think of monasteries and the way of life we might find there. However, the principles of Benedictine spirituality actually 'translate' into 'everyday life' and the life of congregations. The focus is on three areas: **STABILITY**; **TRANSFORMATION**; and **OBEDIENT LISTENING TO GOD – in balance with one another**.

Transformation deals with a process of planned change for the community and a process of planned growth for the individuals in it. It implies flexibility and openness to change. The commitment to transformation should be on-going and demands a willingness to be open to others' ideas; letting go of control; letting go of gossip, grumbling, and lethargy.

Aspects of Transformation at St. John's:

Acceptance and consideration for others Eucharistic Visitors and (Lay) Pastoral Care
Specialty groups meeting Demands on the clergy Care of Gardens

It was determined that all of these aspects of transformation were works in progress that needed to be carried into 2020. In addition, the following items were added:

Taking a look at the way we do the Prayers of the People

Communication to the wider community about the church – *The Covenant Team is following up on this by inviting a representative of the Chamber of Commerce to our next meeting on April 16th at 7 pm at SPL to talk with us about marketing our two churches in the Lewiston/Youngstown wider community. At some point we will also be having someone do a special program about welcoming newcomers and incorporating newcomers into our parish life.*

Increased awareness of resources within the church to/for parishioners

Faith sharing – sharing what God is doing in our lives – learning 'how to' and actually doing this – *Our Lenten study program, "Amazing Grace" will afford us an opportunity to do faith sharing in a 'safe space' so that we are better equipped to go out into the community.*

Putting up a bell in the parish hall

Finally, as I preached about on Transfiguration Sunday, we will try very hard to incorporate all three aspects of Benedictine Spirituality in our life together. As we experiment with changes (transformation) the leadership of the church will try to abide by this principle:

The leadership of the parish should work to arrive at common decisions, share common wisdom, come to a common commitment, and then communicate it to the community in such a way that the community is united, not divided, by the people chosen to lead. *(Excerpted from "Benedictine Spirituality: Insights for the Ages" by Joan Chittester, O.S.B., p. 92)*

To that end, we're going to experiment together during Lent. There is no prelude or postlude during Lent (a more contemplative worship experience), so we will try some Sundays with the announcements at "The Peace" and some with announcements at the end of the service after the closing hymn, before the dismissal. Then we'll make a choice about which place works best.

I am really looking forward to this time of gently trying new things and listening to the Spirit's leadings.

Warden's Report

A new book appeared on my nightstand recently (thank you Val!) titled "The Pocket Bible Devotional for Men". To begin my report I will share a couple of today's passages with the theme of facing the unknown:

And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

Mark 14:72 KJV

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8 KJV

Here is my summary of what transpired at our February Vestry meeting. Our next Vestry meeting is Sunday, March 15 following our Coffee Hour at 12:30. Please feel free to join us.

Priest's Report:

- Mother Barbara discussed her activities over the last month and pointed out that some of the cost of these were shared by St John's and St Paul Lewiston, one of the benefits of our covenant relationship.
- We have budgeted to have a supply priest one Sunday a month. Susan Keppy will do our Ash Wednesday service.

Wardens Report:

- Mike Banks' work on the Parochial Report is underway and is projected to be approved at the March Vestry meeting.
- We discussed what our financial pledge to the Diocese should be this year. Upon review of what the Diocese put forward as our Fair Share it was determined that there was an error in the calculation. As a result we will call the Diocese and ask for a correction of the calculation of our fair share.
- Shawn D'Luhny was happy to report that from her perspective everything has been going really smoothly.

Treasurer's Report

- Hari Kless distributed the income and expense report. Copies of the monthly report are available for anyone interested on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall and please let us know if you have any questions.
- Expenses went down a little
- January's pledge income was up from last year's.
- There was a large gain recorded from our investment account for the last quarter of 2019. (please keep in mind that based on recent stock market activity we could see a loss in the first quarter of this year MB)

Strawberry Fest

- The date this year will be Saturday, June 20th
- Noon to 5 PM.
- The Band this year will be the Nickel City Blues Band.

New Business

- Lunch & Learn - a study based on the book "Grace: more than we deserve, greater than we imagine" by Max Lucado will be held every Wednesday in Lent starting March 4 for 5 Wednesdays. Sessions will be held at St. John's at noon and at St. Paul's at 7 pm.
- A meeting of the Sunday Ministry Team (Priest, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, lectors) was held prior to the vestry meeting. There was a discussion and a variety of opinions offered regarding our service including the placement of announcements and where the sermon is presented (from the pulpit or down with the congregation). Mother Barbara plans to follow up with the rest of the congregation with a survey to get their opinions on some of the suggestions that were brought forward.

Ministry Team Reports

- Stewardship - second letter is being put together reminding those that have not yet turned in their pledge card.
- Bylaws Committee - I will be approaching members of the committee to schedule a kick-off meeting during February. The goal of the committee is to review the current bylaws to insure that they are up-to-date and meet the requirements of the congregation going forward.
- Property
- Lighting in the Church - we are searching for an affordable fixture that will provide indirect lighting in the church and

eliminate/reduce shadows. The fixture should direct the light upwards towards the ceiling and be as less conspicuous from below as possible.

- Report of the Architectural Commission on Site Visit was distributed and reviewed. 5 different options were outlined; next step is to bring the report to the congregation. A copy of the report and a short summary was presented at the coffee hour on February 23. If you would like a copy of the report or have any questions, please let me know. The next step is to have a special meeting about it after church on Sunday, March 22 during coffee hour. Mother Barbara will be with us that day.

Mother Barbara closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mike Banks, Warden

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, 3/4 - 12 noon - Lunch and Learn Lenten Program "Amazing Grace" at SJY; 7 pm at SPL
Thursday, 3/5 - 7 pm - Taize Service at St. John's, Wilson - Mother Barbara leading
Sunday, 3/8 - Susan Keppy
Wednesday, 3/11 - "Amazing Grace" 12 noon - Lenten Program at SJY; 7 pm at SPL
Thursday, 3/12 - 7 pm - Mission and Outreach - SPL
Sunday, 3/15 - Mother Barbara
Wednesday, 3/18 - "Amazing Grace" 12 noon - Lunch and Learn Lenten Program "Amazing Grace" at SJY; 7 pm at SPL; CALM program at SPL
Friday, 3/20 - St. Andrew's, Burt - SJY and SPL "Fish Fry Mob"
Sunday, 3/22 - Mother Barbara staying for coffee.
Wednesday, 3/25 - "Amazing Grace" 12 noon - Lenten Program at SJY; 7 pm at SPL
Sunday, 3/29 - Mother Barbara
Wednesday, 4/1 - "Amazing Grace" etc.
Sunday, 4/5 - Mother Barbara
Wednesday, 4/8 - Vestry meeting SJY
Thursday, 4/9 - 7 pm - Joint Maundy Thursday service at SPL

Friday, 4/10 - 7 pm - Joint Good Friday service at SJY

Easter Sunday, 4/12 –Mother Barbara

Wednesday, 4/15 - CALM program at SPL

Thursday, 4/16 - 7 pm - Covenant Team meeting at SPL - special guest speaker from the Chamber of Commerce on marketing our churches to the Lewiston and Youngstown communities

Sunday, 4/19 –Mother Barbara

Sunday, 4/26 –Mother Barbara staying for coffee hour

Molly's Scrunchies for Australia

On March 22nd, Molly Dengate from St. Paul's Lewiston will be giving a presentation on her efforts to help the animals that were hurt in Australia. She is making scrunchies and selling them for \$2. Molly makes these herself so they are a true labor of love.

Sharing the Good News not Germs

Here are some good tips to keep us all healthy and to avoid the spread of flu, colds, and coronaviruses.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water, including after coughing, sneezing, handling diapers, preparing food or using the bathroom
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Stay home when you feel sick.

Congregations can take several modest steps to limit the spread of illness if the virus makes its way to our region:

- When celebrating the Eucharist or distributing the elements, use hand sanitizer visibly and have hand sanitizer available for worshippers to use (in the back of the church on the table as you come in).
- Avoid touching the wine when dipping the host or bread into the chalice (intinction).
- Pass the peace with a nod and a smile, a fist bump, an elbow tap, or another sign that avoids close physical contact.
- Encourage people who are ill to stay home and include them in prayers.

- Remind coffee hour and feeding program volunteers to wash their hands and handle food with plastic gloves or utensils.

Fish Fry Mob

Friday, March 22nd St. Paul's and St. John's will be going to St. Andrews, Burt, to mob their fish fry. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. We will carpool with those who wish.



Outreach Committee

Due to our winter storm, the Outreach Committee meeting was changed to March 5th at 4 pm.

Maintaining the gardens: a reprint

If at any time during the gardening season, you feel inclined to do so and have the time, your help in maintaining the gardens around the church would be appreciated. It would not require a total day commitment but an hour or so at a time.

Zone 1 is in front of the parish hall. Because it is in the full sun, it requires constant work—weeding, dead-heading and watering when we have a dry spell.

Zone 2 is behind the altar. This area is home to the wild morning glories, a small purple flowered weed and the young seedlings in the early summer from the Rose of Sharon bush. As a result, even with mulch, weeding is a constant chore. It also requires watering during dry spells.

Zone 3 is along both sides of the church. Usually the easiest to keep because there is not much planted.

Zone 4 is the circular garden in front of the church on the south side. This garden has the 4 green bushes which need trimming each year and during the growing season to keep them small.

Zone 5 includes the triangular gardens along the front door to the church. Right now, it is overrun with the green and white-leaved small plants. It has been some time since these plants were cut back and this would take considerable time and several people working.

Pick a zone. Bring your own tools and **bug spray**. When weeding, you have to cart the weeds away. The village does not like to have them put in the garbage. During the summer, the village will pick up grass clippings and sticks and tree limbs. You can take them to the spot behind the old cold storage building and empty the bags there. During the fall season, the village will pick up leaves; but they don't like the weeds.

As I said earlier, any and all help would be wonderful. It is not necessary to sign up for the work. Just pick a zone.

If you have any questions, contact Karran Swayze.

Free Tax Preparation Service

Trained AARP Volunteer Tax Aides will be available to help prepare and file both federal and state tax returns. Although primarily focused on assisting seniors, this free service is open to all. You do not need to be an AARP member.

To get your taxes done you will need to make an appointment. Here is the schedule:

Mondays- Lewiston Senior Center: Call 754-2071.
11:00 AM – 2:00PM

Tuesdays, Thursdays and some Saturdays-
Lewiston Library: Call- 754-4720.
11:00AM-2:00PM (11:00AM-1:00PM Saturdays)

Alternating Fridays starting February 7th -
Youngstown Presbyterian Church: Call 745-7067.
11:00AM- 2:00PM

To process your returns you must bring the following documents:

- **For a Joint return both spouses must be present.**
- You must bring some form of **photo ID** such as a driver's license, passport or some other form of government issued photo ID.
- A copy of your **2018 tax returns**. This will help the preparer to identify any carryover credits.
- **Written proof of the Social Security numbers** for any person that will be listed on the return. You, your spouse, your dependents. The best proof is the actual Social Security Cards.
- **All of your 2019 tax documents**. W-2s, 1099s, broker statements, etc.
- Your **check book** or your bank book that shows the routing number and account numbers of your bank accounts. These are required if you wish to have your refund/amount owed credited or debited directly to your bank account.

There are certain complex returns such as those involving rental property and businesses with income in excess of \$25,000 that are beyond the scope of this program.

Jim Poole

Let Us Pray

The Parish Rota: This is a list of the members of the parish. It allows us to pray for everybody each month.

1. Betty Ames, Jennifer Andrews, Allan Aureli, Mary Ellen Aureli
2. Michael Banks, Valerie Banks, Shawn D'Luhy
3. Kay Collard, Tony Collard, Heidi Dent
4. Brandon Comerford, Debra Comerford, Ryan Comerford
5. Stu Comerford, John Eodice, Priscilla Eodice
6. Joseph Fabian, Kathy Fabian,
7. Doreen Enman, Donald Finkle, Heather Finkle
8. Christine Foster, Mark Foster,
9. Jerry Freischlag, Mary Lou Freischlag, Angela Gebauer
10. Jean Gerlach, John Gerlach, Annie Given, Carl Gonder
11. Art Hannah, Judy Hannah, Esther Hardison
12. Don Henry, Donna Huggins, Col. Jack James,
13. Donna Jeffs, Harold Jeffs, Kelsey Jeffs, Shannon Jeffs
14. Dolores Jones, Greg Jordan, Kris Jordan,
15. Casey Jordan, Lisa Leffler, Mark Leffler,
16. Pat Lloyd, Carla Lynch, Connor Lynch,
17. John Lynch Sr., John Lynch Jr. Alison Martin,
18. Brittany Machmer John Mies, Sandy Mies
19. Lark Mattoon, Ed McGreevy,
20. Irene Myers, Marie Oblamski
21. Karen Oddy, Deborah Pauline,
22. Shirley Oldfield,, Helene Pavlock,
23. James Poole, Nancy Poole
24. Linda Reynolds, Raleigh Reynolds, Carol Reinbird,
25. Jane Richardson, Kellie Smith, Mickey Sutor, Deacon Vickie Sutor
26. Karran Swayze, Randy Walck, Larry Walck
27. Sabre Whipple, Deb White, Michael White
28. Marie Stephens, Ken Wieland, Mary Wieland
29. Kit Williams, Dr. Michael Wilson, Michael Wilson
30. Kristen Wilson, Luke Wilson, Barbara Yandian.

Diocese of Western New York

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe

Priest in Charge

Rev. Canon Barbara Price

All other church concerns, contact the Wardens

Deacon

Vickie Sutor

Wardens

Mike Banks

Shawn D'Luhy

Vestry

Lark Mattoon

Mike White

Kay Collard

Treasurer

Hari Kless

**See us on Facebook at:
St. John's Episcopal,
Youngstown NY**

Northern Region Deanery Lenten Study Series

Presents

Amazing Grace

A study based on
“Grace: More than we deserve, greater than we imagine”
by **Max Lucado**

In this cornerstone message of Max Lucado’s ministry, he challenges us to not only receive grace but also to be changed by grace. Shaped by grace. Strengthened by grace. Emboldened by grace. Softened by grace. Snatched by the nape of their neck and shaken to their senses by grace.

March 4 **The Grace-Shaped Life**
March 11 **Jesus stoops down so we can stand up**
March 18 **You can rest now**
March 25 **Accepting the gift of wet feet**
April 1 **Sustaining and sufficient grace**

These will be held at:

**St. John’s Episcopal Church’s Parish Hall, 110 Chestnut St.
Youngstown from Noon – 1:30pm**
Bring a bag lunch if you wish.

**St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 400 Ridge St., Lewiston
from 7pm – 8:30pm**

This is a free event. All are welcome.
Stair chair available at St. John’s
Elevator available at St. Paul’s

**THE SAINT
MARCH 2020**

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone/Fax: 716-745-3369

stjohnsytown@verizon.net

www.stjohnsyoungstown.org

If you would like more information about St. John's, have a prayer request
or would like to talk to the clergy, please call or e-mail the office.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

P.O. BOX 366

MAIN & CHESTNUT STREETS

YOUNGSTOWN, NY 14174-0366

Change Service Requested