

The Episcopal Church of
SS Peter & John
169 Genesee Street
Auburn, New York 13021

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Auburn, NY
Permit #14

Return Service Requested

The Gospel Messenger

True Worship † Powerful Community † A Heart for the Lost



February 2023

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My Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ;

As we leave an unconditionally warm and low snow January, we will enter into February. Ash Wednesday and Lent are fast approaching.

For Ash Wednesday (2/22), we'll have a slight variation from how we handled things last year. I will continue to do "Ashes to Go" on the street in front of the parish house from 11:30-12:30. The serving time for the soup kitchen. I will also do a tradition service with Holy Communion in the Chapel at 11:00 am. There are a number of extra services in and around Lent and Holy Week, it is my hope that you might attend these services when you are able. I do think they really help us live into this part of the church year.

We had a successful Annual Meeting and we welcome our sister Sue Burtless to the Vestry. Much appreciation to Sue for her willingness to serve and thanks as well to the people who helped make the meeting a success.

We will be planning for a Harriet Tubman commemoration here in Auburn with Bishop DeDe. This has been scheduled for Wed. 3/22 at noon. It will also include a mass with renewal of Baptismal and Ordination vows. The Bishop will preside and preach. I'll let you know more details as they become known to me.

I wish traveling mercies to those traveling this month. Some going south for some warmer weather and some taking advantage of the school break. Godspeed to you all and may you return relaxed and refreshed.

After a very eventful Christmas season and January things are a bit slower around here for which I am grateful. As I wrote above, things will be picking up soon with Lent and the Easter celebration and season. One of my favorite times of the Church calendar.

I look forward to our days together ahead.

Grace and Beauty,

John +

Father John ✦

ON-LINE WORSHIP

Sundays - 10am Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97774056978?pwd=ZytJSVZjWmt3MUdSMk13U1JaaGNLZz09>

Meeting ID: 982 7706 2680

Passcode: 435902

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Other Zoom Worship Schedule and Numbers

Tuesdays – 10am Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94333886777?pwd=WnNKSncyQkkzS1g0Yjc3ZGIVbk1PQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 3388 6777

Passcode: 577455

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Wednesdays – 12pm Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95528786615?pwd=Z01DVGdvcG5XeVBIUVRMKzFFVVBjZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 2878 6615

Passcode: 634665

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Thursdays – 10am Coffee and Conversation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97366952412?pwd=WUtQVFMyWlFKWmRBT1UyTHQ2Rm5Rdz09>

Meeting ID: 973 6695 2412

Passcode: 120228

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday – Friday

MORNING PRAYER – RITE II

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/john.rohde.16/>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92662278952>

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ac4XCk34Dn>

Vestry Voice

The January Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional. The December minutes were approved. The December financials were approved.

It was discussed about planting a tree in memory of Mary Borkowski.

There is concern about the trees between the parish hall and the church as some of the limbs seem to be hanging over the roof of the parish hall and could do serious damage if they break. It was suggested that we have someone come and look at the situation.

The edging around the Memorial Garden seems to be dropping in the ground in places and in some places coming out of the ground. Unfortunately, we do not have the money at this time to do this work.

Annual Meeting will be held in the community room at 9:00 am on January 15, 2023. It will be live-streamed. It was agreed that the congregation needs to be aware of our financial situation.

The diocese will be observing Harriet Tubman day on March 22, 2023 and wants to hold it at our church. The Bishop will be in attendance and it will be live-streamed like they did convention.

The meeting closed with a benediction and blessing by Father John. Next Vestry meeting will be February 14, 2023.

From the Soup Kitchen

SS Peter & John's Soup Kitchen is seeing many new faces. With grocery prices rising, we are seeing many new people seeking a free lunch. This is in spite of our January weather. Because of this, we are running short of food and the money to buy it. If you know of any organization that could help us out with either food in quantity or a grant or a donation of funds, please contact me.

Also remember you can take your 5 cent returnable cans and bottles to Bag O' Nickels at 7259 Owasco Road and tell them that they are for SS Peter & John's Soup Kitchen and they will get the money to us.

Also, we are still looking for people that can pick up donated items at various businesses.

Peace & Blessings,

David Ward, Director SSPJ Soup Kitchen

(315) 730-5898

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on January 15, 2023 and was well attended. Questions were answered about the financial reports and Father John thanked everyone for their support of our parish. The annual report was emailed and if you did not get it and would like a copy, please contact the office either by phone 315-253-7118, or by email secretary@saintspeterandjohn.org.

Clothes Closet



The Clothes Closet is now open two days a week,
Wednesday and Saturday
11:00 am – 12:00 Noon.

Ash Wednesday – February 22



Father John will be doing a traditional service with Holy Communion in the chapel at 11:00 am

“Ashes to Go” on the street from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to read and/or acolyte at the 8:00 and 10:00 am Sunday services. If this is something that you would be interested in doing, please contact Father John (315-391-3821) or Cathy Darby (315-253-7118).

Jesus' Prophetic Lineage

CAC teacher Brian McLaren says that we understand Jesus more clearly when we consider him through the lineage of his Jewish faith and the Hebrew prophets:

What seems to have happened in Christian history is that we have tried to understand Jesus primarily through his descendants, meaning when we want to understand Jesus, we say, “What did Paul say about Jesus? What did Augustine say about Jesus? What did Aquinas say about Jesus? What did Martin Luther or John Calvin or John Wesley say about Jesus?” We try to understand Jesus by studying what people said after his life. I think it would be much better for us to understand Jesus forwards in the sense of, “Look at his ancestors; look at the lineage into which he came.” Does that make sense? Place Jesus in the context of his history and his story.

When we do that, we understand that for Jesus growing up as a Jew, he was entering into a realm of people like patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and the people who gave birth to a new people. Of course, we should add Sarah, Rebecca, and Rachel and the others.... Then come these other figures called prophets. Moses really is seen as the first prophet and then there are many, many others, Amos maybe being almost a prototypical prophet. These are people who have some experience of listening to God and then speaking for God. They generally are confronting oppression and injustice and proclaiming liberation and warning and promise and imagination. [1]

Amy-Jill Levine, a Jewish scholar of the New Testament, names ways Jesus' life and actions echoed those of prophets familiar to her from her religious upbringing:

Jesus fusses at priests, just like Amos. Jesus tells parables, just like the prophet Nathan and a number of rabbis whose stories appear in postbiblical Jewish sources. Jesus heals and raises the dead; so too Elijah and Elisha. Jesus survives when children around him are slaughtered, just like Moses. I didn't have to read Matthew 2–7 to know that the rescued baby would take a trip to Egypt, cross water in a life-changing experience, face temptation in the wilderness, ascend a mountain, and deliver comments on the Law—the pattern was already established in *Shemot*, the book of Exodus. [2]

In spite of many similarities between Jesus and the Jewish prophets, Levine stresses that the Gospel writers view Jesus as more than a prophet:

Although Jesus himself may be perceived as heir to the legacy of Amos and Jeremiah, the Gospels present him as more than a prophet. He is, according to the Evangelists, the Son of

God, who adds something new to the prophetic concern for justice. He goes well beyond the role of Isaiah and Micah, who seek what is called in Hebrew *t'shuvah*, return and repentance. Jesus of the Gospels seeks something new, specifically, following him. He is important not only because of what he says, but also because of who he is. [3]

[1] Adapted from Brian D. McLaren, "Jesus as Prophet," July 2022, CAC Living School curriculum. Unpublished material.

[2] Amy-Jill Levine, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* (New York: HarperCollins, 2006), 3.

[3] Levine, *The Misunderstood Jew*, 110



Happy February!



Calendar of Events for February 2023

Sundays:	8:00 am 10:00 am 12:30 pm	Worship Worship w/Music – Livestreaming Centering Prayer
Mondays:	8:30 am 11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Morning Prayer – Facebook/Zoom Event Soup Kitchen
Tuesdays:	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Morning Prayer – Facebook/Zoom Event Bible Study – Zoom Event Soup Kitchen
Wednesdays:	8:30 am 12:00 Noon 11:00 am - 12:00 Noon 11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Morning Prayer – Facebook/Zoom Event Worship – Zoom Event Clothes Closet Soup Kitchen
Thursdays:	8:30 am 10:00 am	Morning Prayer – Facebook/Zoom Event Coffee Hour – Zoom Event
Fridays:	8:30 am	Morning Prayer – Facebook/Zoom Event
Saturdays:	11:00 am - 12:00 Noon	Clothes Closet

11:30 am – 12:30 pm Soup Kitchen

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Wed., Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm Book Study via Zoom  
 Tues., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting  
 Wed., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm Ultreya Meeting via Zoom  
 Wed., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm Book Study via Zoom  
 Wed., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service  
 Wed., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:30 am Ashes To Go

**Jan. – Dec. 2022 - Actual vs. Budget**

|                             |                             | <u>Jan-Dec 2022</u>   | <u>Budget</u>        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>               | Offerings                   | 106,344.75            | 98,738.00            |
|                             | Other                       | 23,840.69             | 25,020.00            |
|                             | Legacies/Bequests           | -                     | -                    |
| <b>Total Income</b>         |                             | <b>\$ 130,185.44</b>  | <b>\$ 123,758.00</b> |
| <b>EXPENSE</b>              | Gas, Electric, water, sewer | 24,647.39             | 19,550.00            |
|                             | Salary & Benefits           | 112,655.89            | 115,588.03           |
|                             | Insurance                   | 16,870.00             | 16,000.00            |
|                             | Other                       | 37,720.25             | 34,958.83            |
| <b>Total Expense</b>        |                             | <b>\$ 191,893.53</b>  | <b>\$ 186,096.86</b> |
| sale/purchase of securities |                             | 0                     | 0                    |
| <b>Net Income</b>           |                             | <b>\$ (61,708.09)</b> | <b>\$(62,338.86)</b> |