

September 2021

Greeting's sisters and brothers in Christ,

As I write, trying not to sound like a broken record, virus rates are again on the rise in Cayuga county. Let us all keep in prayer those that are sick and their families and health care workers. And let us pray for more compliance with vaccinations and mask wearing.

September brings many things – a change of seasons, children going back to school, fall colors, lowering temperatures (thanks be to God) and people returning from travels.

I will also bring a couple of changes to Ss. Peter and John. First, a new, up to date way of spreading news via email in our community. No worries if you don't email, we will offer all the content in hard copy for those that need it. It will simply be one of those things we need to do to bring the church into these contemporary times. You should know that people will have to actively opt in to this email service. We can't just copy and paste a bunch of addresses, so we will be asking for email addresses of those that want to receive these in the near future.

We will also be beginning a new Christian book club. It remains to be seen how we will meet, whether in person or virtually, depending on infection rates in the county.

We will also have to keep up to date with the CDC guidelines and local health officials and our Bishop to see if we will have to adapt to different worship practices. I pray that we won't have more restrictions but we will, first and foremost, keep everyone safe.

I saw in the Westminster Presbyterian newsletter a quote from Galatians that I find particularly helpful. "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." (Gal. 6:9-10)

Grace and Peace,

John +

Father John ✠

ON-LINE WORSHIP

Here is the Zoom information for the Sunday on-line worship service @ 9:00 am.

Sundays - 9am Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97774056978?pwd=ZytJSVZjWmt3MUdSMkl3U1JaaGNLZz09>

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=WnNKSncyQkkzS1g0Yjc3ZGlVbk1PQT09>

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=WUtQVFMvWlFKWmRBT1UyTHQ2Rm5Rdz09>

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 August Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional. The July minutes and financials were approved.

The Soup Kitchen is doing from 150-200 meals each day. They received a grant from the Food Bank of CNY and they are pursuing other grant opportunities. They are expending a considerable amount each month and need to find other avenues of income to help with the increased expenses due to being open 4 days a week as compared to 2 days.

Father John and David Ward met with Diane Bauso from the Montessori School to discuss the areas of concern on both sides. The meeting was productive and some solutions were reached. Both sides agreed that they need to communicate better. The entrances to the downstairs will be closed off to prevent anyone from going downstairs. It was also discussed locking the gate when school is in session or possibly signs stating the front lawn is off limits during school hours

We are still waiting to hear when the work will be done on the 4 steam water return valves in the church

The NYS Hero Act requires all private employers, including churches, to establish a plan that protects employees against exposure and disease during a future airborne infectious disease outbreak. The NYS Dept of Labor published a Model Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Plan and this was used to prepare the church's plan. The vestry voted to approve this plan and a copy was sent to the Diocese per their request.

Willam Abdallah stated he is waiting for proofs from the engraver for the plaque for John McLane. He has talked with John's widow and told her what we are planning.

Live Streaming of worship services was discussed. Father John stated there are grants available to purchase the equipment needed but we would still need a person to run the equipment. We also need to get internet service in the church.

New Jerusalem church wants to come back and start worshiping in the parish hall again. They asked about doing services in the chapel but the vestry decided that would not be an option at this time, possibly later and/or for special occasions.

Father John is planning a musical event on the front lawn in September. It would be him, his wife, and his musician friends. Plans are still being formulated.

The meeting closed with compline. Next Vestry meeting September 8, 2021.

Fundraising



We have 2 full bags ready to send. This will be an on-going fundraiser so remember as you replace your sneakers, bring the old ones to us.

We are also looking for new ideas for fundraisers. If you have an idea, please speak to a vestry member or Father John

Volunteers Needed

Since the Soup Kitchen has gone to 4 days a week, they are in need of volunteers. The Soup Kitchen now operates Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday serving from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at 315-252-5721.

Picnic In The Park

Our Picnic in the Park was a huge success. There was plenty of food and lots of fun and laughter. Everyone enjoyed the Bingo, even those who did not play. Thank you to Denise Whalen for putting this together and presenting prizes. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this such a great success. We especially want to thank John Komarisky and David Contiguglia for cooking, with Ginger Farr as helper; Jeff Sawyer for set-up; Vincent Johns-Lee for music; Father John for worship; and the weather for cooperating to make the day perfect. If we have left anyone out, please accept our apologies and thanks. Everyone pitched in at the end and clean-up was done quickly.

Clothes Closet



The Clothes Closet will be open every Tuesday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. If you know anyone who is in need of clothes, please let them know about our hours. Masks are required and only 1 person at a time will be admitted.

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe and Staff

As we are returning to semi-normal working life, as a diocesan staff, we are looking to experiment with new ways of meeting together for our staff meetings. With the goal of getting out of the office and getting more familiar with our parishes and communities, we are looking to see what it would be like to have staff meetings at parishes in our surrounding areas. Your parish was at the top of our list. In addition to our staff meetings, we are open to having discussions with you and members of your staff and parish as we look for new ways to serve God in our community.

If this is possible for you and your parish, we ask that you please look at this tentative schedule we have put together and let us know if it works for you. Our meetings begin at 9:30, so the approximate time would be about 9-1 each week.

- October 18th - Ss. Peter & John, Auburn

Please know that this is a new thing for all of us and we are very flexible.

Feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks so much!

Rev. Deacon Meredith Kadet Sanderson

The Rev. Deacon Meredith Kadet Sanderson will be visiting SS Peter & John on September 12, 2021. She is a newly ordained Transitional Deacon and she will be doing the Gospel, the sermon, setting the table for the eucharist, and the dismissal. Please come and worship with us and make her feel welcome. A Transitional Deacon is a deacon that is anticipating future ordination to the priesthood



An offering of music to the community

Rev. John Rohde and Friends

**Featuring - Alex Becerra, Jim Cox, Ronnie France,
Jimmy Johns and Andrea Miceli**

Ss. Peter and John Church - outdoors

(weather permitting)

167 Genesee St., Auburn

Sunday, Sept. 19 - 1:30 pm

A story of the music that will be offered here On Sunday, Sept. 19

My wife Andrea has run what we call a “Society” band for years. A “Society” band is a band that plays functions like weddings, parties, bar mitzvahs, etc.

In the early nineties, I moved back from NYC to Syracuse. I was a working musician and needed to find work. One day I got a call from a sax playing buddy, asking if I could sub for him on Andrea’s band. I of course took the job and that’s when I met the woman that would become my wife. She was my boss then and I like to say she’s still my boss!

Over the years the band started to play church services, in addition to society work, at what was then St. Paul’s Cathedral. We offered music the first Sunday of every month in what we called the ‘Jazz and Pop’ Mass. We did this for about 8 years.

With this kind of experience, we’ve learned hundreds of songs in many music genres. From old pop tunes, standards from the American Song Book, Gospel, R & B, beautiful ballads and jazz music. We hope you’ll be able to attend and look forward to sharing some music with you and the community.

During this time of great conflict in many aspects of our lives recently, I wanted to offer, what is a helpful voice to me. This is written by a great Christian writer and thinker, Sarah Bessey. She lives in Canada with her children and husband. She's a blogger, writer and public speaker. For more info - <https://www.sarahbessey.com/>

Fr. John

Let's learn to be critical thinkers without critical hearts

Years ago, I practiced anger and cynicism, like a pianist practice scales, over and over. I *practiced* being defensive - about my choices and my mothering, my theology and my politics. And then I went on the offense. I repeated outrage and anger. I jumped, Pavlovian, to right every wrong and defend every truth, refute every inflammatory blog post, pontificate about every question. Any sniff of disagreement was a dinner bell clanging to my anger: *Come and get it! Rally the troops!* Like many of us, I called it critical thinking to hide my bitter and critical heart, and I wondered why I had no real joy in this ongoing search for truth.

Then, I wanted to be done with that grand piano performance of my own greatness and righteous anger, along with the glossy stage. So much for the concert proficiency at being right; I'm ready to be Beloved instead. Out here, on this same shore, those years ago, I imagined that I found a battered old thrift-store piano. As I saw it, I was clumsy and awkward, learning to practice goodness and truth, like scales all over again. I am still practicing gentleness and beauty, over and over again. Someday perhaps my fingers will find those keys without thought.

I want to practice faithfulness and kindness; I am learning to fill my ears with the repetitions of wide eyes and open hands and innocent fun, holy laughter. I want to practice with intention, joy. I want to tell the truth but first, I want to live the Truth.

I won't desecrate beauty with cynicism anymore. I won't confuse critical thinking with a critical spirit, and I will practice painfully, over and over, patience and peace until my gentle answers turn away even my own wrath. I will breathe fresh air while I learn, all over again, grace freely given and wisdom honored; and when my fingers fumble, when I sound flat or sharp, I will simply try again.

We'll practice the ways of Jesus, over and over, until the scales fall from our eyes and our ears begin to hear. And someday, I believe, our fingers will be flying over the keys of that old piano, in old hymns and new songs, and when we look up, I bet there will be a field full of people dancing, beside the water, whirling, stomping their feet and laughing, and babies will be bouncing, and we will be singing the song we were always and ever meant to sing. **The rocks will be crying out, and the trees will be clapping their hands, and the banquet table will be groaning with the weight of apples and wine and bread, and we will all sing until the stars come down.**

Sarah Bessey -

Rest and “tend with care the blessing that God has given us:” A message from Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe

Hello friends. In our Sunday lectionary we've been going through the book of Mark. And one of the blessings in the book of Mark is to see how Jesus manages ministry. Throughout the book of Mark, we can see Jesus withdrawing and resting, and then going out to minister. Withdrawing and preparing with his disciples, and then going out to minister. It gives us a great model for our own ministries. There are times when we need to withdraw, not out of anger or frustration, but out of self-care. That like Jesus in Mark chapter 4, which we just read recently, that in the midst of the storms of life, we can sleep, resting and knowing that God is God, and that we rest in God's belovedness, as people of God.

As I go on vacation this year, I pray that you will join me in resting, in tending to our souls. Not purely for the purpose of self-indulgence, but rather to tend to our own souls so that when God calls us, we will be ready to respond. We will be rested and prepared and have the skills necessary to minister and to offer to this hurting world a servant's heart.

May you rest in knowing that God is God. We're not called to perfection. We are not called to overwork. We are called to tend with care the blessing that God has given us in this opportunity to live each day for God's love and mercy in our hurting world.

May you rest. May you care for your soul. And may we rejoin in the fall ready for the things God has called us to do in this world.

Rest and be well.

Blessings, dear friends.