



An Easter Message from our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe

Dear Friends in Christ:

Luke's Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Joanna went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. When they got there, the stone had been rolled away, and they heard the message that transformed their world—and ours: "He is not here. He is risen."

On that Easter morning, the women who had been the last protectors and pastors at the cross on Good Friday became the first to witness and proclaim the resurrection. Scripture tells us, however, that their good news was not met with joy. The news that Jesus had risen from the dead was received as an idle tale, as nonsense—in one dynamic translation, as nothing more than women's trinkets. In the fraught and divided world in which these first evangelists lived, they were on the margins, and their word counted for nothing.

How quickly the apostles forgot what Jesus had modeled days before on Palm

Sunday and at the Last Supper. The long-awaited Messiah fashioned himself not as a political conqueror but as a peacemaker. Our Savior upended notions of worldly power by taking on the role of a servant and washing the feet of his followers. For Jesus, the vulnerable and the marginalized are in focus, and his ears are attuned to their voices.

As we proclaim the resurrection in our own time and place, let us always remember that the kingdom of God is revealed to us most clearly by those who are dispossessed by the powers and principalities of this world. Let us celebrate the joy of Easter by seeking and serving the resurrected Christ in the lives and the witness of those who have been silenced, persecuted, and marginalized. May God bless you and all those you love this Easter.

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe
Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church

Region and Diocesan Events

'Good News and Gratitude' podcast:

New episode: **'Looking for Life'**
In its inaugural season, this podcast from the United Thank Offering—hosted by the Rev. Erin Jean Warde—explores the messages of gratitude and good news found in Scripture and the world around us, as well as through the wisdom of guests and personal spiritual practices.

[Good News Podcast](#)

Screening of 'The Philadelphia Eleven'

In 1974, there was a dramatic breakthrough of the so-called stained glass ceiling that gave hope to Christian women everywhere. At a church in Philadelphia, a group of eleven women were ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in violation of the constitution and canons of the Episcopal Church - which at the time stated that only men were eligible for ordination. This story is told in a compelling new documentary.

The feature documentary film will screen in Litchfield at The Community Center, May 2, 2025 at 7:00 PM. Suggested donation \$5.00

THIS SUNDAY WORSHIP RESOURCES

We will gather for worship on Sunday, May 4th, 2025 at 10am on-site and on-line. The link for worship services is: www.facebook.com/stjohnspinemeadow
The link for the bulletin is <http://www.reddoors.com/worship-with-us.html>
The Book of Common Prayer can be found online at www.BCPonline.org
Thank you for worshipping God with us!

Thanks to our Ministers who sustain the worship life of our community
[This Week's Worship Leaders](#)

Celebrant: The Rev. Marilyn Anderson and the Rev. Evelyn Wheeler

Altar Guild – Candy Flaherty and Barb Henri
Weekly Flower Orders – Anne Hall/Altar Guild
Facebook & Camera – Beth Coates
Weekly Eblast Article – A little of everything
Announcements – Candy Flaherty
Greeters – Jeff and Nancy Linton
Coffee Hour – Sue and Blake Hall
Vestry Greeter – Nancy Linton
Liturgical Assistant – Jamie Hall
Lector – Joe Kenney
Intercessor – Jeff Linton
Counters – Joe Kenney and Candy Flaherty
Director of Music – Halyna Petronchak
Parish Administrator – Anne Hall
Office Cleaning Team – Nancy & Jeff Linton
Church Cleaning Team – Sue Hall, Guy Hayes, Barbara Henri and our Volunteers
Weekly Website Update – Anne Hall
Website Organization – Diane Hayes/Anne Hall

HAPPENINGS AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday Worship – 10 am – on-site and on-line
Daily Office/Morning Prayer – Tuesdays – Prayer list
Thursday Evening Compline -6:30pm
AA Meetings – Every Wednesday at 8:30pm
Vestry – 7pm – 4th Thursday Evening of the Month
Codependents Anonymous – Every Friday at 7:30pm
AA Meetings – Every Friday at 8:30pm
Drive Up Food Drives – 10am to 1pm – 3rd Saturdays
Office Hours – 8:30am – 1:30pm Monday thru Thursday & by appt.
Bingo!: On hold
Dwelling in the Word – On hold until May 22nd

Micro-sermon – Paradox - The risen life of Jesus is no mere abstract idea, but a concrete reality. This is shocking, terrifying, and alarming, because it manifests itself in Spirit-filled lives which are unpredictable, risky, and reverse the ways of the world. A Spirit-filled life reminds us that life does emerge from death, joy can be found in sorrow, and a life given away is a life given back.
Br. James Koester, SSJE

Can You Help Out?

ALTAR FLOWERS: The Altar Flowers this week are given by Sue Hall in joy and thanksgiving.

STEEPLE UPDATE: We have had an amazing response to the fundraising request for the steeple repair. A huge thanks to those that have donated and to the Northwest Ct. Community Foundation for their grant. As soon as the weather is consistently above 50, work should be starting.

RECTOR SEARCH UPDATE: We are actively advertising in conjunction with Trinity Collinsville for a shared rector. We will be sharing a detailed update of how that process works shortly.

FUNDRAISING: After prayerful consideration, the fundraising committee has decided we should take a pause from the Chorus Angelicus concert this year. They are looking for new ideas and people to join them on a new adventure. So far, sponsored luminaries at Light New Hartford, an ecumenical dinner, and several other ideas have popped up.

DWELLING IN THE WORD: The Spirit is with us! Dwelling in the Word is

restarting on May 22nd at 10:30. We hope to see you there! We will be exploring some different formats as well.

NEW HARTFORD LAND TRUST: We are pleased to be hosting the annual meeting of the New Hartford Land Trust here at St John's on May 8th at 5:30pm. After a short business meeting the presentation will be: "From Fire to Ice: The Forces that Sculpted our Local Landscape" by Jonathan Craig, Executive Director Emeritus, Talcott Mountain Science Center.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY FOOD DRIVE DATE: Our monthly food drive is on May 17th, 10-1pm.

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CARDS: Please sign the June Birthday and Anniversary cards; they are located in the narthex.

PRAYER LIST: Your prayers, cards, and well wishes are very much appreciated by all the people on, or recently on, our prayer list! The Prayer list goes out on Tuesday at 8 a.m., please contact to the office to place a prayer request.

2025 ALTAR FLOWERS – The 2025 Calendar is up in the narthex for Altar flowers sign up. Suggested updated donation is \$65, price has increased by Stop & Shop. Also, if you would like to have the Sanctuary Candle burn in someone's memory, please contact the office.

BINGO: Bingo is currently on hold, we hope to restart soon.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! A sign up for coffee hour for June-September is posted; remember the church supplies the coffee, plates, creamer. If you would like to help out with reading, greeting, or as a liturgical assistant, the easiest way to get on the list is to call/email the office, sign-up on the sheet (for coffee hour), or let the week's vestry host know.

FAVORITE HYMN – Please contact Halyna if you would like a favorite/special hymn played at any of the services. Thank you.

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS – Our Prayer Shawls and other knit work continue to be well loved and used. Thinking of knitting? We often meet on the first Sunday of the month, but really any Sunday is a great one for knitting!

Next Week's Worship Leaders
Officiant: The Rev. Joan Phelps
Lector: Melanie Kirkpatrick
Intercessor: Julie Gargiulo
Announcements: Guy Hayes
Greeters: John and Julie Gargiulo
Coffee: John and Julie Gargiulo
Vestry Greeter: John Gargiulo
Liturgical Assistant: Blake Hall
Counters: Betty Castonguay and Guy Hayes

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord

SAINT JOHN'S
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Halyna Petronchak, *Director of Music*
Anne Hall, *Administrator*
Nancy Butler, Sr. Warden Gordon Ross, Jr. Warden
Larry Espinet, Treasurer Ann Atwood, Clerk
Sue Hall Nancy Linton
Guy Hayes John Gargiulo Rose Osborne
Robert Osborne & Kevin Case, Convention Delegates
Diane Hayes, Asst. Treasurer/Archivist

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