



Dear People of St. John's:

Throughout the pandemic we have used the metaphor of exile to describe our time away from in-person worship in our building, calling on the stories of the Israelites during their time of exile in Babylon.

Now it is time for us to begin to make our return. We will return on July 12th at 9 a.m. on a trial basis. If it goes well, we will continue. Be patient with us as we learn how to make this work. There may be some changes along the way. And, just as the Israelites did not all return at once, we won't return to everything we used to do all at once either. And, just as Israel looked different when the Israelites returned than it did when they left, our worship will look different now than it did before we were exiled.

Here's why:

Despite the number of cases having leveled, COVID-19 still poses risks to everyone. The virus isn't gone; in fact, as I am writing this local Niagara County authorities have just announced two new cases and one death because of the virus. COVID poses even more significant risks to those of us who are older than 65 and those who have pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or respiratory ailments. People in these vulnerable categories are more likely to catch the virus and the virus is more likely to be serious or life-threatening for them. Given these realities, our worship will look different than in the past so that we can decrease the risk.

Please know that, even though we've used the best science available in designing our in-person worship, it will not be risk-free. Make your decision about whether you will join us in person with that in mind. And know that whether you join us in person or not, we love you.

-Continued-

St. John's Episcopal Church
431 Lake Street
P.O. Box 28
Wilson, NY 14172-0028
Office Telephone: 716-751-6109
stjohnswilson@juno.com



The Very Rev. Randi Hicks Rowe
571-218-0984
saintjohnspriest@gmail.com

Diocesan Website: <https://episcopalpartnership.org>

Parish Administrator:	Jennifer Farwell-Puskas
Treasurer:	Wendy Brown
Sexton:	Jerilyn Carney

Warden
Janet Hoffman

Jr. Warden
Jerilyn Carney

Vestry

Lois Bateman

Priscilla Moot

Jennifer Farwell-Puskas

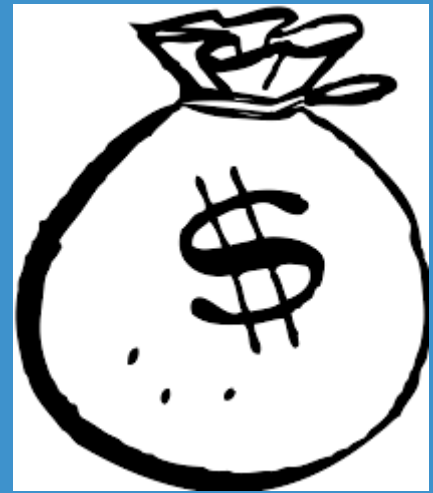
Lucy Kraatz



Treasurer's Report

May, 2020

Income:	\$ 3,515.00
Expenses:	\$ 2,247.61
Total:	\$ 1,267.39
Plus Dividends:	\$ 942.28
Total:	\$ 2,209.67



Schedule for Newsletter for 2020

September/October:

Articles Due By: 8/30/20
 Distributed: 9/06/20

November/December:

Articles Due By: 10/25/20
 Distributed: 11/01/20

GUIDELINES FOR ST. ANDREW'S COMMUNITY STORE RE-OPENING:

1. All customers and volunteers are required to wear a mask.
2. Hand sanitizer will be offered to you when you enter.
3. Please follow the arrows to help reduce congestion in high traffic areas and use a shopping basket to collect your purchases. Remember to maintain Social Distance.
4. Only 4 shoppers will be allowed in the store at a time. We request no children at this time. If you have children with you, they must be in a stroller, and/or always stay with you. Toys and stuffed animals are not to be played with unless you are purchasing. A volunteer will signal you to come in when an opening is available if we are at capacity.
5. Donation policies have changed. Clothing must be washed, folded and in clear bags or boxes not exceeding medium tote size. Household, toys, books, and decorative items must be clean/sanitized. Only 4 bags or boxes will be allowed at one time. ALL DONATIONS MUST GO TO THE BACK DOOR.
6. Cleaning of all counters, doorknobs and shopping baskets will happen often. If you are sick please visit us when you are healthy !

Please support
 St. Andrew's
 Community Store

**THE STORE IS OPEN
 ON A LIMITED
 SCHEDULE:**

**FOR THE MONTH OF
 JULY:**

**Wednesday: 11-4
 Saturday: 10-2**

2768 S. Main Street
 Newfane, New York

**MASKS MUST BE WORN AT
 ALL TIMES !!**



Pastor Randi's Message Continued...

Here are the guidelines that we will follow. We may modify them as we go to improve safety or for smoother flow:

- We will be outside in the rear parking area unless it rains. If it rains, we will be in the parish hall. Outside worship poses less risk than inside worship.
- We will post signs with symptoms of the coronavirus and ask you to pray at home, rather than in-person with us, if you are unwell. We also ask that you stay home for 14 days even if you have no symptoms if:
 - you have been in contact with someone who had the virus
 - if you have traveled to a state that has more cases per 1,000 people than Niagara County
 - if you've been on a plane
 - if you've attended a rally, protest or other large event where you couldn't social distance and/or where others weren't wearing masks
- We will show our love for each other by all wearing masks for the whole service. We ask that you bring your own.
- We will have no physical contact. We will show our love for each other by staying six feet away from each other at all times.
- We invite you to bring your own prayer book, bulletin insert and beverage (in a closed container). Bring your own chair if possible. We won't have any prayer books, inserts or coffee available for you because we don't want you to risk touching a surface after someone else. We will have a few chairs for those who aren't able to bring their own.
- We will sit six feet apart, although families may sit together. We will mark spots where you may place your chair.
- We will ask you to sign in for each service you attend. This will help with contact tracing if one of our group is later found to have the virus or to have come in close contact with someone who did.
- We will not sing. Singing spreads the virus much more rapidly.
- We will all use hand sanitizer before the service, when going up for Communion, and after the service.
- Readers will read from their spots rather than coming up to the front.
- We will have Eucharist with host only. I will use a minimum of gestures and touching. I will sanitize my hands. I will put the host in disposable cups and each person will come up one at a time to get a cup with the host, then take it back to their seats to consume. We will all throw away our own cups in the wastebasket provided to avoid others touching them. Please know that you do not have to take Communion if you feel unsafe; you can simply pray with us.

Pastor Randi's Message Continued...

- The service will be shorter than a typical Eucharist service. We will do fewer readings and will choose the shortest variations of all liturgical elements. This is because the longer we are gathered, the more viral matter potentially builds up.
- We will discourage gathering too early for worship and staying after worship for coffee hour. This is also because of viral matter build up over time.
- We will ask that if you need to use the bathroom that you follow the posted guidelines for cleaning up after yourself.
- We will have a basket or offering plate in a stationary location for your gift.
- If an outbreak happens, if cases rise significantly in Niagara County, or if we feel for any other reason that in-person worship is becoming too risky again, we will go back to Zoom until it is safe to return in-person again.

We will follow these guidelines because we love each other and we want to make this experience as safe as possible.

God bless you and I look forward to seeing each of you, either on July 12th or when you feel it is safe for you to join us.

Randi+



Usually in July we start our planning for SJC MOPS for the following year, but like others we are on hold not being able to meet physically but staying connected and will resume meetings as soon as possible.

Ironically this year's theme is "Decide to Rise". I received our packet of information and materials April 1st. This year meeting physically or not we will decide to rise; be strong; do our work and chase joy.

When you go into the Parish Hall you will notice our Prayer Tree up and there are prayers from our SJC MOPS. It is more important than ever our moms have each other and St. John's for support during these challenging times and uncertain waters.

GOD is Good.

Priscilla and Jennifer



Our numbers are going down. We are hearing that every day, at least here in Western New York and throughout the state. The numbers relating to COVID-19 that is.

The numbers that are not going down, and perhaps have increased, are the number of friends and neighbors that need help from the Wilson Food Pantry.

We have all seen the prices increasing at the grocery store which makes it even more challenging for many. The stimulus check helped many, but you can only stretch it so far.

Please consider donating to the Wilson Food Pantry. As most things have changed over the last several months, donating has also changed. In the current situation, I prefer to make a monetary donation as opposed to having to shop. Safer for everyone, less time consuming and you aren't putting yourself at risk.

The easiest way is to include a check made out to Wilson Food Pantry and include it when you mail your pledge to St. John's. Again, 2 checks, 1 envelope and 1 stamp.

If you prefer, you can mail it directly to the Wilson Food Pantry at PO Box 864, Wilson, NY 14172.

Together we will get through this and still help those in need.

Thank you,
Lucy Kraatz

St. John's Coordinator for Wilson Food Pantry



Lois Bateman	July 11
Jim Puskas	July 12
Denis Desso	July 16

Kyle Doty	August 1
Courtney Brown	August 2
John Carney	August 4
Moyra Hills	August 15
Ryan Carter	August 26
Kirsten Rodgers	August 28
Donna Kopeck	August 30

Jim Puskas & Jennifer Farwell-Puskas	July 7
Bob & Ellen Colangelo	July 18
Kevin & Wendy Brown	August 22



Please keep the following people in your prayers during our time away from each other:

We pray for..... Ann, Geoffrey, Carolyn, Deirdre, Sandy, Cathy Dempesy-Sims and family, Peter, Barb, Bob, Father Sam, Karyn, Joan, Linda, Millie, Marcy, Scott, Brianna, Jessica, Zach, Ron, Lori, Jayliann, Connie, Margaret, Peter, Zada, Madeline, Linda and our Prayer Partner - St. Peter's in Niagara Falls.



Dear Friends,

We want to thank you for your cheerful get well cards and phone calls; BUT most of all your prayers. All your loving support is appreciated very much.

Thank you and God Bless You.

We love all of you,
Millie and John High

*Sr. Warden's Report: Janet M. Hoffman
Chairperson Building & Grounds:*

The "Kitchen Project" is completed and when we have our first outdoor church service you will be able to take a walk through. I cannot begin to thank the following for their thoughtfulness and generosity:

Lois Bateman
Frank Boeck & Dawn Veach
Bob Colangelo
Janie Figura-Hamilton
Janet & Kenneth Hoffman
Felix Kutrybala
Marcia Sabey
Sharon & Keith Rhodes

I have been given some ideas for usage of the Parish Hall and if you have any ideas please let me know.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, 751-0165.

Thank all of you for your continued support and remember; while we watch over others, HE is watching over us.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet M. Hoffman, Sr. Warden

We are worshipping together via Zoom each Sunday until July 12th

<https://zoom.us/j/578708315>

Password: ontario

Zoom

We will be using Zoom to meet and worship together while we cope with COVID 19. It isn't perfect, but it is better than many of the alternatives because we get to see and hear each other in real time. Over these next few weeks we will all be learning the ins and outs together, so join in and don't be shy.

What is Zoom?

Zoom is a cloud-based video conferencing service you can use to virtually meet with others - either by video or audio-only or both, all while conducting live chats - and it lets you record those sessions to view later. Over half of Fortune 500 companies reportedly used Zoom in 2019.

You do not have to have a Zoom account to attend a Zoom meeting. You will need a computer, mobile phone or iPad with a webcam and microphone to participate in a Zoom session.

Think of a Zoom Meeting as a face-to-face meeting and conduct yourself as you would if you were all present in the same room. There are some additional useful tips below to observe to help ensure the meeting goes smoothly for all involved:

- Join early - up to 5 minutes before the meeting start time
- If you haven't used Zoom before click the link to download Zoom prior to the day of the meeting and familiarize yourself with any features you may need to use on the day - mute/unmute microphone, stop/start video, screen share etc.
- Have your video on unless you are experiencing connection issues
- **Find a quiet space without interruptions / background noise**
- Have a plain background - avoid backlight from bright windows
- Have good lighting on your face so you can be seen clearly
- Adjust your camera to be at around eye level if possible - especially take note of the angle of your laptop screen if using the built-in camera.
- **Mute your microphone when not talking**
- You can demonstrate active engagement through eye-contact, visual cues such as head nodding or thumbs up.
- Try to avoid talking over / at the same time as other participants
- Pay attention to the time and focus on equitable participation. Self- monitor your sharing to ensure that everyone in the group has an opportunity to participate. You can raise hands in the group or use the chat to indicate you would like to speak.
- Be aware you are on camera and try to avoid doing other tasks, checking emails, looking at your phone, etc.



- Your Vestry is still meeting each month via “Zoom”.
- Please note that the “Book of Common Prayer” is located online at:
<https://episcopalchurch.org/files/bookofcommonprayer.pdf>
- Please continue to check your email, the website and your US Postal mail for current information regarding St. John’s.

St. John's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 28

Wilson, NY 14172

DATED MATERIAL