



ST. JOHN'S HONEOYE FALLS NEWS

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE

REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOST

BY THE VERY REV. VIRGINIA TYLER SMITH

As I write this, we're on the edge of Memorial Day and the official start of the summer season. Last year at this time, we were hoping for a time when we could return to church and lift the precautions around COVID. We thought, "Surely this won't go through the end of the year."

Yet it did. We entered into another lockdown and spent our second Lent in isolation from the church campus and from each other. So much has happened, and we have lost more than we could imagine. Worldwide, 3.5 million people have died from COVID. Here at home, the US has lost almost 600,000 people to this pandemic. That number is higher than the total casualties in any US military conflict, and it hurts our hearts just to consider it, let alone live with its truth.

That is why I found myself struggling this week, as I listened to the host of one of my favorite bible study podcasts suggesting that we approach Memorial Day 2021 as a day of commemoration for all we have lost, especially the losses from this pandemic. He went on to enumerate those losses: the loss of lives, of relationships, of work, of economic health, of physical health, of security.

The speaker was largely correct. We have lost a great deal, and it will take us years to develop a true sense of meaning about this time. Even so, I cannot bring myself to equate the losses borne from COVID with the losses suffered by our Armed Forces over the past two and half centuries.

(continued)

JOIN US!

SUNDAY VIRTUAL OR
IN-PERSON SERVICE,
10 AM

TUESDAY VIRTUAL
BIBLE STUDY,
11 AM

WEDNESDAY
VIRTUAL EVENING
PRAYER, 6 PM

ZOOM MEETING ID:
532-398-8617



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From 1775 to 2019, more than 3.8 million American troops died in military conflicts. Personally, both my grandfathers, my father, and every single one of my uncles served in the military. My family was lucky. We did not lose anyone. For those who have lost someone to a military death, that loss never heals. Each and every citizen who died serving this nation is a hero for their bravery, their valor, and their willingness to do what their nation needed them to do.

As horrible as COVID has been and will continue to be, I cannot see folding our grief from the pandemic losses into Memorial Day. Both the COVID casualties and the military casualties are staggering in the scale and limitless in the sorrow they cause. Both require us to pay attention and to remember. However, there is a fundamental and qualitative difference between the two. We owe something to those who died in military service. They gave of themselves defending democracy and our ever-evolving sense of what it means to be one nation under God. We owe them gratitude, and we owe them honor. We cannot repay them, and we must never forget them.

Thus, I offer following prayer. from Theodore W. Edwards, Jr.'s book **Refuge and Strength—Prayers for the Military and their Families.**

As we pause to lift our hearts and minds in prayer, let us be mindful of those who have laid down their lives in the service of their country. O God, we ask your strength, that we might dedicate ourselves to perfecting your kingdom of peace and justice among nations. Let us give thanks for the many blessings of freedom which he possess, purchased at the cost of many lives and sacrifices. Fill us with courage to fulfill our tasks and in no way break with the fallen. We commend these fallen to your mercy and ask that you give them eternal rest. This we ask and pray in your name. Amen.

May God help us this Memorial Day to recall that the loss of 3.8 million people is a long testament to how precious our own lives, our democracy, and this nation are. May we ask for God's grace to make us people of peace, and may we remember with solemnity and with an abiding word of thanks.

God's peace to all of you,
Virginia+

THANK YOU, BROWNIES!

On June 14, Pat Culver will join another local Brownie Girl Scout Troop to help them prepare flower planters for around the church campus.

Thank you, girls for helping to make the grounds so pretty!



SUNDAY SERVERS

Date	Crucifer	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Prayers	Coffee Hour	Altar Flowers	Altar Guild
6/6	Mary Jo Smith	Gina Hurley	Kaelin Allmendinger	Valerie Schillinger	Jan Metcalf		John Rutkowski	Judy Haravitch & Anne Struele
6/13	Lucas Smith	Jan Metcalf	Allan Shafer	Catherine Faurot	Chris Baron			
6/20	Allan Shafer	Allan Shafer	Valerie Schillinger	Judy Haravitch	John Rutkowski		Valerie Schillinger	Gloria Ulrop
6/27	Ray Locke	Kaelin Allmendinger	Allene Baillargeon	Eileen Locke	Gina Hurley		Rev. Tyler Smith	

Cleaning Help:

Coffee Hour - we are in need of Coffee Hour hosts. You bring the treats or snacks, St. John's provides the rest. Join forces with a friend or ask for help if you have never done it before. This is a simple way to help out. Treats can be store bought or homemade.



Cleaning - since the Pandemic began, our weekly cleaners (volunteers from Life Time) have stopped coming to the church. Jill has taken on many of the cleaning tasks around campus, but we are looking for more help. This is a once monthly commitment, with dates being somewhat flexible. There will be a list of tasks to complete and all products/tools will be made available (though paper towels donations would be very helpful)!



Altar Flowers - would you like to honor or memorialize a special person or event by providing altar flowers? Flowers can be from your garden or the store. We are happy to order them for you as well (\$50 fee).



Flower Fund - Flowers make an emotion or sentiment tangible. From this pandemic, we are in a period of renewal. What was once old can be made new again. Please consider donating to the St. John's Church Flower Fund.

Reasons for giving to the St. John's Flower Fund:

1. Memorial
2. In Thanksgiving: Thanks to God, a kindness bestowed, the birth of a child, a marriage, an anniversary, a birthday of a friend or loved one, the music in the church, just 'cuz this is the way we've always done it.
3. A friend in church- I appreciate you. (Anonymous would be fun)



Fall Flea & Fun Committee - Do you like to organize? Are you creative? Join us at 7pm on June 1st for the first meeting of the Fall Flea & Fun Committee! This will be our second year running this vendor event from our church parking lot. We have already had vendors from last year reach out to see if it would be happening again. For more information about the event, joining the committee or being a vendor please reach out to Virginia!

Save the date!

SEPTEMBER 25

ST. JOHN'S
2ND ANNUAL
FALL FLEA & FUN
VENDOR EVENT



GETTING TO KNOW

Pat Culver



Pat and one of her beloved kitties, Abby at Christmas time.

Every member of St. John's has something that makes them interesting and unique. This month we are profiling our own "St. Francis," Pat Culver.

1. Tell us a little about yourself –where you live, what you did prior to retirement, etc.

I am proud of some FIRSTS: first person in my family to graduate from college; first Christian Ed. Director for Lancaster Presbyterian Church; first Placement Specialist for Steuben Co. ARC; member of first team to establish community residences for persons with developmental disabilities in Massachusetts. Born and brought up in the City of Rochester, I have lived in Chicago, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and rural NY state.

2. What are your hobbies?

I have many interests: animal care and rescue, birdwatching, non-fiction reading, folk music (including playing concertina), rockhounding, bicycling.

3. How long have you been a member at St. John's?

I've been a member of St. John's for 3 years

4. You're very involved with the gardens here at church. How did you decide to get involved with the gardens, and what is your favorite part about that ministry?

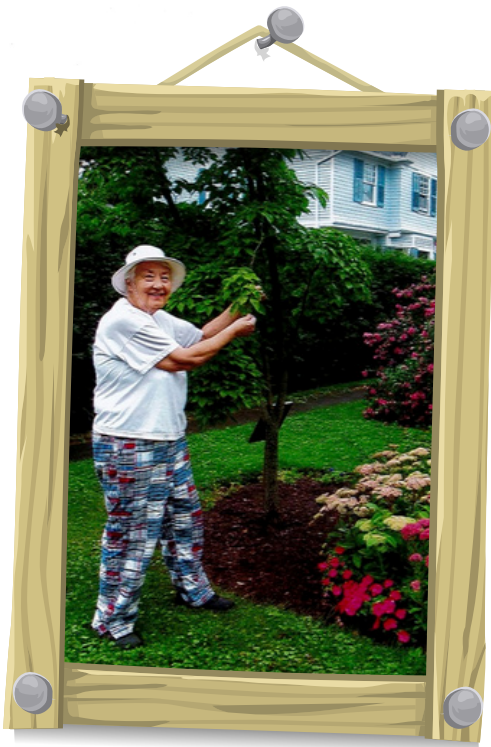
I am crazy about God's continuing creation. Developed gardening, landscaping skills earning my way through college. My maternal grandfather is my role model for staying healthy as one ages, having gardened into his nineties.

5. You write poetry. What inspires you, and have you ever written a poem about something that you saw at St. John's?

\Yes, I've written two poems about aspects of St. John's. One is called Church Toad and one is about the devotional candles we have at the back of the church. *(Editor's Note: Space doesn't allow us to print them here, so we will post the poems in the Parish House.)*

6. What's something that no one at church knows about you?

My partner, Jan and I share a love of church and "early" music from the 1500-1700's.



Pat at home in the gardens at St. John's

THE CHURCH IS LEAVING THE BUILDING!

JOIN US FOR A PRAYER WALK!

Most of the time, we come to church via car (or bike or we're online), and we may not notice much of the community around us. God is all around—on our church campus, in Honeoye Falls, Mendon, Lima and Rush, in our workplaces, schools, and homes. From the waterfalls in town to the shopping plazas, to historic houses, to new construction, God is active and inviting us to see.

On June 13, we are going to take a walk and to listen to what else God is saying right in our own neighborhood.

This is called prayer walking. How does it work? We begin at church with some prayers for ourselves and the places where we will go. Then we will split up into small groups to go take a walk. If we have some who are mobility-limited, we can also set up a "prayer-drive," doing a slow car ride through a neighborhood. Some of the people will stay here in Honeoye Falls. A few will go to Rush. A few will go to Mendon Center. A few will go to Lima. If we have enough people, we might even have a few go to the Lehigh Trail. The point is to spend time walking, observing, listening, and praying.

Each team will be given a list of things to look for, and ideas for what to pray. We encourage the team members to share what they are observing with each other, and to make notes for when we come back together.

After about an hour, we will regather at church for some refreshments and to discuss what we observed. Where is God active in our community? Where do we notice opportunities for God's justice, God's compassion, God's healing? What is God calling us, as a parish, to be in the community?

Please join us for this fun, faithful event, Sunday June 13 from 1-3pm at the church! Comfortable, sturdy shoes and weather appropriate clothes a must! Please bring a water bottle, a little notebook to jot things down, and a sense of adventure. We will supply the sunscreen and the post-walk snacks.

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

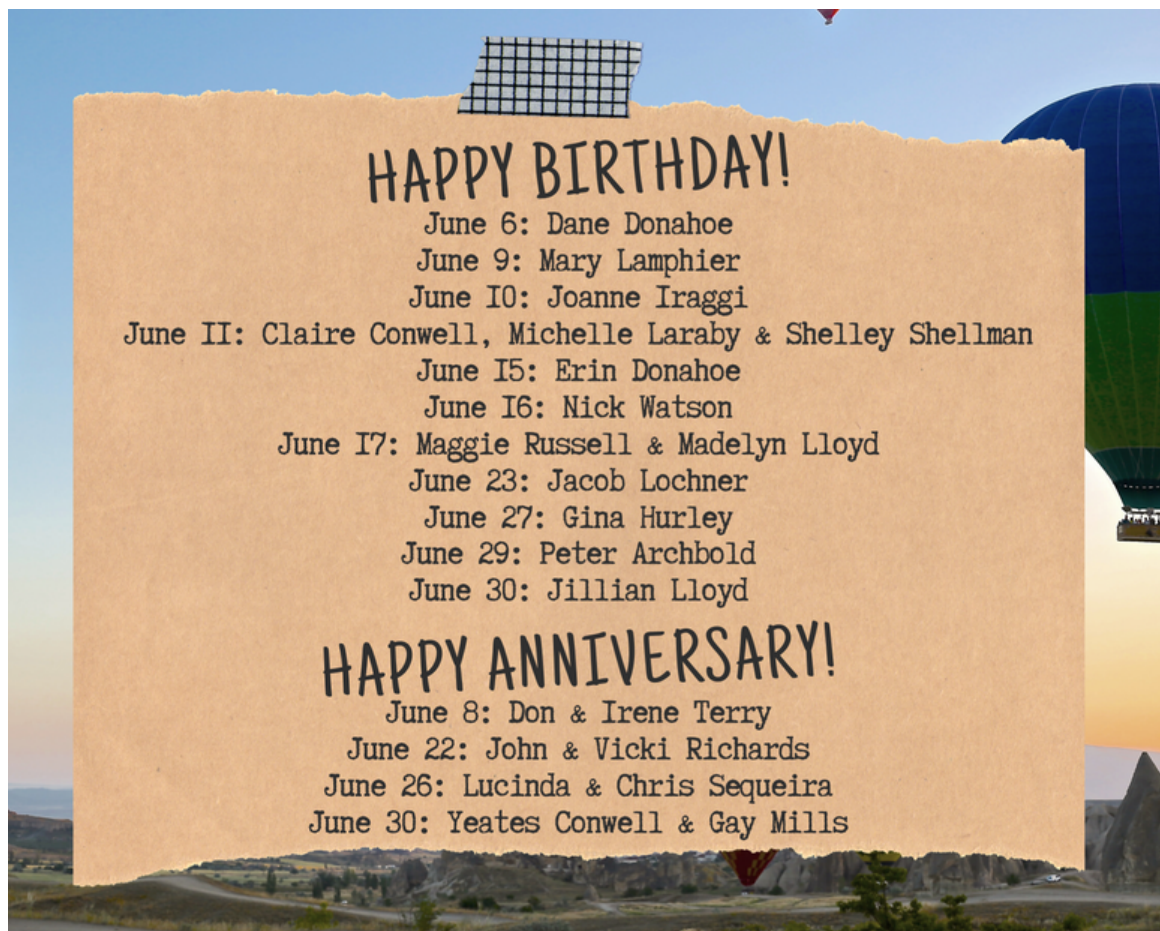
Our local food cupboard, FISH (Friends in Service Here), is in need of the following items. If you are able to help, please bring them to church with your or you can set-up an appointment to drop them off during the week at the church office. Please call 624-4074 or email info@stjohnshoneoyefalls.org to make an appointment.

- coffee
- tea
- cereal
- crackers
- toilet paper
- full-size personal care items

We are also still working with the Veteran's Outreach Center to provide them with support.. They are currently looking for the following items, which can also be brought to church or you can make an appointment with the office to bring them during the week.

- men's brief's in larger sizes
- new or gently used men's t-shirts/polos (size large & XL)
- packaged, store bought cookies

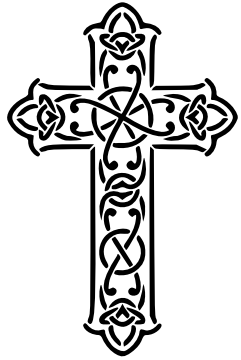
Thank you for your continued help in supporting those in our community!



JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11 am Bible Study 7 pm Fall Flea & Fun Committee Meeting	2 6 pm E. P. 7 pm AA Meeting - PH	3 12 pm Silver Spoons	4 2 pm Warden's Meeting	5
6 Pentecost 2 Rev. Michael Laver, celebrant	7	8 11 am Bible Study	9 6 pm E.P. 7 pm AA Meeting - PH	10 5 pm Girl Scout Troop 61044 Meeting - PH	11 2 pm Warden's Meeting	12
13 Pentecost 3	14 6 pm Girl Scout Troop 60249 Meeting - PH	15 11 am Bible Study 7 pm Vestry	16 6 pm E.P. 7 pm AA Meeting - PH	17	18 2 pm Warden's Meeting	19
20 Pentecost 4	21	22 11 am Bible Study	23 6 pm E. P. 7 pm AA Meeting - PH	24	25 2 pm Warden's Meeting	26
27 Pentecost 5	28 6 pm Girl Scout Troop 60249 Meeting - PH	29 11 am Bible Study	30 6 pm E. P. 7 pm AA Meeting - PH	VACATION COVERAGE Virginia will be on vacation June 5-12. The Rev. Ron Young of Christ Church Pittsford is available for pastoral emergencies. You may reach Father Ron at 586-1226.		





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Health and well-being:

Theresa, Turi, John, Keith, Renee, Elaine, Sarah, Roger, Josie, George, Anthony, Chelsea, Patricia, Stephen, Rosie, Tony, Alex, Tom, John, Rick, Cathy, Becca, Mike, Rosemary, Katie, David and Charles

For those who have died:

Paul, Doug, David, Elissa, Maria, Sue and Matthew

ST. JOHN'S HONEOYE FALLS NEWS

The Right Rev. Prince G. Singh,
Bishop

The Very Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith,
Rector

11 Episcopal Avenue
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

www.stjohnshoneoyefalls.org
Info@stjohnshoneoyefalls.org

585-624-4074