



ST. JOHN'S HONEOYE FALLS NEWS

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

FR. JIM TRIMBLE

A few years ago, at about this time of year, I was helping a homeless woman, Mary Ann, new to town who pushed the boundaries of my comfort zones. Before arriving at the church door, she had been at the local hospital after leaving the local homeless shelter. Before that, a brief stint at the State Hospital in Lexington, KY, after time at other missions and shelters. According to her stories, she'd been on Disability and Medicaid since 1995, grew up in Tennessee and Indiana, and is the last of her living family members.

This was the first time I walked alongside someone while they were admitted to the system at the County Community Services program. This was the first time I sat with someone while at an appointment at the County Homeless Coalition. Part of our time also included driving to the shelter to retrieve her belongings, to Wal-Mart to cash government checks, to Best Western to get a roof over her head for a few days, and to Dollar General, Goodwill, and back to an apartment where someone invited her to stay for a bit.

Glimpsing at her prescription medications I could tell she needed someplace that was staffed to look after her decision-making or at least be around if she had questions about things. She could recall what street her church was on when she was six years-old but couldn't remember that she put her address book in her purse 3 minutes ago. She could tell stories of life in Dickson, TN and name her neighbors and church friends from 50 years prior and dream of a small-town house with a yard where she could walk and window-shop during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Yet, she thought the man crossing the street in front of us was the devil.

It all took me back to my oldest brother. Once alcoholism had taken hold of his spirit and his everyday life, he spiraled into drugs and psychosis. *(continued on next page)*

JOIN US!

**SUNDAY
IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL
SERVICE, 10 AM**

**TUESDAY
BIBLE STUDY, ZOOM
ONLY, 11AM**

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 532-
398-8617**

**CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE**

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 24
7 PM**



He called me one day to help get my mom out of his locked truck - she'd been dead for a few years. He was briefly homeless until the VA helped him get a little apartment in Louisville. I would stop by, check his hiding places for drugs and alcohol while he wasn't looking, and he would share home videos from the early to mid 70s, a time when he was at the height of his confidence and self-respect. When I last visited him in the hospital before he died, he was an empty shell of the hero I knew when I was younger, and the man I knew when I became a father. If you met Tom for the first time in that hospital bed, you'd swear he was 80 years old. He was 55, a few years younger than I am now.

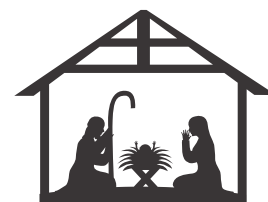
Our country, our communities, our churches, and our families have a hard time facing mental health issues and the people who live with them. While it's easy to point at Scripture, when reading about people with demons, and claim "Oh, that's mental illness, but they didn't know that 2,000 years ago," we still treat folks with that same stigma of being societal outcasts, rather than beloved children of God. So many of us are broken and hurting, through trauma, or chemical imbalances, or loss, and don't know what to do when looking at mental illness head on.

Helping folks and being present with God's people is par for the course for all of God's children, not just ordained clergy, but our steepled building and my collar can serve as beacons for those who feel lost, afraid, and alone.

In my time with Mary Ann, I helped bring her to folks who are trained in this field, who know the right questions to ask, and have far more patience than me to help find the right and proper path for her at this time. What they couldn't do, and what I couldn't do, was to make sure she did the work on her part to help herself get to a better place. That's where prayer comes in.

That's where faith comes in. That's where God comes in. Yes, we rely on God in times of crisis and pain, and in times of joy, but we also have to do our share of the work in this world - that's how prayer works. That's how faith works. That's how God works.

+Fr. Jim



SUNDAY SERVERS



Date	Crucifer	Old Testament & Psalm	New Testament & Prayers	Altar Guild
12/7	Ray Locke	Gaie Goodness	Chris Baron	Judy Haravitch
12/14	Mary Jo Smith	Mary Jo Smith	Catherine Fautot	Anne Streule
12/21	Allan Shafer	Jan Metcalf	Judy Haravitch	Ray Locke
12/24 7pm	Mary Jo Smith	Mary Jo Smith	Nancy Gift	Ray Locke
12/28	Ray Locke	Mark Stiegler	Shelly Shellman	Judy Haravitch

The Bishop is coming! Join us!



**Bishop Kara Wagner
Sherer will be preaching
at St. John's on
Sunday, December 14th
at 10 am**

**We will be celebrating those being
confirmed and reaffirming their faith.
A reception will follow.**

EAGLE STAR HOUSING NEEDS

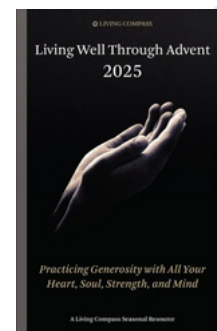
Thank you for your continued support of Eagle Star Housing! Currently, there is a need for the following items. New items only, please!

- paper towels
- toilet paper
- tissues
- napkins
- dish detergent
- dryer sheets
- laundry detergent pods



**EAGLE STAR
HOUSING**

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



Living Well Through Advent 2025: Practicing Generosity with all your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind is a thoughtful companion for your journey through the Advent season. This devotional provides a foundation for seeking a deeper experience of Advent, an experience that will help prepare us for the true meaning of Christmas.

Copies are free and available in the church!



JOIN US FOR A

HYMN SING

**December 14
6:15pm**

Pinehurst Community
Center



Have you considered giving to the St. John's Flower Fund for Christmas?

Honor a loved one with a donation to help decorate the church. Please let us know the names of those you will be honoring or remembering by December 17, so we can list the person(s) in the Christmas bulletin.



UGLY
SWEATER
party

DECEMBER 21



Because sometimes the holidays hurt.

When the holidays do not bring you joy or happiness.
When you are feeling overwhelmed and downhearted.



You are not alone.

Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service

December 13 | 3pm
Pinehurst Community Room | 1000 Pine Trail, Honeoye Falls

Happy Birthday!

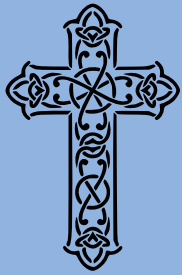
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|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1: Judie Knight | 23: John Richards |
| 10: Neil Houghton, Rebecca Terry | 27: Jean Simmonds |
| 12: David Coddington | 31: Lisa Lewis-Coddington |
| 20: Bev Smith | |
| 22: Grace Ingle, Julie Walker | |

Happy Anniversary!

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 28: Judy & Lew Gurley | 29: Cynthia & Peter Archbold |
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DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 11am Bible Study (Zoom)	3 7:30pm AA Meeting (PH)	4	5	6
7 10am Holy Eucharist - Advent 2 Christmas Plant orders available!	8	9 11am Bible Study (Zoom)	10 7:30pm AA Meeting (PH)	11	12	13 3pm Blue Christmas Service (Pinehurst) 6:30pm HFFD Christmas Parade
14 10am Holy Eucharist - Advent 3 & Bishop's Visit	15	16 11am Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Vestry Meeting	17 7:30pm AA Meeting (PH)	18	19	20
21 10am Holy Eucharist - Advent 4 Ugly Sweater Party & Greening of the church	22	23 11am Bible Study (Zoom)	24 7pm Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm AA Meeting (PH)	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27
28 10am Holy Eucharist - 1st Sunday after Christmas	29	30 11am Bible Study (Zoom)	31 7:30pm AA Meeting (PH) NEW Year's EVE	 INGATHERING OF PLEDGE CARDS WILL BE DURING THE SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14! If you need a pledge card, please contact the church office.		



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Health and well-being:

John, Gloria, Alice, Chelsea, Greg, Jan, Rob, John, Zeke, Robert, Patrick, Michael, Christopher, Sandy, Cannie, Anne, Mark, Taran, Kate, Sharon, Lew, Lizzie, Joel, Robbin, the Burnam Family, Jean, Donald, Vicki, Flynn, Brenda, Emily, Lorraine and Pat

For those who have died:

Joyce, Jim, Julie, Robin, Patricia, Lauren, Glora, Earl



Help us get the church ready for
Christmas after coffee hour on
Sunday, December 21st!



Join us and celebrate the coming of Christmas

Christmas Eve at St. John's

December 24 | 7 PM

ST. JOHN'S HONEOYE FALLS NEWS

The Right Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer,
Bishop

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