

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



## From Your Rector

I will be going on Sabbatical beginning April 22 and continuing through the end of June and using a combination of continuing education, vacation, and Sabbatical time. I have served as your priest for almost seven years, and church officials generally recommend that priests take a Sabbatical once every five to seven years. In my covenant with you, you generously provide me with two weeks of paid Sabbatical time for every year of service, accruing until my seventh year. In my seventh year, I must take at least some of my Sabbatical time to begin accruing again.

I know that a Sabbatical is a new concept in Western New York, although it has been standard throughout most of the Episcopal Church for several years. I am answering a few questions you might have about the Sabbatical. Of course, you can always ask me questions about it in person.

### Why am I taking a Sabbatical?

Taking time apart and praying, resting, and studying helps me keep my relationship with God solid. It also helps me to remain close to my family and to have an extended time to discern what new things God wants me to learn and bring back to you. I am not taking a Sabbatical just to be away from you. Indeed, I enjoy you and love you. You bring me great joy. But I also know that the church's Sabbatical policy is a good one that is designed to help me stay well spiritually, physically, and emotionally so that I can continue to care for you. A good metaphor is what the flight attendant tells you when they go over the safety information on the plane. They tell you that if the oxygen mask pops down and you're traveling with a small child, to put your own mask on before helping the child to do so. The idea is that as a clergy person, I can't save you or help you if I'm not well myself.

*continued on page 2*

## Join Us Sundays

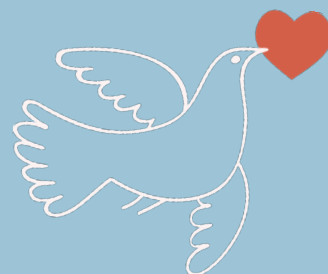
10:45

**In-Person or on Zoom**

Sunday School at 10:30

**StAndrewsBurt.com**

*St. Andrew's  
Seeks to Share  
the Unconditional  
Love of God*



*continued from page 1*

### **What will I do on Sabbatical?**

I will spend the first week on a spiritual retreat as a temporary member of the Iona Community in Scotland. Iona is a major European pilgrimage site and has associations with St. Columba.

Then Tom and I will travel in Europe for two weeks. We'll be home for a few weeks and enjoy some "date" time together locally. We also will take some short trips to see family and friends in Virginia, some of whom we haven't seen for seven years. Then I will do three weeks of continuing education.

### **Can we still talk to you while you are on Sabbatical?**

Certainly, I will post some about my Sabbatical on Facebook, and I hope you'll feel free to comment just as you would for any friend posting about their adventures. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, Deacon Martha will help you. If you have an item of church business to discuss, the wardens and vestry will handle it.

I will look forward to returning to you on the first Sunday of July. I am sure we will have much to talk about as we update each other on what God did for each of us during the time away.

Randi +

### **Worship Schedule during Sabbatical April 21 - June 30, 2023**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presider</u>	<u>Worship</u>	
4/23/2023		Morning Prayer	
4/30/2023		Morning Prayer	
5/7/2023	Rev. Joe Kozlowski	Holy Eucharist	Supply
5/14/2023	Deacon Martha	Deacon's Mass	Supply
5/21/2023	Rev. Al Johnson	Holy Eucharist	Pro bono
5/28/2023	Rev. Al Johnson	Holy Eucharist	Pro bono
6/4/2023	Rev. Joe Kozlowski	Holy Eucharist	Supply
6/11/2023	Deacon Martha	Deacon's Mass	Supply
6/18/2023		Morning Prayer	
6/25/2023		Morning Prayer	

**For more informations about Sabbaticals for priests and pastors, please turn to page 12.**

**Questions or concerns related to Pastor Randi's Sabbatical should be directed to your Wardens.**

# Our Amazing Youth!

**Jonathan Clarcq** was a lead in Newfane's musical production of *Newsies*.

**Hannah Pomeroy** was on set crew for the Newfane musical.

**Lana Hornquist** earned 2nd place for 1st grade in the category of Astronomy at the Newfane Elementary Science Fair with her model of the solar system.

**Julia Leibring** was selected for and performed in All County Band. She plays the trombone.

**Gage Gaille** earned his red belt in karate in November and is in training for his black belt.

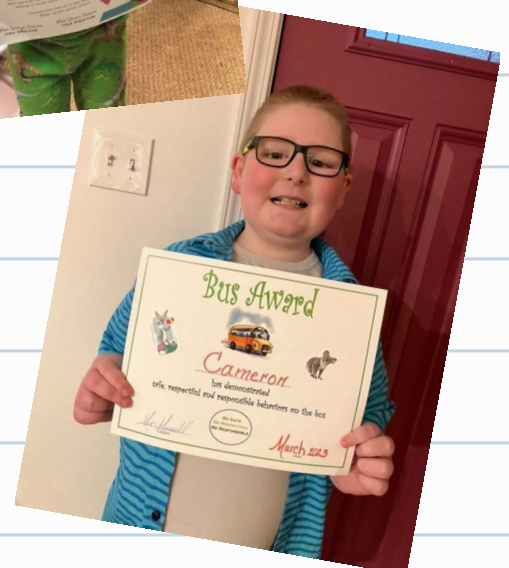
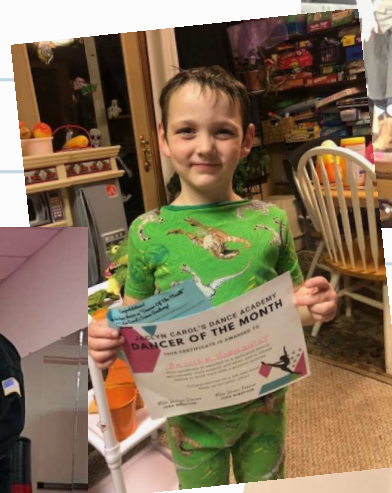
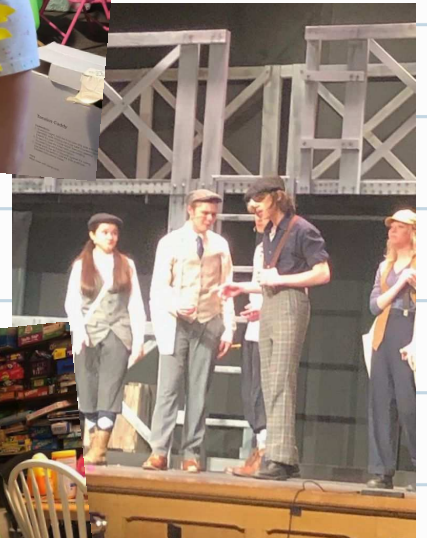
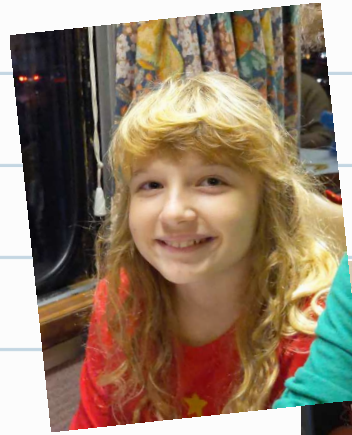
**Grace Pless** earned a Panther Pride Award in October at Newfane Elementary.

**Archer Hornquist** earned Dancer of the Month for Jaclyn Carols Dance Academy in October.

**Judianna Knott** was selected as the 5th Grade Panther of the Month at Newfane Middle School.

**Cameron Naylor** received a March Bus Award for safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors.

**Molly Dengate** has been on honor roll all year. She played jv soccer, basketball and cheerleading for her school. She was Dance Student of the Month for Positivity.





# Diocese

## Register Now for Summer Camp!

### *Pennsylvania Camp in June*

### *New York Camp in August*

This summer, the partnership dioceses will hold summer camp sessions in June and August. All students finishing grades 2 through 12 from both dioceses are welcome at both camps:

August 6-10 at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center in Bemus Point, New York. The cost for this camp is \$240. Contact Wendy Schumacher with questions. Register online for the August session of camp in New York.

*Image Right: a family camp day at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center in 2021*



## Save the Dates: Ministry Gatherings

Beginning in May, the partnership dioceses will be holding a series of ministry gatherings:

May 13: Ministry Models & Formation for the Post-Pandemic Church, St. Matthias', East Aurora

August 19: Congregational Life & Management, location TBD

September 16: Community & Neighborhood Connections, St. Luke's, Jamestown

Ministry gatherings will include workshops for clergy, vestry members, and all congregation members.

Additional information will be included in future newsletters.

It seems I've been trying so hard to try to do the right thing, that I've made God into something of a commodity to be consumed for my salvation to stay above the fear and guilt that I carry as a sinner.

I'm thinking perhaps I will try instead to simply be with God. Being with God as a friend wherever and whatever I'm doing. Being with Him and simply behold His amazing glory, as He hangs out with me and does the same.

Life is Good +++++

Steve Clark

# Around Our Parish

## Adopted Family Update

Thank you everyone who donated to adopted family ministry this year so far. We have given a number of gift cards, fish dinners, a ride to the airport, desserts, Easter dinner, and Easter baskets to the families. All these things are MUCH appreciated.

I love that our name is out in the community associated with the great work we do for these families. Each year we help lift the burden a little for each one. Thank you for helping me help them.

Jamie

---

## Wilson Burt Rd. Bridge Closure

Niagara County DPW will be working on the bridge carrying Wilson Burt Road over 18 Mile Creek. The bridge rehabilitation project will take place over the summer, starting in April. The anticipated construction duration will be 4-6 months. The project will involve the temporary closure of the Wilson Burt Road from West Creek Road to Lockport-Olcott Road for the duration of the construction project. There will be a signed detour taking traffic to the north toward Olcott.

---

## Fish Fry Update

Hello Everyone,

As of this writing we are halfway through our fish fry season. The weather hasn't been the best on Friday nights, but even so we have made a profit of over \$ 7,000. Hopefully the tail end of our season will be just as fruitful.

I want to extend a big thank you to all who have braved the elements to stand outside and direct traffic and call the orders in. Where the kitchen is a hot craze of activity, standing outside in the snow and rain is above and beyond.

I also want to say a big thank you to Tom. None of fish fry would happen without his kitchen expertise and all his time he dedicates to prepping, shopping, and cooking. So much happens behind the scenes, that I don't even know of. He truly makes the magic of fish fry happen. Thanks Tom.

Jamie

---

## February Vestry Highlights

Welcomed new vestry members and discussed the responsibilities of a vestry member.

Discussed the clergy team that will cover most of Pastor Randi's Sabbatical time. The remaining Sundays will have Morning Prayer.

Discussed a collaboration with Newfane United Methodist Church for a weekly after school program. The program will start at United Methodist and continue at St Andrew's.

The vestry has asked the Building & Grounds Committee to install the large TV in the Nave for Hybrid Services.

---

## Pet Food Pantry Updates

We are so excited to announce that **Clyde's Feed & Animal Center** in Wright's Corners is partnering with us to provide pet food for our pantry! Watch for more updates soon - we are hoping to officially begin distribution this summer. Meanwhile, the next time you are out shopping please consider picking up some pet food to share. Better yet, donate the money you would have spent and let us shop for you! Your dollar will go a long way because Clyde's is offering us amazing deals, and we are making our purchases tax free. See Lynn Bewley with any questions.



# Sunday School at St. Andrew's

*Start children on the right path. And even when they are old, they will not turn away from it. Proverbs 22:6*

Teachers hold a special place in our hearts for the important role they play in our growing up years, imparting wisdom and helping to shape us into who we are today.

At St. Andrew's church, teachers are few in number, but hearty in their resolve to help your child have a relationship with Jesus.

## **The 4 Qualities of our Great Sunday School Teachers at St. Andrew's**

### **1) A heart for God**

This is where all ministry begins, whether you are teaching Sunday School or leading the entire church. In fact, this is where our ministry should flow from – our deep, sincere, committed heart for God.

### **2) A love for people**

Scripture teaches that the two greatest commands are to love God and to love . . . people (Mark 12:30-31)! Our teaching ought to flow from our love for God but because of our love for people. This means we are not only committed to the lesson, but to actually understanding and building relationships with the people we are teaching.

### **3) A passion for God's Word**

A heart for God and a love for people set the stage for the content of our teaching, and that content needs to be solidly based on Biblical truth. As a Sunday School teacher, it's our responsibility to dig into God's Word not just to teach our lesson, but to understand it fully and allow it to permeate every part of our lives. As we do this, every element of our teaching becomes based on and saturated in the Word.

### **4) A habit of praying**

A great Sunday School teacher knows that it is the power of God that brings about transformation, so a deep dependence on God, exhibited through the habit of praying, is essential for a great Sunday School teacher.

Any great teacher is only a great teacher as long as they continue to grow. This is true of a Sunday School teacher, as well. Luke 2:52 says that "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all the people." Basically, he grew mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially. A great example for any great Sunday School teacher.



# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 02.19.23

In the ancient Near East, mountains were considered the pillars holding the sky above the earth. The mountain was considered a bridge between earth, the realm of humans, and heaven, which is the realm of God. [i] So, a mountain was a place to encounter the divine. Moses went up onto the mountain to talk with God. Elijah went to the top of the mountain when he was discouraged and heard God's still, small voice. Jesus takes three of his disciples to the top of the mountain to see Him as the divine God He is.

In our culture, we also have thin spaces. These are moments when the separation between the world and heaven is so thin that we feel an overwhelming sense of the presence of God.

God offers us these opportunities to encourage us in our walk as disciples in this world. We've been talking about discipleship for the past several weeks. Discipleship is hard because it requires us to give up the notion that we are living our lives for ourselves. It requires us to live our lives for God. It requires us to live in a countercultural way, loving radically and giving radically. It requires us to keep our sense of hope and faith no matter how difficult life becomes. Sometimes we may wonder if living as a disciple is actually worth the trouble. Some days it may seem just easier to be self-centered or to continue to refuse to forgive our neighbor.

God gives us these "thin places" -- these glimpses of the Holy -- to reassure us that God is with us and that living as disciples is worth it.

We may experience these thin spaces on mountaintops. However, I suspect we more often experience them around the kitchen table, playing with our children or grandchildren, or just moving through life's dark moments.

I've shared before my experience of feeling the overwhelming presence of God at the moment my father died. That was a thin place. I've talked to others who lost relatives and later, when thinking of that relative, saw a butterfly flitter into sight, linger with them awhile, and then flutter away. For them, the butterfly represented a thin place. If we look for them, thin places are almost always near when we feel dejected or rejected. They are an encounter with the Holy that lets us know that God is with us and that struggling in life is and will be worth the trouble.

We need these thin places -- these moments when God in God's glory is right here with us -- to help us make sense of the world.

*continued on page 8*



# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 02.19.23 *continued**continued from page 7*

Those familiar with C.S. Lewis will know that the lion, Aslan, is a metaphor for Christ in a series of books Lewis wrote about a fictional world called Narnia. Aslan's final words in *The Silver Chair* are as follows:

"Here on the mountain, I have spoken to you clearly. I will not often do so down in Narnia. Here on the mountain, the air is clear, and your mind is clear; as you drop down into Narnia, the air will thicken. Take great care that it does not confuse your mind. And the signs which you have learned here will not look at all as you expect them to look when you meet them there. That is why it is so important to know them by heart and pay no attention to appearance. Remember the signs and believe the signs. Nothing else matters." [ii]

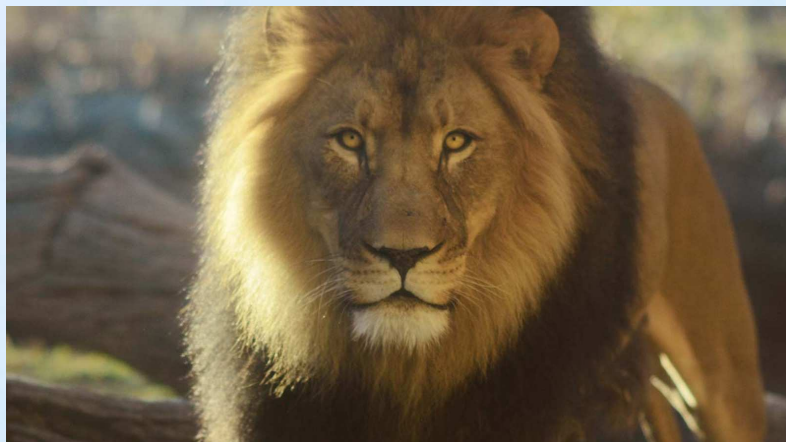
When we have these Holy moments with God, we must listen carefully to what God tells us. We must treasure what happens in those Holy moments because the world we humans inhabit still is filled with sorrow, evil, and challenges.

Finding God in the world is difficult. Yet, if we remember what we've learned in the thin spaces, we can learn to believe in God even when God seems far from us. Holding God's promises in our hearts helps us make sense of the world and carry on our ministry as disciples.

God provides us with moments when we see God's glory and when we become close to God's Holy presence. Seek these moments and find rest in them, basking in the glory of God.

[i] The Rev. Judy Fentriss-Williams. (2010). Pastoral Perspective on Exodus 24:12-18. In D. L. Bartlett & B. B. Taylor (Eds.), *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary: Year A* (Vol. 1). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

[ii] C.S. Lewis. (1953) *The Silver Chair*, quoted by Anschutz, M. M. (2010). Pastoral Perspective on Matthew 17:1-9. In D. L. Bartlett & B. B. Taylor (Eds.), *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary: Year A* (Vol. 1, pp. 454-456). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.





# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 03.19.23

Those of you who attended the Ash Wednesday service will remember that one of my Lenten disciplines is reading the memoirs of a priest diagnosed with ALS soon after she was ordained. The book is Sparrow, A Journey of Grace and Miracles While Battling ALS. I promised to share parts of the book related to the lections as Lent progressed. I have two stories to share from that book today.

The priest, Jennifer Durant, says that the congregation accepted and loved her despite the ALS, for the most part. But she relays one painful encounter when the disease began to take away much of her muscular function. She started needing a wheelchair and an electronic voice to speak for her. A parish member approached the other priest in the congregation and said that the sight of Jennifer and her voice had frightened their children, and their children should not have to suffer that fright.

The other priest calmly replied that we couldn't protect our children from illness, death, the homeless, and the poor, nor shield them from seeing the world's brokenness. The encounter with Jennifer was a teaching moment, and if they chose to help their children avoid seeing Jennifer, they would lose the teaching opportunity.

The parents and their children saw Jennifer as a problem. They saw a physical disability and ran from it without seeing the image of God in Jennifer. They saw only a physical disability and didn't even allow themselves to get to know the heart of the person inside.

They were much like the folks in Jesus's day who had seen the blind beggar every day and turned away. They didn't really see him. We know they didn't see him because they weren't sure he was the same person once Jesus healed him. In those days, they believed that people who were blind had hearts that were full of darkness, and "darkness" emanated from them. Alternatively, they suspected them of having an evil eye. The blind were sinners and to be avoided.

The folks in Jesus's day, like some of us in our day, couldn't see the image of God in the heart of those who weren't as they expected them to be. They believed God favored only the beautiful, the well-coifed, and the prosperous and not those who had a disability or lived in poverty, or otherwise looked different from "respectable society." They, like us, sometimes looked at others with human eyes rather than looking at them with God's eyes. As we read in Samuel, God sees the heart rather than the outward appearance.

As children of the light, we are called to live in the light of Christ. As part of living in the light, we are called to see the world as God sees it.

# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 3.19.23 *continued*

*continued from page 9*

Now, for my second story from Jennifer's book. She writes about how she adjusted to work around the disease's progression. She adapted every time the condition took away something she was accustomed to doing. And, once, as she struggled to adapt, God gave her a gift.

Pastor Jennifer had adjusted from previously doing step aerobics to riding an exercise cycle instead. She would play music from her iPhone using earbuds. But, one day, her fine motor skills went, and she dropped the earbuds. Everything went quiet. And in the silence, God gave her a gift of exceptional sight.

Here is what happened in her own words:

"Over by the bike ... there was a track. People were walking around the track. I looked into one face and then another, and in each countenance, I gazed at, I could see how they were broken.... I was frozen – just for a moment – then I scanned the next person, and then the next. ... In some cases, I could see the brokenness. I could see it etched in their faces or in the pain in their eye. But everyone was suffering – whether I saw it or not – and I could feel all of it in my own body. We were all one person, all broken, all suffering."

Walking as a child of light means taking the time to really see others. It means not just looking at the people on the track and thinking about whether they have cute leggings. Or just seeing someone walk and thinking, "Gosh, they look fat or gosh, they look thin." Or it means going beyond just glancing at someone in the grocery line while wishing we'd hurry up and get done. It means taking off the blinders that allow us to glance at someone who is disheveled or disabled and walking quickly by to avoid making eye contact.

Walking as a child of the light means really seeing every person we come in contact with. It means seeing them as human beings. It means seeing them as people like us who have gifts and brokenness.

We are all broken. When we realize our brokenness, the light of Christ can shine through us, and we see the world through God's eyes. As children of the light, we are called to see God's image in everyone and to be a light amid that brokenness.





# Ministry Spotlight

## Sharing the Unconditional Love of God with No Boundaries

In case you're thinking "Wow, Doug's getting evangelical", let me explain: I'm talking about our Digital Ministry with our Video Broadcasting System.

When our church was closed during the pandemic, we conducted our church services on Zoom with Rev. Randi leading the service from her laptop at home. Joe Breczka would provide music with limited participation from his home studio.

Eventually we had the opportunity to return to a church worship service with limited attendance of a maximum of 25 people, provided we met the Bishop's Covid-19 protocol requirements, which included extensive cleaning, in church social distancing, mask wearing, and video streaming to create a hybrid worship service with video to connect to people at home.

Our goal regarding video broadcasting was to maximize the experience of our St. Andrew's service for those attending remotely through an online platform. We wanted to provide quality images of our beautiful sanctuary, and add the spoken messages and our music to the video feed. How can we make that happen? Randi and I had some video conferences with some people who were experienced in video worship broadcasts and I consulted with Stephen Neff from Delaware Camera Mart in Buffalo to identify the type of equipment we needed. We accomplished our goal! Our first hybrid service and video broadcast was November 1st, 2020.

Two and a half years later, we are past the pandemic and back to full in-house worship, but we have chosen to continue video broadcasting to reach more people who are unable to attend in person.

We have a three-camera system with a video/audio mixer, monitor and a laptop, but what good is all this gear without people to run it? We are blessed to have caring people in this church who are savvy and adventurous enough to give this a try. I am so proud of my fellow video producers: Jamie Gailie, Pam Leibring, Lynn Schauer-Bewley, and Jerry Harrington! We also welcome our newest producer, Natalie Beilein. "Thank you" to all of you! Although I set up the system, I am learning from them by watching how they artfully handle the camera angles. These caring people and I are part of our new Digital Ministry.

We connect to about 10-12 people remotely on any Sunday, with more people online during Advent and Lent. During funerals, however, we often connect to 25-30 people from several states.

Yes, we can share the Unconditional Love of God with no boundaries!

Doug Wintersteen





# From Your Wardens

## Vestry Retreat Report

At the Vestry retreat in March we had good discussions about dreams, goals, and visions for our church. One thing that stood out was the past few years in response to the pandemic we have been on survival mode with creating short term yearly goals. We came to the conclusion it was time to create a vision statement to help us focus on creating steps to reach long term goals. We feel that the Episcopal church has a unique offering that makes us appealing to many. We are a church with a tradition and focus on the Sacraments. We are also a diverse community of believers who take pride in individuality while striving to do good and show love to all. Therefore we have created this vision statement, "We seek to share God's love with a faith and outreach presence that is welcoming to all".

Stay tuned as we develop goals and share them with you! As always your Vestry is here to represent all, so please come to us with any ideas and questions.

With Faith and Love, Sarah

## What's With Pastor Randi's Sabbatical???

So many of us are unfamiliar with the concept of a "Sabbatical", and we are wondering why Pastor Randi would need to take so much time away from us. Who will take care of us??

First of all, we will be in competent hands. Your Wardens and Vestry will continue to see to the operations of our parish. Doug will manage our money, Shawn will run the office, and ministry team leaders will continue to lead. Sunday mornings will be handled through a combination of folks, including Deacon Martha, supply priests, and lay leaders who will offer Morning Prayer (see the schedule posted on page 2). Deacon Martha will handle pastoral emergencies. If an emergency arises that requires a priest, such as a funeral with Eucharist, Deacon Martha will call Father Joe Koslowski who will be on standby for that purpose.

But why? Why are Sabbaticals even a thing for priests?

I have known people who have gone on Sabbatical, but I never really thought too much about it until now. I had some questions myself, and I decided to do some digging. My research was really eye opening. Any reservations I may have had about Pastor Randi taking a Sabbatical have been replaced with gratitude for her recognizing the importance of not putting it off.

I would like to share with you an article I found that specifically addresses pastor sabbatical leave. It is written by Sean Nemecek, author of *The Weary Leader's Guide to Burnout: A Journey from Exhaustion to Wholeness*.

*continued on page 13*

# From Your Wardens

*continued from page 12*

***Why you should make your pastor take a sabbatical, by Sean Nemece***

**How would you benefit from an extended time away? Wouldn't you like to offer that to your pastor?**

## **6 reasons pastor sabbaticals are good for your church**

Several years ago I experienced deep spiritual fatigue. During this time, I had an intuitive sense that I needed rest – the kind of Sabbath rest that deepens relationship with God and others. So, I asked my church board if I could have a sabbatical. They asked, “Why should we give you a sabbatical? We don't get one.” While this is a fair question, I wasn't prepared to answer it at the time. This article is an attempt to answer that question for your pastor.

Sabbaticals seem to be reserved for academic institutions and large churches. The average person doesn't get one, but they probably should. Research shows that organizations benefit when employees take sabbaticals. More and more companies are learning that as they give all their employees time off to rest, the company sees an increase in productivity, the employees feel more valued, and they come back with renewed energy and creativity. How would you benefit personally and professionally from a sabbatical? Take a moment and dream about it. Now, wouldn't you like to offer that to your pastor? Here are some additional reasons that a pastoral sabbatical is good for your church.

### **Extended Sabbath rest is commanded in scripture.**

God commanded a year of solemn rest for the land in Israel every seven years (Leviticus 25:1-7). In an agricultural society this means that the majority of the people would rest too. It was part of their worship of God and a way to learn dependence on him. This isn't exactly the same as a sabbatical, but it shows that the principle of regular, extended rest is good because it was God's idea.

### **Times of solitude prepared or recharged leaders in scripture.**

Moses, Elijah, Jesus, Paul, and many more leaders had times of solitude with God to prepare them for ministry. For Moses it was 40 years tending sheep before being called and 40 days on the mountain with God later in ministry. Elijah needed more than 40 days to recover from depression and to rediscover his call to ministry. Jesus took 40 days in the wilderness to fast and pray right before his ministry began. Why do you think Satan chose that time to tempt him? Paul spent 3 days in silence and darkness after seeing Jesus on the road to Damascus; he also spent years in Arabia preparing for ministry, and he had several extended breaks during his ministry. Why do we demand pastors continue in ministry for years and years without giving them time for renewing their souls in God?

### **A sabbatical forces the pastor and the church to trust God.**

Taking time off forces us to recognize that God is in control. A weekly Sabbath is designed to keep us from putting too much trust in our own work. It allows us to see that God is able to keep things going without us. This frees us from the striving and worry that comes from thinking that everything depends on our work. A sabbatical is similar; both the church and the pastor learn that the pastor is not the center of the church's work – God is. The pastor also learns that he needs to be spending extended time with God on a regular basis in order to lead well. He is reminded that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and he is just an under-shepherd. If he is to do his work well, he must first follow Jesus. A sabbatical is a time of remembering and returning to this reality.

*continued on page 14*

# From Your Wardens

*continued from page 13*

## **A sabbatical makes the church less dependent on the pastor.**

When the pastor is gone on sabbatical, the church will learn that God can still work through them. They learn to take greater ownership for the ministry and stop relying so heavily on the pastor to do the work. This forces other leaders to grow into their calling. When the pastor returns, these leaders are more effective and the whole church is better off.

Most church leaders are forced to take a year off between terms (usually every three or six years). This time off provides needed rest and renewal and allows other people to step into leadership roles. Why is the pastor the only one not given this opportunity?

A pastoral sabbatical will also bring organizational problems to the surface. Why would we want to know that? These problems will surface eventually. A sabbatical provides a time when they can be seen and addressed before they become urgent. Churches may learn to solve these problems while the pastor is away or they may decide to wait until the pastor returns and solve them together. Either way, problems can be addressed before they become a crisis.

## **A sabbatical helps the pastor minister out of intimacy with God.**

Being a pastor can be hazardous to one's spiritual health. For centuries, pastors have struggled to maintain a close connection with God while serving the church. In earlier times, it wasn't unusual for a pastor to leave his church for a month or more to recharge. Now, it is rare for pastors to be allowed this time away. Maybe this is why we are seeing record numbers of pastors burn out and leave ministry. A sabbatical allows the pastor time to reconnect with God intimately and without the interruptions of ministry. It gives him space to confront his own dark side and to combat his temptations (again, think of Jesus in the wilderness).

## **A sabbatical gives the pastor renewed mental health.**

The only way to truly recover from compassion fatigue, secondary trauma, or burnout is to take extended time away from the cause of the problem. Many pastors use vacation time to recover, but this often robs their family of quality time. Additionally, vacations are rarely long enough for true recovery. Usually the pastor regains some health but doesn't ever get back to full health. This means the pastor is continually operating at a less than healthy level, which means he isn't ever at his best. No wonder so many churches struggle; they are following a continually fatigued pastor.

**Questions or concerns related to Pastor Randi's Sabbatical should be directed to your Wardens.**





# Kidventures in Faith

**Newfane United Methodist Church & St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
2699 Main St., Newfane, NY                      2239 W Creek Rd., Burt, NY



© Can Stock Photo / lenm

## Our Schedule

3:30 p.m. – Gather and Settle in - 3:40 p.m. – Snacks and Story

4:00 p.m. – Songs

4:15 p.m. – Come together activities

4:40 p.m. Wonder Time (lesson and conversation)

4:55 p.m. Go in Peace (Spiritual Practice)

5:00 p.m. join families for Simple Supper

When children finish dinner - Experience Wonder (games)  
and adult time of conversation – leave when fits your schedule

**March 9, 16, 23, 30 – Newfane UMC**

**April 20, 27, May 4, 11 – St. Andrew's Episcopal**

## Kidventures Simple Supper

Open to families of those attending Kidventures - Starting at 5:00p.m.

Eat as a family before heading into your evening commitments.

No prep, No charge, No clean up

# Join Love Rising July 15, Sunrise to Sunset



**A Community Day for  
Prayer & Meditation**

**Love-Rising.com**

**Peace  
Justice Hope  
Healing**

## **What's Love Rising?**

**It's a belief – that creating a welcoming community takes a group effort**

**It's an intention – to create caring communities where we live, and where  
you live**

**It's neighbors – coming together and reaching out**

**It's events – conversations, music, prayer and reflection, kids' activities,  
and more**

**It's a day – July 15th, to reflect on your place, your relationships, your  
contributions, and to enjoy each other!**

## **Intentionally creating caring communities**

**Through reflection and prayer ...**

**Through opening our hearts and minds ...**

**Through thoughtful conversations ...**

**Through listening with respect ...**

**Through appreciation of differences ...**

**Through sharing our gifts...**

**Through acts of love and kindness.**

***Intentionally  
Creating  
Caring  
Communities***

**See Pam Leibring to learn more!**



# **St. Andrew's Southern Fried Chicken Dinner**

**Dine In or Take Out!**

**Saturday, May 20th 2023  
2 - 6 pm**

**Adults \$14    Children \$8  
Dinner for Two \$17**

*Four pieces of chicken, hand breaded, seasoned with twelve secret herbs and spices, and cooked to a golden deliciousness!*

*Includes southern fries, buttery cornbread, mac salad garnished with Louisiana pickle slaw, and choice of homemade dessert!*

**Dinner for Two:** 2 plates of all the sides along with 4 pieces of chicken to share and 2 homemade desserts

**Children:** chicken tenders with fries & dessert

Pre-Sale Tickets are available at St. Andrew's on Sunday mornings,  
at the Community Store on Main Street in Newfane,  
or by calling Tom at 716.778.5554 (Pre-Sale Tickets Not Required)

**Find more information on our website**

**[StAndrewsBurt.com](http://StAndrewsBurt.com)**

**and on our facebook page.**

**-- 2239 West Creek Rd, Burt NY --**



# Schedules

## April

### Lay Readers

2 - Dorothy Cheasty  
7 - Sue Villeneuve  
9 - TBD  
16 - Liz Depew  
23 - Jamie Gailie & Sharon Rhodes  
30 - Jerry Harrington

### Zoom

2 - Doug Wintersteen  
6 - Lynn Schauer-Bewley  
7 - TBD  
9 - Jamie Gailie  
16 - Lynn Schauer-Bewley  
23 - Natalie Beilein  
30 - Pam Leibring

### Altar

Darcy Buchanan & Cindy Harrington

### Collection Counters

Sharon & Keith Rhodes

## Community Store

Wednesday 11 am - 4 pm  
Thursday 10 pm - 4 pm  
Friday 12 pm - 3 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

## May

### Lay Readers

7 - Jamie Gailie & Sharon Rhodes  
14 - Sue Villeneuve  
21 - Jerry Harrington  
28 - TBD

### Zoom

TBA

### Altar

Janelle Dengate & Sue Villeneuve

### Collection Counters

Doug & Bonnie Wintersteen

**Coffee Hour Clean Up**  
Sign up at church or online  
(find the link on our website)



# Calendar

## April

### 2 - PALM SUNDAY, 11 am Service

Building & Grounds Meeting, 9 am

Easter Egg Hunt, 11:45 am -1 pm

### 6 - Maundy Thursday, 7 pm Service

### 7 - Good Friday, 7 pm Service

### 9 - EASTER SUNDAY, 11 am Service

10 - Office Closed

12 - Vestry Meeting, 7 pm

16 - Newfane Rehab Service

20 - Pastor Randi begins her Sabbatical

23 - Morning Prayer

30 - Morning Prayer

## May

7 - Building & Grounds Meeting, 9 am

Joe Kozlowski, Celebrant

10 - Vestry Meeting, 7 pm

14 - Deacon's Mass

20 - Fried Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

21 - Leadership Breakfast, 9:15 am

Al Johnson, Celebrant

Newfane Rehab Service

28 - Al Johnson, Celebrant

29 - Office Closed

*St. Andrew's*  
**STRONG**  
*Honoring Traditions*  
*Imagining Possibilities*

**St. Andrew's Newsletter**

Office Manager: Shawn Slother

Music Director & Organist: Joe Brezka, Jr.

Music Associate: Evan Bleiler

Treasurer: Doug Wintersteen

Sexton: Jerilyn Carney

St. Andrew's Community Store: Cynthia Harrington

Church School Superintendent: Nancy Pestinger

Choir Librarian: Shirley Litz

Altar Guild Director: Jackie Jordan

Deanery / Convention Delegates:

Sue Villeneuve

Cynthia Harrington

Janelle Dengate

**April/May 2023**

Bishop of Western New York: Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe

Rector: The Very Reverend Randi Hicks Rowe

Deacon: Martha Farone

Wardens

Sarah Horquist

Lynn Schauer-Bewley

Vestry

Nancy Pestinger

Steve Clark

Jerry Harrington

Pam Leibring

Melissa Bleiler

Tom Villeneuve

**St. Andrew's Newsletter**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
2239 West Creek Road  
P.O. Box 133  
Burt, New York 14028-0133

Dated Material

To: