



To Grow, Heal, and Serve

Week of April 26, 2026

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Ways to Grow

Next Session of Faith250

faith250

The Worthington interfaith community is proud to host Faith250, a four-session learning series connected to a national, multifaith initiative inviting communities to reflect on shared civic values through historical texts. As the U.S. approaches its 250th anniversary, Faith250 creates space for conversations about belonging, responsibility, and the moral ideals that shape lives.



**"What to a Slave is
the 4th of July?"**

Frederick Douglass

1852



Join us for our fourth Faith250 session as we explore 'What to a Slave is the 4th of July?' reflecting on who we want to be today, and the challenges that stand in the way of living into those ideals.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 | 7:00 PM



St. John's Episcopal Church
700 N. High St.
Worthington, 43085

Scan the code to RSVP



Next Date for Baptism

St. John's will celebrate the sacrament of Baptism on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, at both 9:00 and 11:15 services. If you are interested in Baptism for yourself or your child--or you don't know what that is and you'd like to learn more--please speak with Gia or David. Preparation involves meeting with a priest for about an hour.

2026 Women's Fall Retreat

2026 Fall Women's Retreat will be Oct 9-10th at the Transfiguration Spirituality Center in Cincinnati, OH. The theme for this year's retreat is Birthing Holy Hope. Our Facilitator will be Katherine Murphy. The cost will be \$100. Please watch the announcements for future details. Contact Donna DeRemer-Hissrich at 614-203-3562 or email me at donna.hissrich@gmail.com.

~Donna DeRemer-Hissrich

Ways to Heal

COHI Volunteers Available

Winter is finally behind us, and the trees, flowers, and birds reflect this wonderful change. We're able to get out more and enjoy each other's company, visiting and meeting at church and for lunch. It's a beautiful time of year.

But for some of us spring can be a lonely time. Maybe we can't drive any longer, or physical ailments keep us inside. We've lost dear friends, and family might live far away.

If this resonates with you or a loved one, please know that St. John's provides a group of caring church volunteers, whose mission it is to provide an empathetic listening ear. This may include visits to your home, telephone calls, eucharistic visits, and even meeting at a restaurant of your choice for a nice meal and conversation. If you, or someone you know are interested in receiving a phone call, visit, etc. from a trained volunteer, please contact Gia or David. Enjoy your spring! - *Beth Hall*

Ways to Serve

Shoe Donations for North Linden Students

Deacon Douglas Argue from St. Stephen's is working with teachers from North Linden Elementary School to provide shoes for their April 30th Clothing Swap Day. New or gently used shoes are needed for the Pre-K to 5th grade kiddos there – ages 4 to 11 (give or take). Some of the older youth are fairly adult sized. A large percentage of these kids have English as their second language and are new to Columbus. Most are coming to school with ill-fitting or falling-apart shoes. This will give families an opportunity to upgrade footwear and give some comfort to the students. Sneakers are the preferred footwear. Please give either gently used shoes, new shoes or a monetary donation to purchase sneakers. All donations of shoes or money should be delivered to St. John's by Sunday, April 26th. Thank you for your support!

Volunteers Needed for Street Church May 3

On Sunday, May 3, St. John's will be in the lead for preparing and serving a meal of pasta and meatballs, rolls, steamed broccoli and bananas for 50 food insecure neighbors at the Street Church ministry in Franklinton, 1 - 2 p.m. If you are available to help prepare the meal (at St. John's Columbus) 11:30 - 12:45, or help serve (1-2 p.m. at Franklinton Square Shopping Center, W. Borad St.), please contact Ted Dziemianowicz (ted.dziemianowicz@comcast.net) or Nancy Elkington (nancy.elkington@gmail.com).

Sacred Stitches

Sacred Stitches will meet May 7, Thursday, in St. Johns Atrium. We will work on prayer shawls and baby blankets for baptisms, since we may have a few during Pentecost. If anyone is in need of yarn, there is some to take in the Atrium bench. Sacred Stitches also has a small budget for purchasing yarn. If anyone is interested, please let Bonnie Ross or Jocelyn Leiberfarb know.

BREAD Columbus

Are you looking for a way to impact social justice issues right here in Columbus? Read on to learn about BREAD Columbus, a faith-based city-wide organization. St. John's has been an active congregation member in BREAD for many years now. BREAD has advanced important local issues such as affordable housing, education, and health care. You may have seen the recent efforts to establish a rental registry reported on by the Columbus Dispatch a few weeks ago- a recent and ongoing project of BREAD! This year's issues are: protecting the urban tree canopy and promoting a livable wage. This week we will examine the issue of a livable wage.

It is no secret that the cost of living has been rising steadily over the last several years. The increase in the cost of essentials such as food, housing, healthcare, childcare, and transportation determine how much the current state of inflation has affected lower income households. When the math is done, it is clear that the current minimum wage for a full -time (40 hours a week) hourly employee in Columbus is well below what is needed to support a single person with average essential expenses, let alone a person who is supporting children.

BREAD has studied the issue and is advocating for an increase in the number and scope of the trade preparation programs in Columbus City Schools. Future high school graduates who are not attending college will then have access to career paths which will allow them to quickly earn a livable wage as well as provide needed services to the community.

Do you want to help? Put the Nehemiah Action on your calendar for Tuesday, May 12 from 6:40- 8:30 p.m. BREAD is trying to get 3,000 people there from all of our 40 member congregations combined. Last year, St. John's sent 36 people and this year we would love to see at least 50 of us attend! All you need to do is show up that one night to let city officials know this is an important issue. Look for more information to come!

More Than a Meal at Huckleberry House

Providing a home cooked dinner at the Huckleberry House Crisis Center means so much more than just a meal. Any teen aged 12 – 17 experiencing crisis or housing instability can walk through the doors and find a safe, caring alternative to the streets. Huck House's Teen Crisis Shelter doors are always open. St. John's Outreach and Social Justice Committee organizes and funds home cooked meals for guests at the Shelter. Our next scheduled dinner donation will be on May 4th. Please contact Jean Duncan at jeanduncan59@msn.com or 215-534-7290 with questions or interest in supporting this ministry. Find out more about the many resources provided by Huckleberry House and how you can get involved at HuckHouse.org.



Blessing Bags: Sharing Care and Compassion

Join the Outreach and Social Justice Committee May 10 in Kilbourne Hall between services for our Blessing Bags outreach, a hands-on opportunity to show care and kindness to our unhoused neighbors. Participants are welcome to help assemble Blessing Bags and/or take bags with you to share in the community.

This ministry is a joyful and meaningful way to live into St. John's mission: to grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love, and joy. As we head into warmer weather, each bag will include deodorant, a toothbrush and toothpaste, socks, water, sunscreen, body and alcohol wipes, adhesive bandages, and a snack.

Each bag costs approximately \$4.50. Financial gifts are warmly welcomed and may be made to St. John's with "Blessing Bags" noted in the memo.

This is a vital outreach program, and many past participants have shared how grateful and moved they were to be part of it—and how eager they are to return. Questions? Contact Melissa Stanton at 614-519-5194 or melissacorrin@gmail.com.

BREAD Nehemiah Action May 12

Did you know that economically disadvantaged neighborhoods have on average a 15% lower tree canopy coverage compared to wealthier ones? This matters because research has shown that having fewer mature trees is associated with higher rates of chronic respiratory illness such as asthma and COPD, higher utility bills, and hotter temperatures by 4-7 degrees!

The city of Columbus has a tree canopy coverage of 22% while comparable cities such as Cincinnati have a tree canopy of 42%. The Columbus Urban Forestry Master Plan is a way to address this over the next couple of decades. BREAD is advocating that the city be accountable to their own master plan and asking the city to pass an ordinance protecting mature trees from being razed indiscriminately by developers. BREAD has already advocated for the recent ordinance passed by the city to protect trees on public lands! Let's continue to protect mature trees which are essential to the environmental health of a community. It takes 40 years for most trees to mature, so fully grown trees are a valuable and essential asset which are not easily replaced once lost. What can you do to help? Come to the Nehemiah

Action on Tuesday, May 12 at 6:40 pm at the Celeste Center at the fairgrounds. Join St. John's parishioners and 40 other congregations as we advocate for this and other issues. There is no further commitment, just show up that night! BREAD is aiming to get 3000 people there, and all we need is your presence! We will have free tickets to the event and sign-ups between services on April 19. Look for more information soon and we hope to see you then! Trees protect us! We protect trees!

Sign up now for Nehemiah Action

BREAD Columbus is an organization made up of over 40 faith congregations in Columbus. The Nehemiah Action is the culmination of many months of work by BREAD to choose, research, and address an important local issue. We show up in numbers to let our public officials know that people care about this issue and want action! This year's issues are protecting the urban tree canopy and a livable wage. Join us on Tuesday, May 12, for optional dinner in the undercroft. We will leave from there to the Celeste Center on the fairgrounds for the event which begins at 6:40 p.m. Sign up at the tables in the Atrium starting April 19 when there will be a bread-themed coffee hour and get your FREE tickets! Thank you for your participation!

News From Habitat for Humanity!

St. John's is one of fourteen churches forming the Northside Partnership (NSP). We support Habitat for Humanity Mid-Ohio in several ways. Our financial sponsorship and construction volunteers support new home builds for deserving families.

Members of the NSP were in attendance for a new home groundbreaking ceremony on March 31st. The lot is located at 1277 22nd Avenue, Columbus. It will be home to the Camara family. Mom is originally from Guinea. She and her 5 children are looking forward to having a safe, affordable place to call home in the Fall.

Foundation digging and framing are expected to begin in early May with contractors completing the roofing and siding installation. Volunteers will be working on interior finishes and storage shed construction in the Summer. St. John's volunteer workday is tentatively scheduled for August 29th. Please be on the lookout for more information about signing up to volunteer. All training, tools and materials are supplied. Volunteers must be over the age of 16 and accompanied by an adult if under 18. No previous experience or skills are required.

Please contact Jean Duncan at jeanduncan59@msn.com on behalf of the Outreach and Social Justice Committee with questions or interest.



Around St. John's

Safety Drills at church in April - on Sunday 26th

After appropriate consultation, the Vestry has approved the running of some safety drills at St. John's, immediately after Sunday morning services on April 26th. Participation in these organized exercises is entirely voluntary!

At both the 9:00 am and 11:15 am services, members of the congregation will be invited to remain behind after the dismissal, if they so wish, to take part in an organized practice evacuation of the sanctuary. No sirens, klaxons, electronic alarms or strobe lights will be used. Each drill will be led by an experienced organizer who will provide guidance and answer any questions before the drill is begun.

Culture and Artisans Fair, May 2



UA CULTURE & ARTISANS FAIR

Saturday, May 2
10 am-3 pm
2151 Dorset Road

Please join us for the Fourth Annual UA Culture & Artisans Fair at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Upper Arlington, featuring global crafts, delicious food, live music and dance performances. This event is brought to you by St. Mark's Episcopal Church, CRIS (Community Refugee & Immigration Services), and the UA Community Relations Committee.



Sunday, May 3 Celtic Service 4 pm in the Atrium

Please join us on May 3 at 4 pm for a lovely spring Celtic service that celebrates how God reveals His presence in the renewal of life's abundance in this season. The Celtic service is a quiet, meditative service with music, prayers of concern, the

lighting of candles, a time of silence, and affirmations of faith based on the liturgy of the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*. The service is 40 - 45 minutes long and is followed by a time of fellowship and hospitality. We do hope you will join us as we welcome the return of light, warmth, green fields and trees, and birdsong, the precious gifts of God.

The Celtic Fellowship

Chamber Music Connection

The mission of Chamber Music Connection (CMC) is to teach and perform chamber music at the highest level, benefiting students of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Our vision is to use chamber music to promote personal and musical growth and development, while building our sense of community and interconnectedness in the lives of our students. By fostering both leadership and collaboration, CMC strives to build skills not only for music, but for life.

PIMIL School Desk Project a Success

St. John's recently received a personal thank you letter and photos from the Partners-in-Ministry-in-Liberia (PIMIL). With our financial support, three PIMIL Mission Schools have received a total of 375 new classroom desk armchairs.

Thanks to your generous support, St. John's was the primary source of funding for this successful project. PIMIL had dedicated years of saving and planning through its Infrastructure Fund toward this project, and our dependable, annual donation made it possible.

These hand-crafted, wooden chairs have a small panel on one arm to allow students to take notes or read from textbooks. Previously, students sat on pews or on the floor during their lessons; but now, they can learn from chairs that accommodate a notebook and text book. A local Liberian carpentry woodshop built the desk armchairs for PIMIL during 2025, and they were recently delivered to the schools.

St. John's provides a generous, annual contribution to PIMIL that is coordinated and monitored by the Outreach and Social Justice Committee. Additional, individual contributions can be submitted through the PIMIL website: www.pimil.org.

The PIMIL ministry is an education scholarship and support program in Liberia sponsored by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Westerville, Oh. It provides tuition assistance for impoverished children from kindergarten through college and gives financial support for building repairs and classroom supplies. More information is available here: www.pimil.org.



Flowers

Flowers are given in thanksgiving for the lives of John Benson and Ron Rice by Matt and Kim Rice.

Newsletter Submission

Are you looking to submit an article for the newsletter? Click the link below! Deadlines for the articles are due by Tuesdays at 12 noon and can be sent in no earlier than Monday of the same week.

[Submit Here](#)

Readings for This Sunday

Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10
Psalm 23

Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 7:55-60
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

[Click here for the Lectionary page](#)

Centering Prayer – Mondays, 1:00 pm. Click this **Zoom link** (Meeting ID: 865 0593 1410; Passcode: 922699; +13017158592,,86505931410#,,, *922699#). If you are interested, contact Teri Foley-Nelson, at foleynelson1@sbcglobal.net.

Do You Have Family or Friends Who You Want Included on the Weekly Prayer List? If so, please contact the office at Bellao@stjohnsworthington.org or 614-846-5180, with their first names. Names will remain on the list for three weeks unless there are additional instructions. If you want longer term prayer by the intercessory prayer group, please contact Mary Bailey (614-619-1803 or mphbailey.3@gmail.com) or Jo Pascoe (614-306-7983 or twopas@aol.com).

Pastoral Care Concerns - If you have a pastoral care concern, please contact one of the clergy. Gia may be reached at 614-846-5180, ext. 302, 220-219-1880, or GiaHM@StJohnsWorthington.org. David may be reached

People for whom prayers have been asked

And we pray for:

Lynn
Phil
Eric
Emary
Rick & family
Annette, & Jean
Shawna
Eryeya
Jack, Julie, and the
Stewart/Ellison Family
Sheridan
Sarah & family
Jenny
Skip
Mike
MaryLou
Erik
Katie & Jacob
Brenda
Paul
Jadyn
Linda
Crew of Artemis rocket
Caleb
Annette & Jean
Heather & Jerry
Elaine
Sue

Jeanne
David
Kathy
Jo Anne
Aby
Curt and the family of
Georgia

For our service men and women and all first responders

(Allow time for others to pray)

For those who are unemployed or underemployed

(Allow time for others to pray)

For all who experience fear or exclusion

(Allow time for others to pray)

For those in prison or bondage – in body or spirit

(Allow time for others to pray)

For peace and for all those who suffer from war, including the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Iran, Venezuela and all places of conflict in the world.

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Caryn and Rea Hederman and family
Charlotte Heffner
Tricia Herban

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Christ Church, Dayton
Education for Ministry

We Give Thanks

For the people of St. John's and for their ministries
For the lives of John Benson and Ron Rice

The Departed



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