St. John's EPISCOPAL CHURCH WORTHINGTON

To Grow, Heal, and Serve

Week of May 24, 2026

Website | Worship on Youtube | Centering Prayer | Calendar

Ways to Grow

Sign up for VBS at St. John's!

Vacation Bible School will be offered all five Mondays in June, 6:00-7:30 pm. Our theme this year is “Animals in the Bible.” We'll have fun learning about different animals in the Bible in stories about people like Noah, Jonah, Daniel, and David. We’ll also learn how Jesus spoke about animals and what animals played a role in Jesus’s life. Kids aged 3 to 11 are welcome to join us for stories, games, crafts, music, and science at Vacation Bible School. Sign-up **here**!

Adult Formation: Ignatian Spirituality

This summer, we'll continue our exploration of Ignatius of Loyola's approach to Christian spirituality. After refreshing our memories about Ignatius and his principles, we'll reflect on temptation, discernment, and the practical and spiritual dimensions of simple living. Ignatius always insisted that his spirituality is for everyone, Catholic

and Protestant, men and women, ordained and lay, so all are welcome, whether you attended last fall's series or not.

Gia will lead this series, which meets on Sundays June 7, 14, and 28, at 10:15am in Kilbourne Hall. Childcare is available.

Anchored in Mary: Birthing Holy Hope

This year's fall Women's Retreat will be October 9-10th at the Transfiguration Spirituality Center in Cincinnati, OH. We begin at 3 pm on Friday afternoon and end around 4 pm on Saturday afternoon. The retreat house provides private rooms w/shower, fresh linens, bed/blankets/pillows, desk, etc.

In this fractured world we are living in, we often times find ourselves searching for ways to cope and beyond that, to find ways to avoid cynicism and to hold on to being faithful, joyful, hopeful. How do we hold on to hope?

Won't you join us for this women's retreat, which offers a brief respite from the noise of the world and a chance to re-center and re-ground ourselves.
Our Blessed Mother Mary serves as a role model and mentor, providing us with a gift- the Way to hope - holy hope that goes beyond wishful thinking to something far deeper and much more sustaining and sustainable.

During our time together, we will look at the example of Mary's life and the gifts of the sacred feminine to discover insights and inspiration. The content and flow of the retreat will include presentations, conversations, contemplation, creativity, and relaxation. Come join us!

For more information regarding this retreat, continue to watch the announcements for updates. If you have questions regarding the retreat, please feel free to contact me at 614-203-3562 Call/Text or email me at **donna.hissrich@gmail.com**.

Donna DeRemer-Hissrich
Women's Retreat Coordination

Women's Retreat Facilitator, Katherine Murphy Mertzlofft Bio

My name is Katherine Murphy Mertzlufft.
After retiring from a nursing career in health and wellness, I became a Certified Life Coach and, following that, a Spiritual Director. I have had the blessing of being a Spiritual Director for nearly 20 years. It is a humbling, rewarding, and life-giving privilege to accompany fellow travelers on the spiritual journey and the ongoing discovery of God, present in our ordinary everyday lives! I am an active member of St Josephine Bakhita Global Catholic Church, and I am a Paulist Associate.

I am married to Thomas Mertzlufft. Together, we have 5 grown children and 6 grandchildren, ranging in ages from 17 to 29. We are blessed to have a wonderful blended family.

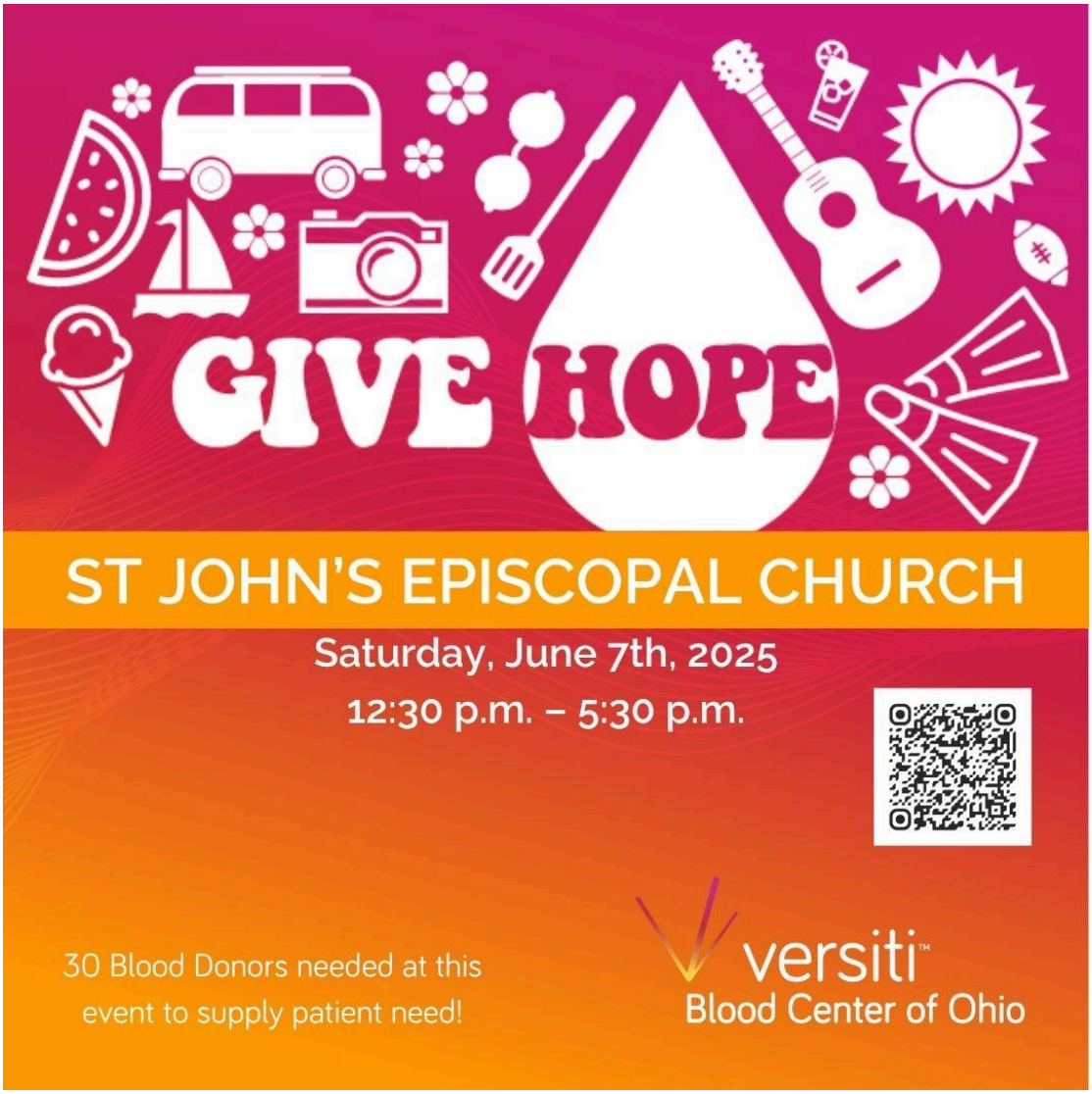
We enjoy traveling and love exploring all the wonders of nature. Creative endeavors, including art, writing, and outdoor activities, especially nature walking and gardening, are my pastimes.

My personal conviction is, “Life is a journey of endless possibilities if we open ourselves to the Spirit within, outstretch our arms and say yes to the gift of life.” I believe we are all called, broken and gifted as we are, into wholeness

Ways to Heal

Give Blood, Save Lives, Celebrate Sunday Funday!

St. John’s will host a community blood drive on Sunday, June 7, from 12:30 to 5:30 pm, in Kilbourne Hall, with Versiti Blood Center, the main blood supplier for the Ohio State University Wexner Centers and The James Cancer Center. This event coincides with Worthington's Pride Sunday Funday, making it a perfect day to worship, give back, and celebrate! After church, stop by to donate blood, then enjoy the vibrant activities, food, music, and booths celebrating our local LGBTQIA+ community. People need people! When we give blood, we give hope and we save lives! Blood donation promotes the values of solidarity, compassion, and community. Our goal is 20 donors, including both parishioners and Sunday Funday visitors. Together, we could save up to 60 lives! Want to help greet donors? Contact Mary Bailey at 614-619-1803 or **mphbailey.3@gmail.com**. You can sign up for a time to donate at **donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11637241**. Let’s show the power of faith and compassion in action!



Ways to Serve

In the Garden May Dinner 5/24

Thanks to all who contribute time and food to this downtown ministry. A sign-up sheet and pans and recipes are on the atrium table through next Sunday. You can bring food and/or join the St. John's team at Trinity to serve this meal. Your support for this ministry is so very much appreciated by hungry folks in Columbus!

Nehemiah Action- Thank you!

Thank you to all who attended this year's BREAD Nehemiah Action! Our parish represented with 32 people! In all, there were 1,477 people there from 44 congregations. Councilman Nick Bankston was there to celebrate with us the passage of the rental registry. We also heard the superintendent of schools, Dr. Angela Chapman, commit to moving forward with the plan to expand career academies in the schools, and we made plans to bring our tree protection campaign to the mayor at future meetings. We are making a difference by uniting with other people of faith who want to advance toward a healthier and more just society. THANK YOU!

The Food Pantry

May 24 – peanut butter; toilet paper
May 31 – baby food, formula; diapers (4-5-6)

Around St. John's

Incense on Pentecost Sunday

St. John's will use incense at the 11:15 service on Pentecost, May 24. Those who are particularly sensitive may wish to attend the 9:00 service on this feast day.

Pentecost Ice Cream Social

Sunday, May 24 at 10:15am in the Undercroft

Join fellow parishioners in the undercroft between services for an Pentecost Ice Cream Social. Ice cream and a variety of toppings will be provided. Vegan, vegetarian, and allergen friendly options will also be available.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SET-UP AND SERVING!
• 2-3 Volunteers to set up the tables and chairs in the undercroft Saturday afternoon at 1 PM
• 2-3 To help scoop and serve the ice cream immediately after the 9:00 service, or if you plan to attend the second service come early and help scoop ice cream.
Sign up sheet available in the atrium.
Questions? Email or text:
📧 **jbross53@gmail.com**
📱 (847) 254 1821

Inniswood Gardens Walk

Relax and connect with nature for an hour! Millennial and X-er women are invited to join us on Sunday, May 31; 2:30-3:30 p.m., for a walk through Inniswood Metro Gardens in Westerville. Poetry selections will be available for meditative reflection, and bring a journal if you like. RSVP to Dana Whitley at **danalw3@gmail.com**.

Appreciation for Stephen Sollars

Stephen Sollars, who has served as St. John's organist for the past five years, will step down from his staff position this summer as he prepares to begin seminary studies. Stephen's last Sunday on the organ bench will be Sunday, May 31, though we will continue to see him in the pews for a couple more months. We will save the farewell celebration for July 26, right before Stephen's departure for Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA.

St. John's will send Stephen off to seminary with some of the books he will need for his degree. To make a contribution, write a check or make an online donation to St. John's by June 30 with the note that it is for the Sollars gift. (And if you'd like to purchase a book for Stephen on your own, that's perfectly fine--just please tell Gia the title so she can avoid duplicate gifts.)

Sacred Stitches

Sacred Stitches will not be meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2026. We will be on summer hiatus from June till September. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 3, 2026. Please keep on crafting Prayer shawls, Prayer Squares and scarves and hats for the Giving Tree children. See you all in September!

Sunday Funday: Worthington PRIDE Is Just Around the Corner! Sign-up Now!

Sunday Funday: Worthington Pride welcomes all to celebrate diversity and love in all forms. The Outreach and Social Justice Committee hope YOU will join us in the fun by representing St. John's at our table in front of the church on Sunday, June 7th! We will greet visitors and have fun giveaways to hand out.

If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the Atrium. List your Name, E-mail contact, and the Timeframe that you wish to volunteer between 1:00 and 4:00. Chairs and bottled water will be available for volunteers, and you will be contacted prior to the event with more details. Please reach out to Jean Duncan at **jeanduncan59@msn.com** or 215-534-7290 with questions.

The 5th Annual Worthington Pride event is kid friendly and will have lots of great booths highlighting LGBTQIA+ organizations, hands-on activities and crafts, food and local shopping specials, and live music and entertainment!

Consider helping with this outreach ministry or attending this community event. Hope to see you there!

Columbus Pride 2026

VOLUNTEER AT COLUMBUS PRIDE 2026

This summer, the Diocese of Southern Ohio will be back at Stonewall Columbus Pride, showing up the way we try to each year, with openness, care, and a real welcome for whoever comes our way. This year's theme, "Until We're All Free," connects with our call to Becoming Beloved Community and the promises we make to seek justice and respect the dignity of every person. And with Pride weekend beginning on Juneteenth, it feels like an important moment to remember the work of liberation that's still unfolding. If you're able, come be part of it, whether that's marching, volunteering, or just showing up and being there.

REGISTER BY FRIDAY, JUNE 5, USING THE QR CODE OR VISIT TINYURL.COM/DSOPRIDE

- **Festival: Friday, June 19, 4:00 - 10:00 PM**
- **Pride March: Saturday, June 20, 10:30 AM**
- **Festival continues: Saturday, 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM**

Questions? Reach out to Darien McCoy *(he/him)* at lgbtq-columbus@diosohio.org

THE Episcopal CHURCH

Diocese of Southern Ohio

STONEWALL COLUMBUS

Columbus Pride Mass, June 11

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

Numbers 11:24-30
Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23
Psalm 104:25-35, 37

Readings for Next Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20
Psalm 8

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 at 614-846-5180, ext. 308, 220-219-1880 or, **DavidB@stjohnsworthington.org**. 220 area code is a local number.

People for whom prayers have been asked

And we pray for:

Jeanne
David
Kathy
Jo Anne
Aby
Curt and the family of Georgia
Michelle
Brian
Sally
Beverley
Louis
Kim
Melissa

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)

Pat
Alan
Ruth
Amya
the Breidenthal family
Vivian
Kyme
Nancy
Jerry and Heather
Eileen
Susan
the Wrigley family

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
Joan Kendall-Sperry and family
Janet Kohn
Emmanuel and Sally Koomson and family

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer
Ascension, Middletown
Diocesan Council

We Give Thanks
For the people of St. John's and for their ministries

The Departed
Nancy Wrigley

St. John's Episcopal Church | 700 High Street | Worthington, OH 43085 US

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