



## To Grow, Heal, and Serve

*Week of June 7, 2026*

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### Ways to Grow

#### Sign up for VBS at St. John's!

Vacation Bible School will be offered 6:00-7:30 pm on all Mondays in June for kids ages 3 to 11. Our VBS theme is Animals in the Bible, and we'll talk about what animals are in the Bible, how God used animals to get someone's attention or to help someone else, how we love and care for animals as part of God's creation, and how some animals are used as a symbol - like us being 'the sheep of God's pasture.' We'll meet Balaam's donkey, Jonah and the whale, St. Francis, and others. We hope your kids or grandkids and their friends will join us for stories, crafts, music, and science at Vacation Bible School, whether they can come for one night, 2 nights, or all 5 Monday nights in June. 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 14 and 28, at 10:15am in Kilbourne Hall. Childcare is available.

## **IACO Immigration in Central Ohio**

Join the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO) and Bethel International UMC for an engaging and informative community conversation focused on one of the most pressing issues of our time: Immigration in Central Ohio.

This event will explore the questions: What should we know? What can we do? Attendees will gain insight into the realities of immigration in our region and learn ways to support meaningful dialogue and action in our communities.

### **Event Details**

Date: Sunday, June 28, 2026

Doors Open: 3:00 PM

Program Time: 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Location: Bethel International UMC

1220 Bethel Rd. Columbus, OH 43220

Moderator: Julie Carr Smyth – Ohio Government & Politics Reporter, The Associated Press

### **Panelists:**

Vincent Wells – Immigration Attorney

Dr. Dorothy Hassan, Ph.D. – Executive Director of Our Helpers and CORRN

Anisa Liban – Westerville City School Board Member

### **Why Attend?**

Learn about immigration trends and issues impacting Central Ohio

Hear from experts, advocates, and community leaders

Ask questions and participate in thoughtful discussion

Discover ways individuals and faith communities can help

We welcome all who are interested in learning more and being part of constructive community dialogue. Please complete this registration form to reserve your spot.

Registration deadline June 22.

Register [here!](#)

## **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](mailto:donna.hissrich@gmail.com).

Donna DeRemer-Hissrich  
Women's Retreat Coordination

### **Women's Retreat Facilitator, Katherine Murphy Mertzloff Bio**

My name is Katherine Murphy Mertzloff.

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 Mertzloff. 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](mailto:mphbailey.3@gmail.com). You can sign up for a time to donate at [donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/11637241](https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11637241). Let's show the power of faith and compassion in action!

**GIVE HOPE**

**ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Sunday, June 7th, 2025  
12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

30 Blood Donors needed at this event to supply patient need!

versiti<sup>™</sup>  
Blood Center of Ohio

## Ways to Serve

### June 11th Friendship Dinner and Volunteer Opportunity

Thursday, June 11th | 6:00 PM

Join your Worthington neighbors for an evening of good food and fellowship.

#### Dinner Menu

- Tossed Salad
- Corn Bread
- BBQ Chicken
- Vegetable
- Potato Salad
- Ice Cream

*Vegan, vegetarian, and allergen friendly options available*

No children's menu this month

#### Volunteers Needed


We are seeking 9 volunteers:

- 3 for food preparation
- 3 for setup
- 3 for cleanup

Sign up sheet available in the atrium

Questions? Email or text:

 [jbross53@gmail.com](mailto:jbross53@gmail.com)

 (847) 254 1821

## Around St. John's

## 9:00 Service Only on June 21

The Worthington Arts Festival on the Village Green will affect St. John's services on Sunday, June 21. **Only the 9:00 service will be held that day**; coffee hour, adult formation, and the 11:15 service will be canceled. Parking will not be available on Village Green Drive. St. John's urges our able-bodied members to park in the USBank lot (or walk, bike, or take the bus to church) and leave the church lot available for those with mobility challenges. The Arts Festival will provide a golf cart and driver to shuttle those who need a ride between the church lot and the nave, from 8:45 to 9:05 and again from 10:15 to 10:30. Those who wish to worship online on the 21st can attend the 11:15 service at Washington National Cathedral, <https://cathedral.org/worship/>.

## Women's Group Annual Meeting

Millennial and X-er Women -- Please join us on Sun., June 14 from 10:20-11:10 a.m. (between services) in the Conference Room to plan the year ahead and pick a group name. This is your opportunity to share ideas for events that interest you and shape the year ahead. What's working? What's not? Any suggestions? RSVP to Dana Whitley at [danalw3@gmail.com](mailto:danalw3@gmail.com). Thanks so much! See you there!

## 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 was Sunday, May 31, though we will occasionally 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.)

## Sunday Funday: Worthington PRIDE Is This Sunday! 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](mailto: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](https://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](mailto:lgbtq-columbus@diosohio.org)



## Columbus Pride Mass, June 11

# PRIDE Mass

## 2026



The Episcopal Churches of Central Ohio invite you:

June 11, 6:30 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church on Capitol Square

125 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH 43215

Katie Forsyth, Canon for Communications and Governance,  
Diocese of Southern Ohio:

**Preacher**

The Rev. Olivia Hamilton, Vicar, Grace Episcopal Church,  
Cincinnati:

**Celebrant**



**Diocese of  
Southern Ohio**

Reception to Follow  
ALL are welcome!

### Flowers

Flower this week are given by Susie Bonnell in thanksgiving for the life of her brother George H. Bonnell III.

### 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

Hosea 5:15-6:6  
Psalm 50:7-15  
Romans 4:13-25  
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

### Readings for Next Sunday

Exodus 19:2-8a  
Psalm 100  
Romans 5:1-8  
Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)

**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:

Pat  
Alan  
Ruth  
Amya  
the Breidenthal family  
Vivian  
Kyme  
Nancy  
Jerry and Heather  
Eileen  
Susan  
the Wrigley family  
Margaret  
Elizabeth  
Jodi  
Paul  
Brenda  
Katie  
Jim

### 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.**

Jeff Li and Jolynn Pek and family  
Jocelyn Lieberfarb

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

Ascension, Middletown  
Diocesan Council

**We Give Thanks**

For the people of St. John's and for their ministries  
For the life of George H. Bonnell III

**The Departed**

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

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