



To Grow, Heal, and Serve

Week of July 26, 2026

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Ways to Grow

Adult Formation: Episcopal 101

How do Episcopalians read the Bible? Do I have to believe everything to belong in the Episcopal Church? What are confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation of baptism, and why might I want to do any of them? We'll reflect on these questions and more in Episcopal 101. Whether you're new to the Episcopal Church or you'd like a refresher, please join us for this exploration of the Episcopal way of being Christian. This series meets on Sundays, August 16 through September 20, at 10:15 a.m. in Kilbourne Hall. Nursery care, Sunday school, and Youth Roundtable are offered at the same time.

We'll use two books, *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices* by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe and the *Book of Common Prayer* 1979. If you'd like St. John's to order books for you, please email Gia by August 2. (You're of course welcome to acquire your own copies, but do note that the paperback version of the *Book of Common Prayer* sold on Amazon is an unauthorized knockoff that is nearly unusable. Choose an official hardcover version or ebook published by Church Publishing.)

Ways to Heal

Healing Prayers on Sunday, August 30

St. John's will offer prayers and anointing for healing at both services on Sunday, August 30. You are invited to receive God's gift of healing in body, mind, and spirit.

Sacred Stitches

Sacred Stitches will not be meeting in August. Our next meeting will be on Thursday afternoon, September 3, 2026. Until then, we will be working on Prayer Shawls, scarves for the children of The Giving Tree (and matching hats, if you'd like!) and our newest Project, Pocket Prayer Squares!

If anyone would like a knit or crochet pattern for those, please email Bonnie Ross or Jocelyn Leiberfarb. See you all in September!

Ways to Serve

ITG Dinner July 26

Thanks to all who contribute time and food to this downtown ministry. A sign-up sheet will be on the atrium table today and next Sunday. No casseroles this month (Yea!); the menu is hot dogs and buns, chips, salad, fruit, and a special treat, Root Beer Floats (Yea!). And August is a vacation from ITG (Yea! Yea!). You can help by bringing food and/or joining 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!

Lunch packing for Faith Mission- Thank you!!!

On Sunday, July 19, St. John's parishioners packed 80+ nutritious sack lunches which were delivered to LSS Faith Mission Shelter on Monday morning! Faith Mission serves 3 meals a day to residents at their 3 shelter locations: downtown, Faith on 8th, and Choices. This is a huge undertaking and requires assistance from many community groups and faith communities like ours! Thank you to all who donated bread, snacks, and supplies for the lunches. A special thanks goes out to those who offered helping hands and the gift of your time to make the sandwiches, wash fruit, and pack up the bags! Not only that, but you all made it fun! Thank you for making a difference.



St. John's Supports Kilbourne Middle School

Thanks to your ongoing generosity and support of the Kroger Rewards program, the Outreach and Social Justice Committee was able to purchase and deliver much-needed socks and underwear to Kilbourne Middle School students! Thank you for helping us share love and practical support with our local community.

The Food Pantry

July 26 – spaghetti sauce; diapers (sizes 4-6)

Around St. John's

America 250 at St. John's Series

Money Matters: The Founding of Worthington & St. John's Church - America 250 at St. John's Series

Sunday, July 26, 2026, 1:30pm

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, we celebrate our ideals, but we cannot avoid a simple truth often expressed like this: Money talks! That's not new: money has been crucial to almost everything we do since the beginning of our republic. But what did the money consist of that "talked" back then? How did a group of New Englanders purchase the parcel of Northwest Territory land that became Worthington and St. John's Church, and how did they pay each other?

This presentation briefly addresses the monetary "lubricant" at the founding of Worthington and St. John's.

Upcoming talks in the America 250 at St. John's Series (*September dates to be determined*):

Architectural History of the St. John's Campus (Jennifer Lane Maier)

Women and Children on the Ohio Frontier (Nancy Elkington)

Piano and Organ and Voice, Oh My!

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Please join us at 5:00 PM in the sanctuary for a special concert! Stephen Sollars has been the organist at St. Johns for some time now and as many of you know he will be starting a new calling soon. Stephen and choir director Nick Taylor will be presenting a thank you concert to the friends and family of St. Johns with special guest organist Dr. Sarah Simko. The concert is free to the public!



Pastoral Care While Clergy Are Away

Gia will be on vacation from July 27 through 31, then on retreat from August 3 through 7. David will be on vacation from July 27 through August 9. While they are both away, clergy from St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Dublin have graciously agreed to attend to any pastoral emergencies that arise. Pastoral Care Coordinator Mary Bailey will carry the pastoral emergency phone; call that phone at 220-219-1880, and Mary will contact a priest from St. Patrick's for you.

Festival of Faiths and Nations

A free festival celebrating Worthington's diverse faiths and cultures will be held Sunday, August 9. The annual Festival of Faiths and Nations will take place from 1-5 p.m. on the northwest corner of the Worthington Village Green, in front of Worthington Presbyterian Church.

More than 20 faiths and countries will be represented in the annual festival, hosted by Worthington Interfaith Neighbors (WIN). Highlights include displays from multiple countries and faiths, hands-on activities, music, dance, games, prizes and other cultural activities.

The popular festival will be held in conjunction with Sunday Funday, sponsored by Experience Worthington. Sunday Funday events attract large numbers of adults and children to downtown Worthington for themed food, entertainment and special deals from local businesses.

If you have questions, please email WIN at windiversity@gmail.com



You're Invited to Join a Special Community Choir!

Singers from across our community are warmly invited to participate in a Special Choir for the Worthington Interfaith Service on Sunday, August 9, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

The choir will present three meaningful selections: "America the Beautiful," "Go Down, Moses," and "If Not Now." Whether you sing with a church choir, community ensemble, or simply enjoy lifting your voice in song, we would love to have you join us for this special occasion of worship, unity, and celebration.

Rehearsal will be on Monday, August 3, at 7:15 p.m. at All Saints Lutheran Church. Pre-worship warm-up and rehearsal will be on Sunday, August 9, at 4:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church. If you're interested in singing, please contact Lauren Grangaard at laureng@saintsonhigh.org to receive music and additional information. We hope you'll be part of this meaningful musical collaboration!

Scott Gunn Guest Preaching on August 16

The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, executive director of Forward Movement, co-founder of Lent Madness, and author of several books on discipleship and the Episcopal Church, will be our guest on Sunday, August 16. Scott will preach at both services

and also join us for the first session of Episcopal 101. Please welcome him to St. John's.

Vestry Covenant

As David mentioned in his parish annual report at the services on June 28, one of the things that the vestry worked on at its annual retreat in May was the development of a vestry covenant. The vestries at numerous parishes across the Church have adopted such covenants as a way of helping the members of the vestry to develop a consensus about the way in which they should strive to do their work. Our vestry agreed that engaging in such a process could also be helpful in reminding ourselves about what our mission as a vestry is and how we wish to reflect the teachings of Christ in what we do and how we do it. After very positive and engaged discussion, a draft covenant was prepared, circulated, and approved by the vestry at its June meeting. A copy of that covenant is attached **here** for your information at the end of this week's newsletter.

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

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145: 8-9, 15-22
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

[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:

Susan
Mike
Tori
John & family
Kerstin
Scarlet & family
Marti & Don
V & family
Ed & Nancy
Jamie & Amanda
Mary
Cathy
Leo
Mara
the Corey family

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

Suzy and Tom Moushey
Josh Mullet
Gayle O'Brien

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. Mary's, Hillsboro
College for Congregational Development

We Give Thanks

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

The Departed

Teddy Corey
Bob Reber



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