



To Grow, Heal, and Serve

Week of August 16, 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. 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.

Godly Play and Youth Roundtable Resume on August 16

School is starting, and Sunday-morning children's and youth formation at St. John's is resuming too! Our first day back will be Sunday, August 16. Children's Church for ages 3 to 11 will be held during the first half of both 9:00 and 11:15 services. During the formation hour, we'll have two classrooms of Sunday school for preschoolers through 5th graders, and Youth Roundtable for 6th through 12th graders will discuss that morning's readings over pastries. All ages will convene in the Atrium for snacks at about 10:20 before heading off to classrooms. All staff and volunteers who work with minors are background-checked and Safe Church trained, and parents are welcome to observe children's and youth ministry at any time. David Burman is happy to answer questions, show kiddos around classrooms, and help everyone get settled.

Fall Women's Retreat

During this prayerful, reflective retreat time, our focus will be on the Blessed Mother Mary as an archetype of the sacred feminine and as the Mother of Hope. We will consider her gifts and the qualities she exemplifies for us. We will see how she can serve as anchoring role model for us in these trying times. Hope, is our call as Christians. We will explore what we mean by hope, differentiated from holy hope. We will then turn to Jesus; his message and his example as we ponder what it means for us to be bearers of holy hope.

There will be ample time allotted for reflection, rest, community and creativity. Come, enter this experience prayerfully, wholeheartedly, expectantly and hopefully!

Who is our Blessed Mother Mary?

How is Mary a source of Hope: the Mother of Holy Hope

What is HOPE?

What is HOLY hope?

The birth of Holy Hope: The gift of Jesus

How am I called to birth holy hope?

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.

Give Blood, Save Lives - and Celebrate Sunday Funday!

St. John's will host a community blood drive on Sunday, September 27, from 12:30 to 4:30 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 both Worthington's Harvest Festival Sunday Funday on the Village Green and a presentation in our America 250 at St. John's Series in the Atrium, making it a perfect day to worship, give back, learn, and celebrate! After church, stop by Kilbourne Hall to donate blood, then learn about Women and Children on the Ohio Frontier in the atrium, and then go out to enjoy the Harvest Festival-theme activities, food, music, and booths. Or catch lunch at the Harvest Festival and come back to donate blood. Your blood donation may help a NICU baby, cancer fighter, sickle cell warrior, transplant patient, trauma survivor – or someone right here in our community. Our goal is 20 donors, but we made it to 27 donors once last year, including both parishioners and Sunday Funday visitors, so let's try to break our own record! Together, we could save over 50 lives! Want to help greet donors at the door? Contact Mary Bailey at 614-619-1803 or mphbailey.3@gmail.com. You can sign up for a time to donate at https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11637220. Let's show the power of faith and compassion in action!

Ways to Serve

Atrium Gutter Repairs

As homeowners know, maintaining gutters is the best way to avoid water in the basement and damage to a building's exterior.

In 2025, thanks to a generous Diocesan grant, we were able to invest over \$50,000 in repairs to the roof and gutters on Township Hall, our historic building used for outreach activities.

Anyone who has been in the atrium during a downpour has seen the cascade from the roof above, and wading pool that results on the east patio: signs of gutter problems on this much younger part of the campus, causing rotting exterior trim, and emerging masonry issues.

Last fall, volunteers on the Property Committee began a project to seal leaky joints and install gutter guards, in an attempt to stem these problems while avoiding the cost of complete gutter replacement. The first phase is now complete, at a cost of only \$300 compared to thousands for gutter replacement! The photos show John Ross installing guards on the west gutters, and the result of his handiwork.

We don't expect this to be a 100% effective solution. In strong downpours the downspouts cannot keep up with the flow, and we will still have water pooling on the east porch if the drain gets clogged. So we need anyone who is on site at those times to be ready to wield a broom to unclog it (and get a bit wet!) to help take care of our spiritual home.

Blessing Bags Available in Atrium

Followers of Jesus want to help people asking for money at street corners or highway off-ramps, but giving cash is often not the best way to help them. Blessing bags containing toiletries, socks, snacks, and water recognize the person's humanity and give them items they can use right away. A small but mighty team has packed nearly 100 new blessing bags for St. John's members to give to people living on the streets. Please take a bag (or two, or three) from the bins under the table in the Atrium.



The Food Pantry

As summer's end is in sight and our kids, teens, college students, teachers, and professors are trying to wring the most fun out of the next few weeks before school starts again, many families will struggle with extra expenses when they need to purchase new clothes, shoes, and school supplies for their children, and this may mean less money for food. The Worthington Resource Pantry (WRP) always sees an increase in need during the summer, when kids are eating breakfast and lunch at home, but WRP simultaneously experiences a decrease in donations by individuals and groups. As members of St. John's, let's continue our commitment to this caring ministry of feeding God's children, by bringing donations of food and toiletries to the baskets at church or by making a financial contribution at www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/donate.

If your summer garden is producing an abundance of wonderful vegetables, WRP will be very happy to take your extra peppers, tomatoes, zucchini, etc., because they like to include fresh produce in all the food orders. You can make deliveries to their new location at 500 Schrock Road - check the days and times at their website, www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/givehelp.

Donations of any healthy non-perishable foods and personal care products are welcome at WRP, or you can use the list below as a guide. Thank you!

Aug 16 peanut butter; body wash
Aug 23 – granola bars; deodorant
Aug 30 – baby food, formula, diapers (2-6)

~Mary Bailey



Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunity

Habitat for Humanity Mid-Ohio needs your help! St. John's is a member of the Northside Partnership, a coalition of religious organizations working together to sponsor and build a home for a family needing a safe place to live and grow. Mariama is a mom of 5 children. She emigrated from Guinea and is employed at OSU. St. John's parishioners are asked to volunteer to help her dream of home ownership come true!

Here are the details:

Date / Time: August 29, 2026 from 8:00am-3:00pm

Place: 1277 22nd Avenue, Columbus

Who: Any adult or teen 16 years or older, and if under 18, must be accompanied by an adult

What we'll be doing: The home should be close to completion by this date. Most likely, we'll be putting the finishing touches on the house, taking care of punch list items, and cleaning. No skills are required; all training and tools will be provided.

How do I sign up to volunteer: Visit nsp.habitatmidohio.volunteerhub.com and log in or create a log in. Scroll down to 8/29/2026 and locate St. John's volunteer day. Sign-up and complete the volunteer waiver. More information about what to wear and other details is available on the volunteer hub.

Questions: Contact Jean Duncan at jeanduncan59@msn.com or 215-534-7290



Around St. John's

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.

Over the Rainbow: A Symposium on LGBTQIA+ Death and Dying

Death is a part of life — and for LGBTQIA+ people, the process of dying, being remembered, and caring for those we lose comes with its own particular joys, challenges, and needs. Over the Rainbow is a free, community-centered symposium creating space for LGBTQIA+ people, their chosen families, and their communities to learn, plan, and connect around the realities of death and dying. Presented by LOVEboldly and hosted at the Franklin County Forensic Science Center, home of the Franklin County Coroner's Office, this interfaith symposium brings together a keynote address, community speakers, and resource tables to offer practical information and communal support. Regardless of age or health, whether you're thinking about your own end-of-life planning, supporting an aging or ill loved one, or working in a field that serves the LGBTQIA+ community, you'll find something here for you.

What to expect: A keynote address by noted Central Ohio community leader and death doula Erin Upchurch, community speakers, and tabling from organizations and professionals working at the intersection of death, dying, and LGBTQIA+ life. Lunch is included. This is a welcoming, interfaith space open to everyone regardless of faith background, tradition, or identity.

Additional information and registration link:
<https://www.loveboldly.org/overtherainbow>

Over the Rainbow:
A Symposium on LGBTQIA+ Death and Dying

Saturday, August 22, 2026, 11am to 4pm

Franklin County Coroner's Office
2090 Frank Rd., Columbus, OH 43223

"The day we fear as our last is but the birthday of eternity."

~Seneca



August Singles Dining Out

Our next Singles Dining Out culinary adventure will take us to Cuco's Taqueria on Tuesday, August 25, at 6:00 pm. We will gather at 2162 W Henderson Rd, Columbus, OH 43220 (right across the street from City Barbecue). Your mouth will be watering when you explore Cuco's varied menu at cucostaqueria.com/columbus-cuco-s-taqueria-food-menu. Please RSVP to Cynthia Woodbeck at cwoodbeck235@gmail.com or 614-638-5054 so she can let Cuco's Taqueria know the size of our group. It is important to let Cynthia know by Sunday, August 23, if you plan to attend. Singles Dining Out is an informal group of St. John's parishioners and friends, always happy to welcome new participants. Singles and married individuals who will be attending without their spouse are welcome to participate, and feel free to invite a friend who is not a member of St. John's. We hope you can join us for Mexican fare at Cuco's Taqueria on August 25! ~Mary Bailey



Ohio Open Doors Volunteer Opportunity

As stewards of an historic church and campus, we open our doors to the public for special tours and programming sponsored by the Ohio History Connection. St. John's will be a host location for the statewide Ohio Open Doors Event on Sunday, September 13th, from 1:00 until 3:00.

Would you like to be a part of this event? We are looking for volunteers to help welcome and guide visitors through our precious grounds. The only requirement is a friendly smile! Please consider signing up to support this event. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Atrium or e-mail Jean Duncan at jeanduncan59@msn.com with interest or for more information.

America 250 at St. John's Series

America 250 at St. John's Series: Architectural History of the St. John's Campus, Sunday, September 20, 1:30pm, in Kilbourne Hall. Offered by Jennifer Lane Maier

The land fronting the southeast section of the village green has been set aside for an Episcopal church for more than 220 years, when Worthington was still little more than a written agreement drawn up in Connecticut. Ever since their arrival in 1803, Episcopalian settlers and their faith's descendants have preserved the site as a geographic and spiritual center of the town they first envisioned. This virtual tour of St. John's Episcopal Church properties—the 1831 church, the 1927 parish house, the township hall and the preschool—will explore how their architecture evolved over time as the congregation's and the city's needs changed.

The next talk in the America 250 at St. John's Series: Women and Children on the Ohio Frontier, Sunday September 27, 1:30pm, in the Atrium. Offered by Nancy Elkington

Much of what we know about journeys westward from the eastern colonies and states comes from histories written by and about men. In this talk, we'll walk in the shoes and hearts of the women who shed most of their worldly belongings, packed up basic necessities, and – with their husbands and children – made the six-week trek to places foreign and unknown. Join us as we learn about their excitements, disappointments, worries, and successes.

Flowers

Flowers this week are given by

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

Isaiah 56:1,6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 56:1,6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

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:

Susan
Mike
Tori
John & family
Kerstin
Scarlet & family
Marti & Don
V & family
Ed & Nancy
Jamie & Amanda
Mary
Cathy
Leo
Mara
the Corey family
Jenny
Scott
Jeanne and David
Kathy
John
Alex
Justine
Mary & Michael
Beverly
Kyme
Jade
Donna

Paul
Brenda
Katie
Hannah
Sage & family
Tiffany
Keshawn
Those affected by storms in Central Ohio
Jeff
Scott
Jerry & Heather
Jean
Tiger & 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

Eddie and Lindsey Pauline and family
Eileen Pilcher
David Pinnix

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Trinity, Columbus
St. Alban's, Bexley

We Give Thanks

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

The Departed

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

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