



To Grow, Heal, and Serve

Week of September 20, 2026

[Website](#)

[Worship on Youtube](#)

[Centering Prayer](#)

[Calendar](#)

Help St. John's Pave the Way!

The project: As you have heard, St. John's is taking a big step toward safety by replacing the public sidewalk along State Route 161 north of the church. Currently brick, the sidewalk's pavers are uneven and pose hazards to all who use the walk. By removing the brick and providing a smooth concrete surface all the way to Township Hall, this project will benefit both our parish and our community. And beyond that, the project includes an ADA-compliant ramp to make Township Hall more accessible and allow that part of our church campus to better support our outreach!

Your next step: The project price tag is \$20,000, of which we have already raised \$1,000. But we need to hit the target by the end of September. We ask that you give prayerful consideration to contributing an amount to help us hit that target. Gifts may be made by check, delivered to the church office, or online through the website (<https://www.stjohnsworthington.org/give/>) or the QR code at the display in the church Atrium. Thank you for striding with St. John's into a safer future!

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 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.

Centering Prayer Half-Day Retreat at St. Stephen's

The Practice of Centering Prayer Half-Day Retreat will be held at St. Stephen's on Saturday, October 3 from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm. You will learn the basic method of Centering Prayer, along with its history and origins. This simple practice will be demonstrated and explained and there will be opportunities to practice. Following the retreat, there will be three zoom follow-up meetings (1.5 hours each) to review the method, see how it's going for folks and to encourage participants to join an ongoing centering prayer group, either in person or on zoom. Daily practice over time results in one being more able to let go and let God lead the way in one's day. It's not just a technique, but also a way to feel closer to the Divine within. Often, other people will notice a more relaxed attitude in us.

To register, email Jamie Massa at jamiesusanmassa@gmail.com and send her the following information: Your Name, Address, Email Address & Phone Number. Also let her know if you have any previous experience in Silent Prayer or other Contemplative Practices.

Upcoming Dates for Baptism

St. John's will celebrate the sacrament of Baptism on All Saints Sunday, November 1, and also at Bishop White's visitation on Sunday, November 8. Preparation involves meeting with a priest for about an hour. If you are interested in Baptism for yourself or your child, please speak with Gia or David. The deadline for the November 8 date is October 10 so that we can get information to Bishop White's office; for November 1, it is October 20.

Ways to Heal

HOPE - It's in Our Blood

As the seasons change, one thing never does—the need for blood. Every day, patients depend on generous donors to ensure lifesaving blood is available when they need it most. A friend of mine is battling cancer, and he has needed 6 units of blood in the past several weeks to help him fight that battle. You can help my friend Ned and other patients by scheduling an appointment to give blood at St. John's on Sunday, September 27, from 12:30 to 4:30 pm, in Kilbourne Hall. This community blood drive will be conducted by Versiti Blood Center, the main blood supplier for the Ohio State University Wexner Centers and The James Cancer Center, where Ned is being treated. Our blood drive 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-themed activities, food, music, and booths. Or catch lunch at the Harvest Festival and come back to donate blood. Everyone who donates can participate in the Abbott and Big Ten's We Give Blood Challenge and receive a Big Ten T-Shirt of choice. 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.

Please also share this information with your friends and invite them to donate as well. Let's show the power of faith and compassion in action! ~Mary Bailey



Ways to Serve

Facing Loss

Facing Loss will meet on Monday, September 21 PROMPTLY at 1:00pm at Worthington Presbyterian Church in the Living Room (Enter at North basement door). Our guest speaker will be WPC Rev. Matt Reeves, He will tell us about his spiritual journey to the Ministry and as a Benedictine Oblate. All are welcome. Contact Louann Shearer, WPC Co-chair (567-377-3194) or Cynthia Woodbeck, SJE Co-chair (614-638-5054) or cwoodbeck235@gmail.com with needs or questions.

The CareGivers Lunch will again be on the 4th Monday, September 28 at NOON at Worthington La Chatelaine. Come to the back room to be welcomed.

Conversation may be shared wisdom on several subjects. We look forward to having you join us. No reservation necessary.

ITG September Dinner 9/27

After a month off, St. John's will resume providing dinner at Trinity in downtown Columbus on September 27. Thanks to all who contribute time and food to In the Garden! A sign-up sheet and pans and recipes will be on the atrium table today and next Sunday. 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!

The Food Pantry

August was Back to School month, which meant extra expenses for families with children. September brings new schedules and new routines to all of us, at home, at school, and at St. John's. As you get in gear for your fall schedule, please consider making a new routine for yourself or your family by bringing a donation for our food pantry every week. As we help to restock the food pantry shelves, we are serving God by serving God's people.

Have you wondered what happens at the Worthington Resource Pantry (WRP)? Consider signing up to join them for a Brown Bag Lunch at the Pantry on Friday, September 11th from 11:30am - 1:00pm. WRP will provide a light lunch while you take a tour, learn about their mission, and roll up your sleeves for a simple service project. This is a great opportunity to see the Pantry in action and learn how our community is coming together to ensure everyone has access to healthy food. Space is limited, so RSVP as soon as possible at www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/event-registration.

As always, you can support the Pantry with food and toiletry items, or you may prefer to support them with financial donations instead. You can donate financially at

www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/donate. Here are some suggestions for September, but please feel free to donate any healthy food items, toiletries, or pet items or make a donation online.

September

20 – rice, pasta; dish detergent

27 – spaghetti sauce; bar soap

~Mary Bailey

Around St. John's

Early Education Center's Fall Mumkin Sale

This week, the Early Education Center's Fall Mumkin Sale opened. Proceeds from this fundraiser directly benefit the pre-school and the programs we provide. We are selling mums in vibrant colors and in festive fall containers. The deadline to order is September 23, 2026. Flowers will be available for pick-up along the columbarium wall in the church cemetery starting at 11:00 a.m. on October 1, 2026. Brochures will be available in the Atrium or you can follow the link to order online.

St. John's Parishioner unique shopping link: **<https://app.fundraiseit.org/shop.php?code=329755>**

Thank you for your support of the EEC!

Carrie Troester, Director

New Contact Information?

If you have a new home address or phone number that needs updated in our system please email Bella Holdcroft at **bellao@stjohnsworthington.org** to get this updated!

America 250 at St. John's Series

Architectural History of the St. John's Campus (walking tour – meet in the Atrium) Sunday, September 20, 1:30pm, 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 walking 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. St. John's church and the parish house interiors are ADA accessible. Walking surfaces outside include brick sidewalks and gravel walks.

Women and Children on the Ohio Frontier (lecture in the Atrium)

**[stop by and donate blood in Kilbourne first!]
Sunday September 27, 1:30pm, 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.

Singles Dining Out

The next gathering of Singles Dining Out will find us at Polaris Grill on Wednesday, September 23, at 6:00 pm – maybe even on the patio if the weather is nice. Polaris Grill is located at 1835 Polaris Parkway, Columbus OH 43240. You can find their delectable dinner menu at www.polarisgrill.com/menus. Please RSVP to Mary Bailey at m Bailey.3@gmail.com or 614-619-1803 so she can let Polaris Grill know the size of our group. It is important to let Mary know by Sunday, September 20, 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 upscale American cuisine on September 23! ~Mary Bailey



Pulpit Swap on September 27

Episcopal churches in the Columbus area have their fifth annual pulpit swap on Sunday, September 27. This exchange of preachers helps to strengthen relationships between our congregations and lets us all get to hear a different voice in the pulpit. Gia will be at St. Luke's in Granville, and David is heading to St. Stephen's on the OSU campus. St. John's guest preacher will be the Rev. Jason Emerson, rector of St. Patrick's in Dublin. Please welcome him on the 27th!

Chat SJW (aka Chat St. John's Worthington) is coming on Oct. 4!

Join us at the Oct. 4 coffee hour to practice talking with and listening to each other with intention. Listening to and learning about each other is a key part of Invite, Welcome, Connect (IWC) and building community. At previous Chat SJW's we've made some delightful and interesting discoveries about each other and sparked some ongoing dialogue with folks we did not know well. Please join us on Oct. 4.

Interested in being a conversation host for the morning? Contact Mary Wachtel or Mary Bailey.

St. John's Annual Potluck Picnic

On Sunday, October 11, from 12:30 to 2:30 PM, St. John's will be having our Annual Picnic on the Village Green. St. John's will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers and buns, and you are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share with your fellow parishioners. Vegan, vegetarian, and allergen friendly options will also be served. You are invited to join your fellow parishioners for good food, games and fellowship!

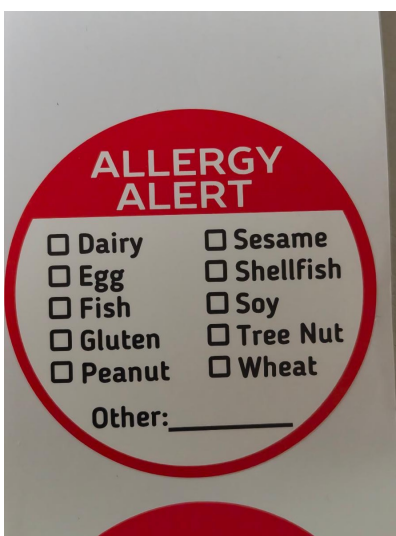
We are seeking volunteers at different times for different roles:

- During the 9:00 AM service, we need a couple of volunteers to carry out tables and chairs needed for the picnic
- During the 11:15 AM service, we need a few volunteers to set up tables, chairs and the buffet for the picnic
- During the 11:15 AM service, we need 2 volunteers for food preparation
- At 2:30 PM, we need volunteers to help clean up and return the tables and chairs to the church.

A sign up sheet is available on the table in the atrium for attendance and side dish sign-up, and a second sign-up sheet is available for volunteers for set-up, food prep and clean-up. Your help is much appreciated!

NOTE: Allergen labels will be next to the sign up sheet. If you are bringing a dish, please take a label for each dish and attach it to your dish when you bring it. We had an incident this year where food got cross-contaminated, and a guest at that meal had to be rushed to the hospital due to a severe allergic reaction. Please help us keep our fellow parishioners safe by filling out the allergen label for your potluck dish.

Questions? Email or text:
jbross53@gmail.com
(847) 254 1821

A circular red label with the text "ALLERGY ALERT" in white. Below the title, there is a list of allergens with checkboxes: Dairy, Egg, Fish, Gluten, Peanut, Sesame, Shellfish, Soy, Tree Nut, and Wheat. At the bottom, there is a line for "Other:" followed by a blank space.

ALLERGY ALERT	
☐ Dairy	☐ Sesame
☐ Egg	☐ Shellfish
☐ Fish	☐ Soy
☐ Gluten	☐ Tree Nut
☐ Peanut	☐ Wheat
Other: _____	

Flowers

Flowers this week are given by the Hitch Family in Memory of Tom Hitch.

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

Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Readings for Next Sunday

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32
Psalm 25:1-8
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

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:

Justine
Mary & Michael
Ron
Ginny
JoAnne
Katherine
Miguel
Jeff
Mike
Cheryl
Mary
Jessika
Matt

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

The Unnava's & family
Those missing in the Nepal
floods
Gary
Beverly
Mary Beth
Family of Pierre
Charlene
Rachael
Lauren
Scarlet & family
Annette
Clay
Jay
Caleb
John & Kathy

*(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

Ginny Ronning
Bonnie, John, and Sara Ross
Juliette Savitscus and family

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. Paul's, Logan
Task Force on Creation Care Ministry

We Give Thanks

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

The Departed

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!