

Saying Thanks, and See You Later



700 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 846-5180
StJohnsWorthington.org

The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin,
Rector

The Rev. David Burman,
Assoc. Rector

The Rev. Catherine Duffy,
Deacon & Seminarian

Stephen Sollars,
Organist

Nicolas Taylor,
Choral Director

Bella Olmstead,
Parish Engagement Coordinator

After two academic years at St. John's, seminarian Catherine Duffy is moving on to the next chapter of her ministry. Catherine's last day with us will be Sunday, May 5. God willing, she will graduate from Bexley-Seabury Seminary on May 10. The next ordination of priests is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati, and I have every reason to believe that Catherine will be ordained priest then. She will begin her new post as associate rector at St. Patrick's in Dublin in July.

Catherine has learned the life and ministry of a priest during her time with us even as she has made substantial contributions to our community. Her sermons at Sunday and Wednesday services and her pastoral care have brought us wisdom, consolation, and guidance as we walk the path of Jesus. She has led two adult-formation opportunities—an Advent series and a Lenten day of preparation—whose engaging topics and thoughtful presentation invited us to enter into these two holy seasons more fully. She has participated fully in staff and vestry meetings, collaborating with lay and clergy colleagues in ministry with skill, generosity of spirit, and creativity. (Most memorably, when a squirrel got into Kilbourne Hall and we were all at our wit's end trying to remove it, Catherine volunteered her dogs to come in and take care of it. The squirrel must have overheard. It was quickly motivated to find its own way out.) This Easter season, I've especially appreciated the way Catherine has pushed beyond her comfort zone to chant parts of our liturgy. Singing in public doesn't come easily to her, and with some help from Nick Taylor's voice lessons, she has improved her vocal ability and learned to overcome her anxiety. This is one example of the many ways she has been growing into leadership over the last two years.

We'll bless Catherine and hold a festive coffee hour—y'all know those three words mean cake—in her honor on Sunday, May 5. Cards for her can be brought to church then, or mailed to the parish office.

Although Catherine's ministry at St. John's is coming to an end, we will continue to see her around the Columbus deanery and the Diocese of Southern Ohio. The Episcopal Church is pretty much a small town: there aren't that many of us, and our paths cross frequently once we step outside our own congregations. So this is less a farewell and more of a "see you later." I hope you'll be here on the 5th to wish Catherine Godspeed!

Blessings, Gia+

Trusting the Holy Spirit Through All of Life

This year's women's retreat theme is Faithfully Tending to Life's Events, Trusting the Holy Spirit Through All of Life. The retreat will be September 27th-28th at the Transfiguration Spirituality Center, 495 Albion Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45246. This is a contemplative get-away where you are invited to take time to refresh your soul. The cost of the retreat is \$100 and that includes your room and board along with all meals. All the rooms are private with shared baths. The house that we stay in has 14 rooms plus the facilitator's room. There are 3 rooms downstairs, the rest are upstairs. The house is handicap accessible.

This year's facilitator is Marie Kovitch, a 2017 Wellstreams graduate. Marie's background appears on the right. Please consider joining us and reconnecting with old friends and making new friends. If you have questions, contact Donna DeRemer-Hissrich, 614-203-3562 (Call/Text) or email donna.hissrich@gmail.com

Donna DeRemer-Hissrich
Women's Retreat Coordinator



Save the Date

I received an email from the coordinator of The Transfiguration Spirituality Center that dates were starting to fill up for 2025 and 2026. So to make sure that we were not shut out, I have reserved the following dates for the future Women's Retreats:

September 19-20, 2025

October 9-10, 2026

2024 Women's Retreat Facilitator Marie Kovitch



I am a graduate of the Wellstreams Ecumenical Training in Spiritual Formation & Development and a member of Spiritual Directors International. Additionally, I am certified as a Grief Recovery Method Specialist, Graduate of the SoulCollage® Facilitator training, and I am certified through the Enneagram Professional Training program, with continuing education in Internal Family Systems.

I come from a Christ-centered spirituality, and I offer a place of grace to people of all cultures, orientations, and traditions. I am dedicated to all issues concerning spirituality and life transitions, but particularly grief, crises of faith, transitions, and women's issues. It is an honor to attend others in their questions and to offer openings for them to know and love themselves, and to know and love God.

Joseph, my husband, is an Episcopal priest, and we have two grown sons and three furbabies. For many years, I was a caregiver for my mom who had advanced dementia. I am also an adoptee, which has informed my life in many unique ways. And I have trekked through my share of dark patches of the soul. It is a privilege for me to serve others in the ways I have been helped so abundantly.

Facing Loss

The May meeting of Facing Loss will be on the third Monday, May 20, at 1:00 pm in the St John's Atrium. Ann Farley, our esteemed Grief Counselor, will give us a 'Cheat-Sheet for Dealing with Grief.'

Our Lunch during Loss will take place at a soon to be determined location on the fourth Monday, May 27 at 12 noon. No reservation needed. Look forward to warm food and a hug.

Episcopalians and Presbyterians share this helpful ministry. Give us a try, whatever your loss. Contact Cynthia Woodbeck (SJE at 614-847-9529 or cwoodbeck235@gmail.com) or Louann Shearer (WPC at 567-377-3194).

Singles Dining Out

Fourteen ladies enjoyed Italian fare at Marcella's in April, and we were happy to welcome a new person. Many stimulating conversations circulated around the table.

In May, Singles Dining Out will gather at **Olive and Lime Cafe** on **Wednesday, May 15, at 6:00 pm**. Olive and Lime Cafe is located at 4519 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43214. You can find Olive and Lime's colorful menu of Lebanese and Mediterranean cuisine at <https://www.oliveandlimecafe.com/#menu>. Please RSVP to Dana Whitley at danalw1@yahoo.com so she can let Olive and Lime Cafe know the size of our group.



Looking ahead to June, Singles Dining Out will enjoy a potluck lunch at 2:00 pm on **Sunday, June 30**, at **Suzan Jervey's cabin and shelter house north of Newark**. Save the date and watch for more information to come in the June Crossroads.

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 Lebanese-Mediterranean cuisine on May 15!

Nehemiah Action Sponsored by B.R.E.A.D.

On Tuesday, May 21st, at 7:00 pm, the B.R.E.A.D. organization (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) will hold its annual event, the Nehemiah Action, at the Celeste Center on the Ohio State Fairgrounds. The goal is to invite as many as possible to demonstrate to public officials the power of people who support and are committed to addressing key social justice issues. Encouraging officials to use unspent American Rescue Plan dollars on more affordable housing, continuing to reduce gang violence in Columbus neighborhoods, and promoting environmental justice by developing public policies, are just a few of the issues.

Most recently, B.R.E.A.D. has gotten the Department of Public Safety to create the Columbus Violence Reduction initiative, which is reducing gang violence. The organization has worked with the Chief of the Columbus Police Department to apply to the Georgetown University School of Law to conduct Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement Training (A.B.L.E.). The goal of this training is to prepare officers to successfully intervene to prevent harm and to create a culture that supports peer intervention. B.R.E.A.D. worked with Judge Elizabeth Gill to implement and establish "Restorative Justice Circles" in nine neighborhoods throughout the county to divert non-violent, youth offenders from the court system.

Please show your support by simply attending this important event. Contact one of St. John's network members to find out how to get a free ticket or to go online to register for this event.

We will have a light dinner in the undercroft and then carpool to the event if you would like to join us. St. John's members will sit together at the event, so please look for us if you come on your own.

Network members who are able to give you tickets include Eye Herold, Jennifer Hughes, Teri Foley-Nelson, and Wendy Ciriegio.



Episcopal Night at the Symphony

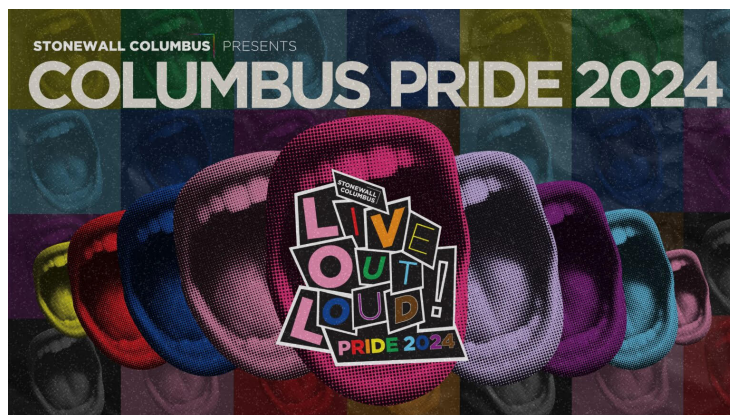
The 7th Episcopal Night at the Symphony will be held on Friday evening, May 24, at the Ohio Theatre. The evening begins with a reception, bar, and 'heavy' hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 pm on the 4th floor of the Ohio Theatre, followed by Mozart's Mass in C minor, featuring The Columbus Symphony Orchestra & Chorus at 7:30 pm with prime orchestra seats. Mozart's sublime Mass in C minor was, like his Requiem, left unfinished at the time of his death. Numerous scholars have published reconstructions of the work. The edition used for this concert is a new completion by German musicologist Ulrich Leisinger, premiered in Germany in 2019. Reservations are now open through May 10th, \$60 per person for the whole event or \$35 per person for the reception only (if you already have symphony tickets). Make checks payable to Bruce Smith, and mail them to the Rev. Bruce Smith, 627 Yaronia Dr. N, Columbus OH 43214. Please include your e-mail address so the hosts can contact you if they need to. Please include the names of the other folks in your party so they can provide name tags. You can pick up your ticket packets at the reception on the 4th floor Galbreath Pavilion. Come in the CAPA office entrance (southeast) to the theatre no earlier than 5:30 pm. Questions? Contact Steve Knorr at 1946srk@gmail.com or the Rev. Bruce Smith at revabs0630@gmail.com.



Churchyard Preservation Project Volunteer Work Day June 22

If you would like to get wet and dirty in the interest of preserving the headstones in our historic churchyard, please save the date Saturday, June 22nd, when we plan to organize our first volunteer work day cleaning headstones. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins.

Nancy Elkington & Ted Dziemianowicz



Save the Date! Pride 2024

Save the Date! St. John's will join in the Pride March on June 15th! Come out and support Columbus **PRIDE!**



Food Pantry

Last month, the Worthington Resource Pantry celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Month by honoring their incredible team of volunteers for all the ways they serve at the pantry. In the calendar year 2023, WRP volunteers donated 19,649 hours of service and sorted 1,698,489 pounds of food, which provided 1,291,669 meals to 111,918 neighbors from 28,470 families, including 4,113 deliveries. WRP is happy to welcome volunteer groups from a variety of local business partners, schools, community groups, and faith organizations, including a small group from St. John's back in February. WRP is very grateful for everything their volunteers do to make sure our neighbors have access to healthy food to feed their families. You can visit <https://www.facebook.com/WRPantry> to see highlights of the work WRP volunteers are doing week by week. Have you volunteered at Worthington Resource Pantry or Gladden Food Pantry or another food pantry? I'd love to hear about your experience – let me know! Would you like to volunteer at WRP? Visit <https://www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/volunteer> to learn how to get involved.

Have you started planning your vegetable garden for the summer? When you are ready to begin planting, please consider “planting an extra row” for our hungry neighbors, whether your garden will be large or small. The Worthington Resource Pantry says, “Our neighbors love seeing your prize fruits and veggies on our shelves, so keep us in mind as you tend to your garden this spring.” You can make deliveries of your extra cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, lettuce, and so on to their location at 6700 Huntley Road - check the days and times at their website, <https://www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/giveitem>.

You can also donate financially to the Worthington Resource Pantry at <https://www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/donate> and you can donate to the Gladden Pantry in Franklinton at <https://gladdenhouse.salsalabs.org/donate0/index.html>. YOUR financial contributions or donations of food and toiletries help the Worthington Resource Pantry and the Gladden Food Pantry serve our hungry neighbors - thank you!

May 5 – peanut butter; toilet paper

12 – canned fruit; pet food

19 – Pasta-Roni or Rice-A-Roni; conditioner

26 – baby food, formula; diapers (4-5-6)

Mary Bailey





The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.”

Genesis 2:9

Garden Glories

St. John's arboretum! As Lay Weeders go about the task of caring for St. John's garden beds, we are surrounded by a glorious variety of trees. At the end of April, the white redbud and the dogwoods are blooming, the “lace tree” in the churchyard is getting ready to feather, and the ginkgo tree is holding its own against the deer. Thankfully, the grand copper beech outside the offices' windows is leafing out as if it had never had a health crisis last year. The Bible Garden's fig tree is sprouting leaves – with hopes for figs in the fall! Our paper bark maple is just beginning to leaf out, while the walnuts in the churchyard are taking their time.

Shading the front of the church is a line of maples, two of which are nearing the end of their days. Because they are dangerous, they will soon be taken down. Several other trees and overgrown shrubs – among them a hemlock, a yew (yes, it grew up to become a tree) and two overgrown taxus – are encroaching on the buildings and need to be trimmed or removed to prevent damage.

Bradford pear trees are illegal in Ohio. Though they make a spectacular display in spring, they are so invasive that they are considered a threat to the environment. They are also punishing to cars and any other equipment left under them as they drop their sticky resin. The Bradford pear in the staff parking lot and one in the Bible garden were removed two years ago. This year, we'll be taking out the other one in the playground.

Saddened as we are to lose trees, sometimes they need to go. A huge walnut tree in the parking lot, two trees that were dropping leaves and needles into the air conditioning unit, and a small Bradford pear have left the campus already this spring. Lay Weeders are grateful to the Property Committee for overseeing this project. In some cases, they are doing the work themselves, while in other instances, a contractor will do the work. The city will take care of the maple trees.

Trees are friends to our planet, absorbing carbon and helping purify the air we breathe. We are beginning to plan for their replacements.

Meanwhile, May is full of promise in the gardens. Iris, forget-me-nots, lilies, lily-of-the-valley, pulmonaria, Solomon's seal, vinca, violets, and Jack-in-the-pulpits will be greeting us this month.

The next working afternoons are **May 25th and June 8th. Come join us!** 1:00 pm at the sheds. We will **NOT** be in the gardens on May 11th because of an event on the Green.

Ellen Stukenberg and Wendy Ciriegio,
for the Lay Weeders



Early Education Center

In April, St. John's Early Education Center celebrated sixty years of growing with an Ice Cream Social and Open House. Families new and old spent the afternoon wandering in and out of our classrooms, meeting our teachers, doing crafts, playing games, entering raffles and of course, eating ice cream! We also had Bring the Farm to You here with their farm animals. We had so much fun celebrating our school and spending time with one another. The SJEEC is still enrolling, so if you or someone you know is looking for a preschool home, be sure to give us a call. We'd love to give you a tour and introduce you to our teachers and their classrooms.

In April we also celebrated Earth Day. We had caterpillars that we watched transform into butterflies, planted seeds, and reused our recyclables to make robot friends. Our preschoolers love their planet and all of its creatures. We are all blessed to have them as the future caretakers of our world and everything in it.

Carrie Troester
SJEEC Director



2024 Vacation Bible School

Kids aged 3 to 11 are welcome to join us for Vacation Bible School this year! We'll hold it on Mondays in June from 6pm to 7:30pm, and the topic will be "Episco-pals!" - we'll learn about what it means to be part of an Episcopal community! Click [here](#) to sign your kid(s) up for all or some of our VBS sessions.



Blessings for Graduates

On Sunday, May 12, at both services, we will offer blessings for all those who are graduating this year. To have a graduate listed in the announcements, send their name and school to Bella Olmstead at bella@stjohnsworthington.org by Monday, May 6.

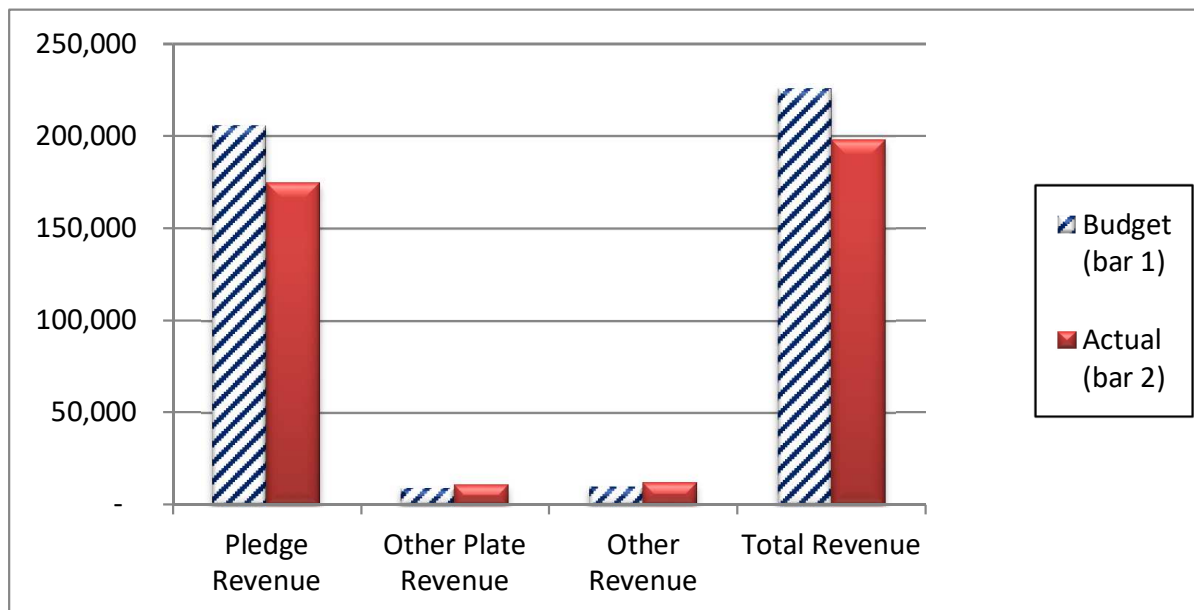


FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>(Under) or Over Budget</u>
<u>Operating Revenue:</u>			
Pledge Contributions	205,625	174,770	(30,855)
Other Plate Contributions	9,500	10,941	1,441
Other Revenue	10,500	12,339	1,839
Total Operating Revenue	225,625	198,050	(27,575)
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>			
Human Resources Expense	119,059	119,004	(55)
Diocesan Expense	27,849	29,936	2,087
Other Administrative Expense	7,287	7,303	16
Building & Grounds Expense	45,799	49,615	3,816
Special Purpose Expense	0	485	485
Committees Expense	8,800	13,889	5,089
Total Operating Expenses	208,794	220,232	11,438
Operating Cash Flow	16,831	(22,182)	(39,013)

Financial Summary:

At the end of March, our pledge contributions were under budget by \$30,900; our other plate contributions (which consist primarily of contributions from non-pledging members and plate cash) were over budget by \$1,400; and in total, our revenues were under budget by \$27,600. In total, our operating expenses were over budget by \$11,400, which, in combination with our revenues, left us with a negative cash flow of \$22,200. Our operating deficit was supplemented with planned withdrawals from our Property and Staff investment accounts.



Highlights from the April 16, 2024 Vestry Meeting

Vestry met in person and on Zoom on Tuesday, April 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Lisa Graupmann opened the meeting by reading an excerpt from the book [The Little Flowers of St. Francis](#) (including two stories about Friar Juniper).

Gia offered these updates on how she is spending her time:

- Recovering from Holy Week. Gia offered thanks to all who made the liturgies possible: musicians, the choir, Altar Guild, ushers, greeters, acolytes, lectors, chalice ministers, and the staff of St. John's. This was our first Good Friday service since before the pandemic and it went well. The Easter Sunday service attendance was up by 40 over 2023.
- Supporting a high level of pastoral care needs in the parish.
- Concluding Catherine's time at St. John's – her last Sunday with us is May 5. We confidently expect her [anticipated ordination](#) (not yet confirmed as of April 16) will happen on June 15 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati.
- Preparing for the [Deanery Vestry Day](#) and our own Vestry Retreat.
- Gia took bereavement leave (travelled to Scotland) when her mother-in-law passed away after Easter.

Vestry discussed a number of issues tied to the central focus of the annual Vestry Retreat on April 27:

- Committee structure: history and review
- [Diocesan Discernment Gatherings](#) running now through May 1
- St. John's Vestry Retreat on April 27 to be facilitated by Rev. Vicki Zust, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- Develop a new form of welcoming after each service; vestry members actively seek out and welcome new faces
- Continue to expand content in the new website (<https://www.stjohnsworthington.org/>) including clergy and staff bios, ministries, and more. Read Gia's [article](#) about the new website in the April issue of Crossroads.

Decisions that were reached unanimously:

- Authorized a budget of up to \$3,600 to remove several at-risk trees and shrubs
- Authorized a small campaign to raise \$30,000 toward the complete replacement of the EEC's playground (the EEC will cover the other 2/3 of estimated costs)
- Approved the acceptance of an anonymous donation of \$70,000 to the Staff and Clergy Fund

April Reminders

- April 20 – Deanery Vestry Day with Bishop Kristin White
- April 27 – Vestry Retreat

Current members of vestry are: Carol Newcomb Alutto, Bruce Batchelder, Star Blackford (Senior Warden), Wendy Ciriegio, Lisa Graupmann (Junior Warden), Sarah Iles Johnston, Greg Kellison, Rebecca McCauley, Susan Mancini, Tom Moushey, Keith Redmill, Laura Wallace, Dana Whitley, and Cynthia Woodbeck.

Gia Hayes-Martin (Rector) | Nancy Elkington (vestry clerk) | John Pascoe (treasurer)

May Calendar

Wed., May 1, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., May 2, 1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Knitters
Thurs., May 2, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sat., May 4, 10:00 AM	2nd Annual Culture & Artisans Fair at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
Sun., May 5, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., May 5, 10:15 AM	Festive Coffee Hour in honor of Catherine Duffy
Sun., May 5, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Sun., May 5, 2:00 PM	Youth Group at TBD
Sun., May 5, 5:00 PM	Celtic Service in the Atrium
Mon., May 6, 1:00 PM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Tues., May 7, 5:30 PM	Property Committee on Zoom
Wed., May 8, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., May 9, 6:00 PM	Friendship Dinner in the Undercroft
Thurs., May 9, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., May 12, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., May 12, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Sun., May 12, 2:00 PM	Youth Group at TBD
Mon., May 13, 1:00 PM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Mon., May 13, 7:00 PM	Outreach & Social Justice Committee
Tues., May 14, 5:30 PM	Finance Committee on Zoom
Wed., May 15, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Wed., May 15, 6:00 PM	Singles Dining Out at Olive and Lime Cafe
Thurs., May 16, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., May 19, 9:00 AM	Pentecost Worship and Baptism in the Nave
Sun., May 19, 11:15 AM	Pentecost Worship and Baptism in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Mon., May 20, 1:00 PM	Facing Loss Support Group in St. John's Atrium
Mon., May 20, 1:00 PM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Tues., May 21, 7:00 PM	Vestry in the Atrium and on Zoom
Tues., May 21, 7:00 PM	Nehemiah Action at the Celeste Center
Wed., May 22, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., May 23, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Fri., May 24, 5:30 PM	Episcopal Night at the Symphony, Ohio Theatre
Sat., May 25, 1:00 PM	Lay Weeders
Sun., May 26, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., May 26, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Mon., May 27, 12:00 PM	Facing Loss Lunch
Mon., May 27, 1:00 PM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Wed., May 29, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave

May Birthdays!

Alanah Spencer	May 1	Ann Badger	May 20
Olivia O'Donnell	May 2	Fred Shirley	May 20
Bill Weatherholt	May 3	Kala Sue Bush	May 21
Judy Shackelton	May 4	Steve Elcessor	May 21
James Bretherton	May 4	Kylie Herban	May 21
Celia Besselman	May 6	Estella Pauline	May 22
Rebecca McCauley	May 7	Kristy Reel	May 22
Ruth McCauley	May 7	Sandy Browne	May 23
Sarah Lundine	May 8	Jennifer Hartz	May 25
Russell Wallace	May 8	Barbara Gessaman	May 27
William Bretherton	May 9	Susan Herbert	May 27
Isabel Brinker	May 9	Declan Kunkel	May 27
Derek Wheeler	May 9	Archer Warnock-Johnston	May 27
Kathleen McFalls	May 11	Lewis Holbrook	May 28
Mary Jo Carlos	May 12	MacLaren Marple	May 28
Doug Dygas	May 12	Teagan Marple	May 28
Peg Kennedy-Dygas	May 12	Stephanie Price-Wong	May 28
Fritz Graf	May 12	Catherine Duffy	May 29
Erik Huffman	May 12	Geralyn Esselburn	May 29
Lisa Graupmann	May 15	Frank Houst	May 29
Richard Moraille	May 15	Lucy Reat	May 30
Charles Stanton	May 18	Benjamin Stevens	May 30
Jonathan Stevens	May 18	Sylvia Morgan	May 31
Jo Pascoe	May 19		

