



## A Lively October at St. John's

Every time I give the spoken announcements on Sunday morning, it seems I say, "There's a lot going on at St. John's this month." That is particularly true for October 2024. Here are a few of the things going on:

As you have no doubt noticed, our country is once again in a fraught election season. We who follow Jesus know what to do whenever this happens: we each do our own prayer and discernment about whom and what to support, we each work to elect our preferred candidates, and we come together regardless of our politics to pray for our country. David and I will offer **Noonday Prayer and the Great Litany on Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m.** in the nave, beginning on October 1. We will go through Election Day on November 5 for sure and decide on the need for continued public prayer after that. On Election Day, we will also pray Compline together at 9:00 p.m., most likely over Zoom. If you can't attend Noonday Prayer in person, I invite you to pause what you're doing and pray it wherever you are. It is a brief office, no more than 10 minutes, that you can find at [venite.app](https://www.venite.app), Forward Movement's app for daily prayer.

When I'm anxious about something, Melville often counsels me, "Worry less. Pray more." It's wise advice, yet we may not know how to pray, or our usual forms of prayer may seem mismatched to our spiritual state. Sometimes we have to try many different ways to pray before finding one that helps us to connect with God in this particular moment. Our adult formation this month will focus on **Praying in Anxious Times**. We'll gather on **Sundays, October 13 through 27, at 10:15 a.m.** in Kilbourne Hall. Each week, we'll try out one or two methods of prayer that are especially valuable when worries crowd our minds and hearts. Handouts will be provided so that you can take these prayer techniques home with you. As usual, Godly Play and nursery care for children are available at the same time.

October 4 is the feast day of Francis of Assisi, and Episcopal churches often hold blessings of pets in this month in honor of that saintly animal lover. St. John's will offer **pet blessings on Sunday, October 20, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.** in front of the church on the Village Green, in conjunction with a Sunday Funday in Worthington. Stop by with your pet (leashed or crated, please) any time during that window for a prayer and blessing. Improvements in behavior are not guaranteed. Ask my cat.

**Blessings, Gia+**

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[StJohnsWorthington.org](https://www.stjohnsworthington.org)

The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin,  
Rector

The Rev. David Burman,  
Assoc. Rector

Stephen Sollars,  
Organist

Nicolas Taylor,  
Choral Director

Bella Olmstead,  
Parish Engagement Coordinator

## Singles Dining Out

We had a baker's dozen of happy diners at our September gathering, spread out over two tables at City Barbecue, and several of us took home some yummy leftovers.

Our next Singles Dining Out culinary adventure will take us to Cuco's Taqueria on Wednesday, October 16, 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](http://cucostaqueria.com/columbus-cuco-s-taqueria-food-menu). Please RSVP to Cynthia Woodbeck at [cwoodbeck235@gmail.com](mailto:cwoodbeck235@gmail.com) or 614-638-5054 so she can let Cuco's Taqueria know the size of our group.

If you are busy on October 16 or if Mexican is not your favorite, you may want to mark your calendar to join us or Italian fare at Nicola Restaurant and Bar on Reed Road on Wednesday, November 13. Watch the Sunday announcements and November Crossroads for more information.

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 at Cuco's Taqueria on October 16, or at Nicola Restaurant in November or both!



Mary Bailey

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## Facing Loss

Facing Loss will convene in the 'Living Room' at Worthington Presbyterian Church at 1:00 pm on Monday, October 21. All those grieving, caregiving or those with questions are welcome. Nikki Smith will be our speaker. Nikki is an INELDA certified death doula, serving the terminally ill, dying, elderly and their loved ones with dignity and respect. Her goal is to help others embrace the end of life and share open and honest communication with their loved ones. She can take the burden and hold space so you can focus on what matters most in your final days and leave this world at peace.

The October Loss Lunch will convene at 12 noon on Monday, October 28, at the Worthington La Chatelaine. As usual, don't worry about a reservation, just come to the back room. Conversation covers the gamut.

Call or email Cynthia Woodbeck, SJE Co-chair (614-847-9529 or [cwoodbeck235@gmail.com](mailto:cwoodbeck235@gmail.com)) or call Louann Shearer, WPC Co-chair (567-377-3194) if you have questions.

## Friendship Dinner

Our October 10th Friendship Dinner will be the 1st anniversary of the reinstated Friendship Dinner. We will be duplicating our first dinner with salad, bread, spaghetti and meatballs, vegetables, and dessert, maybe an anniversary cake. We need 9 plus volunteers this month, due to the injury to my hand and two of my usual prep assistants will be out of town. We could use an extra person or two to help with food prep. We will also be competing with Worthington's Partnership Fall Crawl from 5:00 to 8:00 pm that evening. We will be putting up the Church Parking Only signs, but parking at the church may be an issue.

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, text me at (847) 254-1821 or email me at [jbross53@gmail.com](mailto:jbross53@gmail.com).

## Garden Glories!

*“For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.”* Isaiah 44:3

How the lay weeders look forward to this promise coming true! Contending with drought has been the theme of late summer as we try to keep the gardens alive and groomed. We will welcome rain when it comes. In spite of the drought, there are blooms to be seen all around campus. One of the successes of the summer has been the swamp milkweed, which has fostered the growth of at least one monarch butterfly caterpillar!

A “bast” year for many fruits, St. John’s fig tree has been a source of treats for gardeners and staff. A special thank

you to Ted Dziemianowicz for his extraordinary help in collecting walnuts.

Come join us! Everyone is welcome to help tend our twenty+ garden beds. The next working afternoons are October 5th and 19th. We meet at 1:00 pm at the sheds.

**Ellen Stukenberg and Wendy Ciriegio**  
*for the Lay Weeders*





# Walnut Trees

Yes, it's that time of year when our two wonderful specimens of *juglans nigra* (black walnut or American walnut) do what they do best each fall: produce tens of thousands of 2-inch green-husked missiles that hurtle toward earth in August and September.

Walnut trees were a tremendous resource to early 19th century settlers at the Ohio frontier, providing food, dye and lumber. The four pillars supporting our church roof are walnut logs, as are some of the floorboards. But, having already removed a half ton of fallen nuts from the churchyard, "nuisance" is the first term that comes to mind in the early 21st century.

We don't know exactly how old our current trees are, but 100 years plus-or-minus is probably about right. We don't see our trees in this 1900 photo of two women (Edith Griswold and Ann Bower) in the churchyard. The large one would have been left of Kilbourne's tomb behind the "pulpit-style" grave marker:



But by 1950 both trees were well established, seen in roughly the middle of this picture (both photos courtesy of the Worthington Historical Society):



Parishioner safety and public safety become concerns for us at this time of year. A walnut falling from near the top of a tree unimpeded could reach 40 mph before conking someone's noggin'. That would leave a big bump or possibly a gash requiring stitches. Of course, most of them get slowed by hitting branches on their descent, loosening additional nuts in the process. If you've hung around back there at this time of year, you will have heard the thumpity-thump-thump-thump of up to 5 or 6 nuts cascading down in one fell swoop due to this effect. Sometimes a particularly heavily walnut-laden branch snaps and falls. An occurrence in 2020 caused us to step up our preventive health plan for the trees.

That, and the risk of stepping on a nut and rolling an ankle have led us to warn visitors to the churchyard of the possible hazards:



So... enjoy their shade and majesty, but beware their nuttier side.

**Ted Dziemianowicz**

## Early Education Center

We have had an excellent start to the new school year! We have been doing a lot of learning both inside and outside of the classroom. The units of study we've already had in the classrooms have ranged from friendship to outer space. In addition to the learning that has been taking place within our walls, we have had a couple of walking field trips. Our Enrichment Class walked over to Graeter's this week to learn all about how ice cream is made and the four-and five-year old classroom walked to the Old Worthington Library for storytime. Children are enjoying the new playground during the school day with their peers and after school with their families.

We also have a new virtual tour of our preschool available on our website ([www.sjpreschool.com](http://www.sjpreschool.com)). Please check it out and share it with others! The tour gives you a peek inside our preschool-it is beautiful.

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 introduce you to our teachers and their classrooms.

**Carrie Troester**  
*SJEEC Director*



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## Social Events Ministry

The new Social Events Ministry has committed to 18 events over the next 12 months. Twelve of these events are the monthly Friendship Dinners, and there will be six additional congregation events. The first was the Church Picnic held on Sunday, September 15th. We had 66 attendees and raised \$59 from the dessert competition, which will be donated to the Worthington Resource Pantry. We had a lot of great food, delicious desserts, and bonding. Thank you to all who gave a hand and brought food and desserts. The next social event will be in early November, when we will be having a very un-Thanksgiving potluck. All potluck dishes are welcome except "TURKEY" and any typical Thanksgiving sides. The date hasn't been nailed down yet, but watch the Sunday announcements. The other events will be:

**January 4, 2025** | Twelfth Night Dinner based on the English/Scottish tradition of celebrating Epiphany

**March 4, 2025** | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**April 27, 2025** | Brunch Between Services (week after Easter Sunday)

**June 8, 2025** | Pentecost Ice Cream Social

The first Social Events Ministry meeting was held on September 9th. At this inaugural meeting we discussed the September, October, and November events. If you are interested in serving on the Social Events Ministry, please contact John Ross by text at 847-254-1821 or by email to [jbross53@gmail.com](mailto:jbross53@gmail.com). Our next meeting will be in early November.

# Food Pantry

The September newsletter of the Worthington Resource Pantry (WRP) highlighted Hunger Action Month, with the invitation to “Give a little - feed a LOT.” The newsletter invited all of us to “Give a Little – Feed a Lot, because when we work together, we can amplify every donation, every volunteer hour, and every gesture of kindness to feed more people.”

The WRP September newsletter also provided some suggestions of how we can help in the fight against hunger, listed below. Note that these are actions we can take all through the year, whether we direct them to our neighbors served by the Worthington Resource Pantry, the Gladden Food Pantry, the Mid-Ohio Food Collective, or another local food pantry.

## Give a Little Time

“Did you know that just a few hours of your time can provide meals for hundreds? Volunteers are the heart of our operations, and it doesn’t take much to make a big impact. Whether you’re stocking shelves, sorting donations, or helping guests shop, your time helps us serve over 2,500 families each month.”

Sign Up to Volunteer Today at <https://www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/volunteer>

## Give a Little Food

“Every donation, no matter how small, helps us feed more people. A can of soup, a box of pasta, or even fresh produce from your garden makes a huge difference. When you donate, we can distribute items directly to families, ensuring they receive healthy and nutritious meals. Consider buying a little extra during your next trip to the grocery store or join together and host a food drive.”

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

October 6 – ramen noodles; body wash

13 – canned fruit; diapers (4-5-6)

20 – canned pasta; feminine hygiene products

27 – canned chicken or tuna; pet food

## Give a Little Money

“Monetary donations stretch further than you may think. A small recurring \$10 donation each month can provide over 500 meals a year. Your generosity ensures that our shelves stay stocked and our programs continue to grow.”

Donate Money here <https://www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/donate>





# BREAD

It is fall, and that means it is time to start a new cycle of BREAD! BREAD stand for Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity. The BREAD year begins in September with house meetings, the listening sessions that help BREAD learn about the concerns of the people in our communities. Each person who attends a house meeting is asked the question, “What issue keeps you up at night?” In other words, what do you think our communities need to address that would make a difference in your life or in the life of someone you know. The input from the house meetings is directly used by the BREAD organization to help guide us towards the issue we will put our efforts towards in the coming year, culminating in our Nehemiah Action Rally, where possible solutions are shared and we have a chance to show with our presence how important the issues are to us.

The last two years in a row, affordable housing was chosen as the issue. In 2022-23, BREAD lobbied for a portion of the city’s American Rescue Plan dollars to be applied to affordable housing for those earning \$30,000 a year or less. This past year, in 2023-24, BREAD has been working on establishing a rental registration process to keep problem landlords accountable, while encouraging responsible landlords to continue to provide safe housing for their renters. Research is continuing on how this was accomplished in places like Cleveland, and what positive impacts were seen after this was implemented. BREAD is working with public officials to see what might be possible to accomplish here.

This year, a new issue will be chosen. I invite each one of you to join us for our St. John’s house meeting on Sunday, October 13, from 3-5 p.m. in the Atrium. We need to hear from as many people as possible and would deeply value your input. There is an opportunity to become as involved with BREAD as you would like to. You can attend just the house meeting, you can become a network member, you could decide to join one of the research committees, you could just attend the Nehemiah Action in the spring, or some contribute financially, whatever works for you.

If you are unfamiliar with BREAD, know that this is an organization consisting of participants from over 44 faith congregations in the Columbus area. Each congregation will be hosting one or more house meetings so BREAD can get a sense of what issues are on the minds of people in different areas of the city. It is always surprising how sometimes the same issues are affecting us all in big ways and small! Please consider joining us! There is no need to RSVP.



Jennifer Hughes

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## All Saints Fund

**The following people have recently made a donation to the St. John’s in memory of Bill Weatherholt:**

Grover Furey

Donna Bailey

Fred Crawford

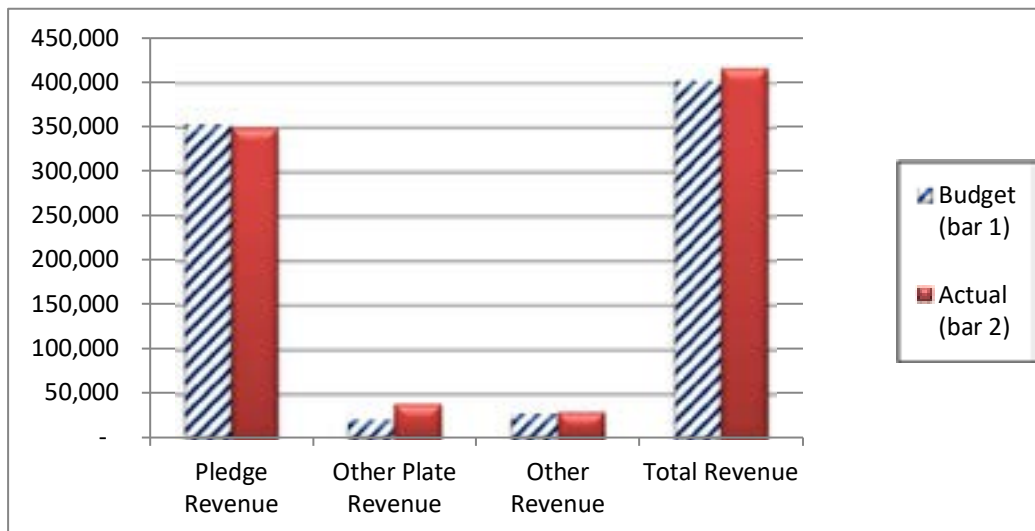
*All donations to the All Saints Fund are used for permanent or semi-permanent improvements for St. John’s programs or premises. If you wish to make a contribution in honor of someone or in thanksgiving for any event, simply write a check to St. John’s Episcopal Church with a notation for the “All Saints Fund.” The name of the person or event being memorialized should be included in the memo line.*

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE EIGHT MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 31, 2024

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>(Under) or Over Budget</u>
<b><u>Operating Revenue:</u></b>			
Pledge Contributions	353,125	348,944	(4,181)
Other Plate Contributions	22,000	38,138	16,138
Other Revenue	28,000	29,029	1,029
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>403,125</b>	<b>416,111</b>	<b>12,986</b>
<b><u>Operating Expenses:</u></b>			
Human Resources Expense	316,625	309,528	(7,097)
Diocesan Expense	74,264	33,157	(41,107)
Other Administrative Expense	19,433	16,841	(2,592)
Building & Grounds Expense	106,425	98,859	(7,566)
Special Purpose Expense	0	12,236	12,236
Committees Expense	28,003	23,633	(4,370)
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>544,750</b>	<b>494,254</b>	<b>(50,496)</b>
<b>Operating Cash Flow</b>	<b>(141,625)</b>	<b>(78,143)</b>	<b>63,482</b>

**Financial Summary:**

At the end of August, our pledge contributions were under budget by \$4,200; our other plate contributions (which consist primarily of contributions from non-pledging members and plate cash) were over budget by \$16,100; and in total, our revenues were over budget by \$13,000. In total, our operating expenses were under budget by \$50,500, which, in combination with our revenues, left us with a negative cash flow of \$78,100. Our operating deficit was supplemented with planned withdrawals from our Property and Staff investment accounts.



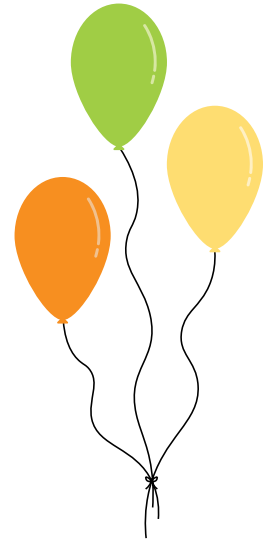


# October Calendar

Tues., October 1, 12:15 PM	Noonday Prayer in the Nave
Tues., October 1, 5:30 PM	Property Committee in the Conference Room
Wed., October 2, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., October 3, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Fri.-Sun., October 4-6	Fall Youth Retreat at Procter
Sat., October 5, 1:00 PM	Lay Weeders
Sun., October 6, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., October 6, 10:15 AM	Invite Welcome Connect brainstorming in Kilbourne Hall
Sun., October 6, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Sun., October 6, 2:00 PM	Youth Group at St. Stephen's
Sun., October 6, 4:00 PM	Celtic Service in the Atrium
Mon., October 7, 1:00 PM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Tues., October 8, 12:15 PM	Noonday Prayer in the Nave
Tues., October 8, 5:30 PM	Finance Committee on Zoom
Wed., October 9, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., October 10, 6:00 PM	Friendship Dinner in the Undercroft
Thurs., October 10, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sat., October 12, 8:30 AM-3:30 PM	Habitat for Humanity workday
Sun., October 13, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., October 13, 10:15 AM	Praying in Anxious Times – in Kilbourne Hall
Sun., October 13, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Sun., October 13, 2:00 PM	Youth Group in the Carriage House
Mon., October 14, 10:00 AM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Mon., October 14, 7:00 PM	Outreach and Social Justice Committee in the Conference Room
Tues., October 15, 12:15 PM	Noonday Prayer in the Nave
Tues., October 15, 7:00 PM	Vestry in the Atrium and on Zoom
Wed., October 16, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Wed., October 16, 6:00 PM	Singles Dining Out at Cuco's Taqueria
Thurs., October 17, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sat., October 19, 1:00 PM	Lay Weeders
Sun., October 20, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., October 20, 10:15 AM	Praying in Anxious Times – in Kilbourne Hall
Sun., October 20, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Sun., October 20, 2:00 PM	Youth Group at St. Stephen's
Sun., October 20, 2:00-4:00 PM	Pet Blessing in front of the church on the Village Green
Mon., October 21, 10:00 AM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Mon., October 21, 1:00 PM	Facing Loss Support Group, 'Living Room' at Worthington Presbyterian
Tues., October 22, 12:15 PM	Noonday Prayer in the Nave
Wed., October 23, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., October 24, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., October 27, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., October 27, 10:15 AM	Praying in Anxious Times – in Kilbourne Hall
Sun., October 27, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Sun., October 27, 2:00 PM	Youth Group in the Carriage House
Mon., October 28, 10:00 AM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Mon., October 28, 12:00 Noon	Facing Loss Lunch at Worthington La Chatelaine
Tues., October 29, 12:15 PM	Noonday Prayer in the Nave
Wed., October 30, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., October 31, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal

## October Birthdays

Tim Belknap	Oct. 1	David Burman	Oct. 14
Nancy Elkington	Oct. 1	Craig Hackman	Oct. 14
Emmanuel Morgan	Oct. 4	Matt Holbrook	Oct. 16
Eddie Pauline	Oct. 4	David Pinnix	Oct. 16
Piper Carroll	Oct. 6	Wendy Ciriegio	Oct. 16
Frances Dickinson	Oct. 6	Murphy Gabert	Oct. 20
Pi-Fen Ellwood	Oct. 6	Kim Daniel	Oct. 21
David Hissrich	Oct. 6	Sally Koomson	Oct. 21
Daphne Lusk	Oct. 6	Ted Nemeth	Oct. 22
Sue Speer	Oct. 6	Christine Rees	Oct. 24
Corinne Feurtado	Oct. 7	Star Blackford	Oct. 25
Arik Wieland	Oct. 7	Patricia Ewing	Oct. 25
Grace Beam	Oct 8	Melville Hayes-Martin	Oct. 25
Benjamin Hederman	Oct. 8	Sarah Iles Johnston	Oct. 25
Patience Anaba	Oct. 10	Lillian Balukjian	Oct. 27
William Hertz	Oct. 10	Martha Phillips	Oct. 27
Grover Furey	Oct. 12	David Thesing	Oct. 28
Joe Herban	Oct. 12	Ames Hogan	Oct. 29
Katie Rice	Oct. 12	Matthias Nemeth	Oct. 29
Nick Taylor	Oct. 12	Eileen Pilcher	Oct. 30
Lucy Monroe	Oct. 13	Emary Spencer	Oct. 30
Emile Morgan	Oct. 13	David Austin	Oct. 31



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## New Celtic Service Time!

Celtic Service Returns October 6 at a New Time - The Celtic Service meets in the St. John's atrium on the first Sunday of every month, October through June. Starting this October, we will begin at 4:00 pm instead of 5:00 pm so that everyone can get home before it is dark. Our theme in October is All Creatures Great and Small and we will have a basket available for cash contributions to purchase dog and cat food for the Worthington Resource Pantry. Our service is a contemplative tribute to God's creation based on the Iona Abbey Worship book and includes prayers of concern for loved ones, meditation, the Iona Abbey version of the Creed and the Prayer of Jesus, readings, and music. It lasts 35 to 40 minutes and is followed by a time of hospitality and fellowship. We invite everyone in the congregation to visit us sometime during the year, experience a taste of Celtic worship, maybe find a new friend.