

# Journey Pages

CONNECTING, GROWING AND SERVING FOR GOD'S SAKE FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS

574 S. SHELDON ROAD, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170



**Good morning and welcome to St. John's Plymouth!** We are glad you are here and hope you have a great worship experience with us today.

Our faith tradition is known by a motto seen on signs in big cities and small towns across the country: "*The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.*" Our community takes that phrase to heart, opening our hearts and our worship to everyone, especially those who may have been turned off by or turned away from previous church experiences for any reason.

St. John's is a community built on varied backgrounds and faith experiences; we love our tradition and rituals, but we love people even more. We are committed to opening our doors as wide as possible because we pattern our lives after Jesus' teachings and his message of radical welcome and inclusive love.

If you are visiting for the first time, we are happy that God led you to this place and hope that you will return again. We suggest you visit 3-4 times, this Sunday may be different from the next!

We would like to *thank you* for visiting! Please fill out a "Get Connected" card found in the pews. We also suggest you visit our website for more information about our community.

## ALTAR FLOWER & AUMBRY LIGHT DEDICATIONS



### TODAY'S AUMBRY LIGHT DEDICATION

*Given by Dave & Judithanne Smith  
In Memory of Charles & Larry*



## SJP IN transition

### DISCOVERY PROCESS

Two other questions emerged from the Nov. 14 informational meeting about the transition that bear clarifying in this forum. These had to do with timing and leadership.

From the diocese:

"...No one can predict the exact amount of time needed for... the transition journey. A *short* process...can be completed in twelve to eighteen months. The length of time depends upon many variables...[including] the length of time needed to develop consensus about the future direction of the congregation.... **It is better to take longer and assure a happy outcome than to force the work into a preconceived idea of the 'right' length of time....**"

"...Developing stronger faith relationships - with God, one another and a new priest - requires time to develop mutual trust. New relationships cannot develop until former relationships are well settled in the past and reasonable plans are made for responding to God's call for a future together..."

The meeting November 14 was "informational" for anyone, including the Vestry, to become familiar with the process. Timing for implementing this process and populating the leadership teams for the process is yet to be determined by the vestry. The vestry is currently developing the 2018 budget and working on the nomination process for three new vestry members for 2018. Stay tuned as we navigate next steps together.

"...There are many tasks to be done on a complicated schedule. During certain seasons focus on those tasks is rightly broken..."

Now we turn to Advent, and set aside transition tasks to focus on developing stronger faith relationships with God and with one another. Join me next Saturday, December 2 from 10-noon for an introductory workshop on the practice of centering prayer. This is a wonderful way to prepare ourselves for the birth of the Christ child in us, and to prepare our congregation for the discernment process ahead.

Faithfully, Pastor Dana

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



### WHY NOT MAKE GIVING A PINT OF BLOOD PART OF YOUR HOLIDAY GIVING?

We are hosting a blood drive at SJP this Monday, November 27. There are still 23 appointments to donate precious life-saving blood! To book an appointment, visit at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code: stjohnsply) or call the SJP office.

### ALTAR GUILD LUNCHEON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 AT 1PM

All those involved (or wishing to be involved) in the Altar Guild ministry are invited to an appreciation luncheon on Tuesday, November 28 at 1pm.



### SIGN-UP TO BE A COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOST

We are resurrecting our Coffee Fellowship Hour and need hosts to sign up to prepare coffee, beverages & snacks each Sunday. A hosts' responsibility is to arrive early to make coffee, beverages and lay out snacks in the Gathering for coffee hour after the 10am service. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the hallway.

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



**Sundays in Advent**  
Worship ~ Dec. 3 - Dec. 24                      8:00am & 10:00am

**Children's Advent Wreath**  
Sunday, Dec. 3 in the Parish Hall                      11:15am

**Hanging of the Greens & Potluck Lunch**  
Church Decorating - Sunday, Dec. 10                      11:15am

**Wednesdays in Advent**  
Painting Class - Wed., Nov. 29 - Dec. 13                      6:30pm

**Christmas Eve Worship - Sunday, Dec. 24**  
Family Service with Eucharist  
& Christmas Pageant                      4:00pm

**NEW ADDITIONAL SERVICE TIME!**  
Carols & Anthems Prelude                      8:30pm  
Traditional Liturgy with Eucharist                      9:00pm

Carols & Anthems Prelude                      10:30pm  
Traditional Liturgy with Eucharist                      11:00pm

**Christmas Day Worship - Monday, Dec. 25**  
Worship Service with Eucharist                      10:00am

**Worship with Eucharist - Sunday, Dec. 31**  
Lessons & Carols                      8:00am & 10:00am  
(No Sunday School; Children's activity in worship)

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### ADVENT CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 FROM 10AM-12PM

*It is no use saying that we are born 2,000 years too late to give room to Christ... Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts. ~ Dorothy Day*

December is crazy and busy, yet Advent, the church's season of the four weeks leading up to Christmas, is a time to prepare our lives - hearts, minds and spirits - for the coming of the Christ child. We sweep out the corners of our hearts, cleaning up the clutter, to make space for God's hope, peace, joy, love and presence.

To that end, I invite you to join me for a very basic introduction to the practice of centering prayer. Learn a way to live counter-culturally in the midst of the holiday crazies. We'll learn the basics, keep silence together, talk about our experience and share questions, and try it again. EVERYONE ALWAYS HAS TROUBLE WITH DISTRACTING THOUGHTS, so don't let that be your excuse. We'll address that challenge directly.

Introductory brochures are available on a table in the Gathering hallway. More information may be found at [contemplativeoutreach.org](http://contemplativeoutreach.org). Books and resources will also be available to explore, most of which are available for purchase online.

Please sign up on the Sign-Me-Up board in the hallway. Contact Pastor Dana with questions at 734-765-1141 or [pastordana@stjohnsplymouth.org](mailto:pastordana@stjohnsplymouth.org).



### VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE CONCERT AT SJP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 3PM



The Vocal Arts Ensemble delighted to share its love of singing great choral literature with St. John's, as they celebrate the holiday season with Magnificats (songs of Mary) and carols from across the ages. A donation of \$10 a person/\$25 for families will be asked. A reception will follow the concert in the Gathering. As part of this celebration, we are asking for volunteers to bring finger dessert for the reception.

### POINSETTIA & MUSIC DEDICATIONS



Every year, SJP offers poinsettia and music dedications that are inserted in the Christmas Eve bulletin as a way to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one. To donate, complete the following:

1. Complete half-sheet form in the Narthex
2. Enclose payment
3. Return to the office (or offering plate)

**Deadline to sign up: Friday, December 15**



## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### HANGING OF THE GREENS AND POTLUCK LUNCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 11:15AM



Decorating for the holidays are exciting! Come help with decorating our church as we await Jesus' birth! We will meet after the 10am service on Dec. 10 (dress down for church suggested) for a potluck lunch and then decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. Sign up on the Sign-Me-Up board in the hallway for the potluck.

### CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR TO HELP GATHER DECORATIONS? SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 10AM

We are in need of several volunteers with strong muscles and backs to bring Christmas items from the Youth House. If you can help, please sign up on the Sign-Me-Up board.



### CHILDREN'S ADVENT WREATH ACTIVITY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 11:15AM

Children are invited to make an Advent wreath after the 10am service on December 3 in the Parish Hall.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our annual Christmas Pageant will take place on Christmas Eve December 24 at 4:00pm. We are seeking a few volunteers to help prepare props and costume bags, and hand out the bags at the service. Interested? Contact Jayne Watson at 734-453-0190, ext. 14 or [jwatson@stjohnsplymouth.org](mailto:jwatson@stjohnsplymouth.org).

### HAT, SCARF & GLOVE DRIVE FOR STARFISH



The Youth of St. John's are holding a Hat, Scarf and Glove Drive (toddler through adult) for their Ministry Partners, Starfish Family Services. The collection bin is by the Family Ministry bulletin board in the narthex through Dec. 3.

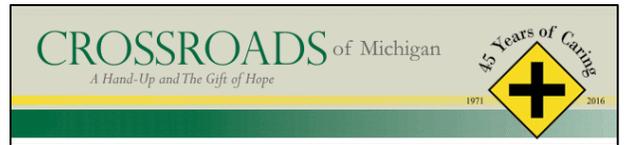
### ST. JOHN'S 13TH ANNUAL SOCK DRIVE

The Men's Devotional Group is collecting funds for the SJP Sock Drive providing socks for the people of St. Leo's and Crossroads Soup Kitchen. A \$25 contribution can provide over 55 pairs of socks. **Please write your check to St. John's with "socks" in the memo line by November 26.**

### ACRYLIC PAINTING CLASSES WEDNESDAYS, NOV. 29 - DEC. 13

Acrylic painting is fun and easy! Take one class or take them all! Classes are on Wednesdays, Nov. 29-Dec. 13 from 6:30-8:30pm. Cost is \$20 per class. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Danisa Saltarelli at [danisart1215@gmail.com](mailto:danisart1215@gmail.com).

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



### CROSSROADS UPDATE! WE STILL NEED TURKEYS & PIE MONEY

This year St. John's and St. David's together will feed about 700 guests a turkey dinner. Response has been great but we still need a few items.

**Cooked Turkeys-**We are still need 27 turkeys! Each person who signs up should take instructions explaining prep details and a due date off the bulletin board.



**Adopt a Pie-**This year because it's so close to Christmas we are asking for donations so that we can purchase pies from Costco. Just check "yes I'll donate" on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Make your check payable to SJP, write "pies" in the memo line and drop it in the collection plate.

Sign-up sheets can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway by the mailboxes. Contact Dick Bass, SJP Crossroads representative at 248-477-8481 or [dickbass1943@gmail.com](mailto:dickbass1943@gmail.com) with questions.

### SIX WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ON DECEMBER 24-25? YES!

It's one of those things. For better or worse:

- The Fourth Sunday of Advent is not to be missed, even when it falls on Christmas Eve.
- A good number of you will be at Crossroads, and still there may be visitors who plan to come that morning for the first time. What a witness to say that you are feeding the hungry.
- Best attended services on Christmas Eve are earliest, followed by mid-evening. Eleven is more sparsely attended as church-goers age. So we are experimenting with a service at 9pm, identical to 11:00. Vote with your feet -- we are not changing this year, just adding. More worship opportunities beget more worshippers. So we'll see!
- Christmas Eve is one time when people look for what we do best - worship with communal song. So we offer ourselves as gift to the community - and share the life-giving hope of the Word become flesh.
- St. John's is one of few churches around that offers worship on Christmas morning.



## ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

We offer prayers today for those mentioned below. Add names at our prayer station in the Narthex.

Donald	Gray
Lexy	Rev. Barb Cavin
Cheryl Crouse	John Culotta
Suzanne Eberly	Charles Eissler
Jeff Holland	Janis Kljun
Kitty Kremer	Susan Lutz
Carole Mitchell	Pat Nickels
Suzanne Parker	Justin Rush
Mark Sharp	Ken Skoug
Ernst Sternberg	Scarlet Synowiec
Donald Walker	Rhonda Cheek Williams
The Mike Robinson Family	The Reck Family

### For those in uniform

David Peraino – U.S. Army (thankful for safe return home!)  
 Matthew J. Mitchell – U.S. Navy Chief  
 Thomas Dolce – U.S. Air Force  
 Carly Bair – U.S. Navy  
 Joe James – U.S. Army  
 Ian Smith – U.S. Navy  
 Dylan Racine – U.S. Army  
 Taylor Blair – U.S. Army  
 Nate Jesgarz – U.S. Navy



### SERVING TODAY – NOVEMBER 26

**Preacher** Rev. Dana Runestad

**Altar Guild** Rita Smith,  
 Nancy Mitchell,  
 Tracy McCord

#### **Lay Ministers**

8:00 Ralph Reeves  
 10:00 Sr. Magdalena, Becky Nickels, Sally Lindroth

#### **Acolytes**

8:00 Maya Crouse, Ryan Crouse  
 10:00 Casey McCord, Maria McCord

#### **Ushers**

8:00 Dee Fleming  
 10:00 Patricia Ponte, Robert Hurley, Carolyn Setty

### SERVING NEXT WEEK – DECEMBER 3

**Preacher** Rev. Dana Runestad

**Altar Guild** Jan MacLeod, Pat Sonntag,  
 Dawn Florkowski/Danisa Saltarelli

#### **Lay Ministers**

8:00 Susan Wainwright  
 10:00 Penny Striegel, Valerie Sander, Ken Sanders,  
 Howard Zuckerman

#### **Acolytes**

8:00 Maya Crouse, Ryan Crouse  
 10:00 Jocelyn Dessin, Ella Binder Clare Binder

#### **Ushers**

8:00 Dee Fleming  
 10:00 Dave Smith, Sal Cavallaro, Sue Skaggs



## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

*Office Hours ~ Monday – Friday ~ 8:30am – 4:30pm*

### SUNDAY, November 26

**Sunday Holy Eucharist** .....8:00 & 10:00am  
 Nursery (infant-3yrs) .....9:45-11:45am  
**NO Sunday School**.....  
 Coffee Hour – Gathering.....11:15am  
 Choir Practice.....11:15am  
 Joyful Noise Youth Choir.....11:15am  
 Parent Small Group.....11:15am

### MONDAY, November 27

Red Cross Blood Drive.....10:30am-4:30pm  
 Narcotics Anonymous.....7:00pm

### TUESDAY, November 28

Bible Study.....9:30am  
 Altar Guild Luncheon.....1:00pm  
 Food Pantry.....2:00-4:00pm

### WEDNESDAY, November 29

Wednesday Women's Study.....9:00am  
 Midweek Prayer Service.....10:30am  
 SJP Handbell Rehearsal.....6:00pm  
 SJP Houseband Rehearsal.....6:30pm  
 Advent Painting Class.....6:30pm

### THURSDAY, November 30

OA Meeting.....8:30am  
 Diocesan Curate Training.....9:00am  
 Men' Devotional Group.....10:00am  
 Private Event-Parish Hall.....10:30am  
 Interim Clergy Group.....1:00pm  
 Food Pantry.....2:00-4:00pm

### FRIDAY, December 1

### SATURDAY, December 2

Men's Bible Sunday.....7:30am  
 Al Anon Meeting .....8:00am  
 Intro to Centering Prayer.....10:00am

### SUNDAY, December 3

**Sunday Holy Eucharist** .....8:00 & 10:00am  
 Nursery (infant-3yrs) .....9:45-11:45am  
 Sunday School.....9:45am  
 Children's Advent Wreath Activity.....11:15am  
 Coffee Hour – Gathering.....11:15am  
 Choir Practice.....11:15am  
 Joyful Noise Youth Choir.....11:15am  
 Parent Small Group.....11:15am  
**Vocal Arts Ensemble Christmas Concert**.....3:00pm

### Dates to Remember

Advent Painting Class.....Wed, Dec. 6 & 13  
 Property Commission Mtg.....Sunday, Dec. 10