

# 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.

Please note: Pastor Dana will be away for continuing education Sunday afternoon, December 3 through Thursday, December 7. In case of a pastoral emergency after office hours, call Rev. Julia Huttar-Bailey at 734-649-6689.

## ALTAR FLOWER & AUMBRY LIGHT DEDICATIONS



### TODAY'S AUMBRY LIGHT DEDICATION

In Memory of  
Ignatius & Pearl Fenwick



## WELCOME TO ADVENT !

Welcome to Advent! (*and Happy New Year!*)

A new church year commences today with the season of Advent (which means coming). More than any season of the church's year, Advent brings into bold relief the fact that the church is counter cultural. I find this to be both bane and blessing. We begin a new church year while the world is busy finishing a calendar year -- and the month is filled with shopping, pageants, and parties beyond what our energy and time can handle. While culture urges us to hurry and spend, scripture and tradition (and reason!) beckon us to slow down and wait. Aaaaaaargh! Can we just surrender?



Last Sunday, the last Sunday of the church's liturgical year, we acknowledged the reign of Christ over our brokenness and our hope (the children's message), I mentioned in the sermon that St. John's is like an "embassy" for the Kingdom of God in a foreign country - the "Kingdom of Me." And we are emissaries who work and serve on behalf of Christ. Advent, like no other time, affords us the opportunity to truly BE something different. For some of us, that will mean embarking on a practice of Centering Prayer - when for two periods a day we "set the rushing down," take a vacation from ourselves and return (repent) to God and rest in God's presence.

For others, it may mean being more intentional about prioritizing. For others, it will mean preparing and cooking Christmas dinner for the poor, providing food for our food pantry ministry, or socks, gloves, mittens, scarves for others in need. For some of us, we can practice the presence of God in our midst by BEING a respite from the rush. Let someone go ahead of you in the check-out line. Stop for the yellow light. Shovel your neighbor's sidewalk. These intentions serve as reminders to watch and wait, to step aside and create space in the mundane moments of our lives for the presence of Christ to be birthed among us. Come, Lord Jesus!

Faithfully,  
Pastor Dana

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### AUMBRY LIGHT & ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS



Every Sunday members and friends of St. John's sign up to dedicate the aubry light or altar flowers in honor of, in memory of or in celebration of a life event. The 2018 Sign-Up sheets have been posted on the Sign-Me-Up board in the hallway. An Aubry Light dedication is a \$5 donation; Altar Flower dedication is a \$50 donation.

### 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.

### UPCOMING BAPTISM DATE Sunday, January 7 at the 10am service

To schedule a baptism, please complete a baptism form found outside the office and contact Pastor Dana at 734-765-1141 or [pastordana@stjohnsplymouth.org](mailto:pastordana@stjohnsplymouth.org).

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



### Sundays in Advent

Worship ~ Dec. 3 - Dec. 24 8:00am & 10:00am

### Children's Advent Wreath

Today, Dec. 3 in the Parish Hall 11:30am

### Hanging of the Greens & Potluck Lunch

Church Decorating - Sunday, Dec. 10 11:15am

### Wednesdays in Advent

Painting Class - Wed., Dec. 6 & 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



### VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE CONCERT AT SJP Today, 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 go directly to Vocal Arts Ensemble to help support their organization. A reception will follow the concert in the Gathering. As part of this celebration, we are asking for volunteers to bring fingers dessert for the reception.

### CHILDREN'S ADVENT WREATH ACTIVITY Today, December 3 at 11:30am



Children are invited to make an Advent wreath after the 10am service at 11:30am today in the Parish Hall.

### TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR HAT, SCARF & GLOVE DRIVE FOR STARFISH



The Youth of St. John's goal is to help 300 people stay warm at Starfish Family Services. Today is the last day for the collection. Place your items in the bin in the narthex.

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

Thank you to all who contributed to the Men's Group Sock Drive. With the amount collected, we are able to purchase over 2,600 pairs of socks to be distributed to St. Leo's/Crossroads participants!

### 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**



### 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 (see next page for "Hanging of the Greens")

## 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.

### 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).

### ACRYLIC PAINTING CLASSES WEDNESDAYS, DEC. 6 & DEC. 13

Acrylic painting is fun and easy! Take one class or take them all! Classes are on Wednesdays, Dec 6 & 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).



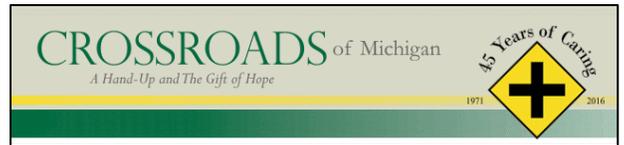
### ADVENT CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP II SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 FROM 10AM-12PM

*In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed...*  
Isaiah 40:3-5a

The voices of Advent belong to Isaiah and John the Baptist: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" And the practices of Advent belong to us. Centering Prayer is a fruitful way to practice preparing for the birth of Christ's presence in you. Episcopal priest and Centering Prayer teacher Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault says "the most important thing in learning Centering Prayer is to forget everything you think you know about meditation...Centering Prayer is not about developing concentration, attaining clear mind, conscious presence, a strong witnessing 'I,' or some desired state. In Centering Prayer you merely practice and practice the core...motion: 'let go, make space, unclench' - thought by thought by thought..." It is a method that "frees us from obstacles that prevent faith, hope, and love from unfolding within us."

This second workshop will reinforce concepts introduced in the December 2 workshop, and provide opportunity for reflecting together on your experience if you have started a CP practice. First-timers and repeaters are welcome. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway.

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



### CROSSROADS UPDATE!

**we are MAKING PROGRESS, ONLY 9 more turkeys NEEDED!**

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 only need 9 more turkeys!** Each person who signs up should take instructions explaining prep details and a due date off the bulletin board.



**We have enough people committed to helping both Saturday and Sunday. The money donated for pies continues to come in. Please remember to make your donation if you have not already done so.**

**The cookie bin is in the hallway if you would like to donate cookies for the children's Crossroads Christmas Eve dinner.**

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.

Clyde	Donald
Gray	Lexy
Cheryl Crouse	John Culotta
Suzanne Eberly	Charles Eissler
Jeff Holland	Janis Kljun
Kitty Kremer	Susan Lutz
Carole Mitchell	Pat Nickels
Suzanne Parker	Justin Rush
Ken Skoug	Ernst Sternberg
Scarlet Synowiec	Donald Walker
Rhonda Cheek Williams	The Mike Robinson Family
The Reck Family	The Horvath/Roy 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 – 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

### Serving Next Week – December 10

**Preacher** Rev. Dana Runestad

**Altar Guild** Beth Wideman, Penny Striegel,  
 Vicki Pratt/Irene Jarrell

### **Lay Ministers**

8:00 Ralph Reeves  
 10:00 Tracy McCord, Richard Dessin, James Boileau

### **Acolytes**

8:00 Maya Crouse, Ryan Crouse  
 10:00 Meganne Skoug, Amelia Dowswell, TJ Rapson

### **Ushers**

8:00 Dee Fleming  
 10:00 Patricia Ponte, Jane Libbing, Alan Taracuk

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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

### SUNDAY, December 3

**Sunday Holy Eucharist .....8:00 & 10:00am**  
 Nursery (infant-3yrs) .....9:45-11:45am  
 Sunday School.....9:45am  
 Coffee Hour – Gathering.....11:15am  
 Choir Practice.....11:15am  
 Joyful Noise Youth Choir.....11:15am  
 Parent Small Group.....11:15am  
 Children's Advent Wreath Activity.....11:30am  
**Vocal Arts Ensemble Christmas Concert.....3:00pm**

### MONDAY, December 4

Narcotics Anonymous.....7:00pm

### TUESDAY, December 5

Bible Study.....9:30am  
 Food Pantry.....2:00-4:00pm

### WEDNESDAY, December 6

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

### THURSDAY, December 7

Men' Devotional Group (departs for St. Leo's).....8:30am  
 OA Meeting.....8:30am  
 Diocesan Priest Developer Group.....10:00am  
 Food Pantry.....2:00-4:00pm

### FRIDAY, December 8

### SATURDAY, December 9

Men's Bible Sunday.....7:30am  
 Al Anon Meeting.....8:00am

### SUNDAY, December 10

**Sunday Holy Eucharist .....8:00 & 10:00am**  
 Property Commission Meeting.....9:00am  
 Nursery (infant-3yrs) .....9:45-11:45am  
 Sunday School.....9:45am  
 Coffee Hour – Gathering.....11:15am  
 Choir Practice.....11:15am  
 Joyful Noise Youth Choir.....11:15am  
 Parent Small Group.....11:15am  
 PFLAG Meeting.....3:00pm



### Dates to Remember

BeFriender's Meeting.....Sunday, Dec. 11  
 Vestry Budget Meeting.....Tuesday, Dec. 12  
 Advent Painting Class.....Wednesday, Dec. 13  
 Centering Prayer Workshop II.....Saturday, Dec. 16