

# 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

### 2018 AUMBRY LIGHT & ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS



Every Sunday members and friends of St. John's sign up to dedicate the aumbry 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 Aumbry Light dedication is a \$5 donation; Altar Flower dedication is a \$50 donation.

## THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Advent is the ultimate season of transition. It is a time we anticipate the coming of Christ. Ideally, Advent provides good exercise for the lost art of waiting. That's a gift for a congregation in transition, not to mention a world in transition! To that end, these words of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin offer some perspective on the Advent disciplines of waiting and hoping with patience and trust.



### *Patient Trust*

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability - and that it may take a very long time. And so I think it is with you. Your ideas mature gradually - let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, As though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give your Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Faithfully,  
Pastor Dana

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### SIGN-UP TO Be a COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOST

We have resurrected 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.



### SCHEDULE YOUR BAPTISM NOW FOR 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). **Deadline for scheduling is Sunday, December 17.**

### PLEASE REVIEW YOUR SJP 2017 GIVING

SJP Giving Statements for the period of January-November 2017 will be mailed to your home in the next week. Please take a few minutes to review the giving history in this statement. This is also a good time to make sure you are up to date on your 2017 pledge.



If you believe any portion of this statement to be in error, please contact the St. John's Treasurer Beth Frolick-Rapson at 248-765-0889 or [elizabeth.frolick@ally.com](mailto:elizabeth.frolick@ally.com) with questions.

Please note ~ if you are submitting donations toward your 2018 pledge before years end, please write "2018 pledge" on the memo line of your check or on the comment area of your SecureGive account.

We thank you for your generous support of the mission and ministry of St. John's.

### Save THE DATE! SJP ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018 AT 11:15am

There will be only **one worship service at 10:00am**. We will gather afterwards for a potluck lunch to celebrate the past year and look forward to the future. Please plan to attend this important ministry meeting!

**Ministry Chairs** ~ We are in the beginning stages of laying out this year's Annual Report. Please be on the lookout for an email inviting you to update your ministry description to be placed in the Annual Meeting Booklet. Reports will be due to the Parish Administrator by January 7, 2018.

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



### Sundays in Advent

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

### Hanging of the Greens & Potluck

Church Decorating - Today 11:15am

### Wednesdays in Advent

Painting Class - Wed., Dec. 13 6:30pm

### Advent Centering Prayer Workshop II

Saturday, Dec. 16 10:00am

### 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)

### HANGING OF THE GREENS AND POTLUCK LUNCH TODAY AT 11:15AM



Even if you haven't signed up and want to help decorate the church for the holidays, you're welcome to attend the potluck and help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. Stop by the Parish Hall after the 10am service!

### LAST SUNDAY'S ADVENT WREATH ACTIVITY!

Last Sunday, our SJP kids had fun making their own advent wreath all while learning all about Advent! The kids learned that each week we light another candle, what it symbolizes, and prayers for each Sunday thru Christmas. The kids were able to take their wreaths home to share with their family.



## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### SJP'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



It is a St. John's tradition that the Christmas story is presented by our youth during the 4:00pm Christmas Eve service. This year is no exception. All children and youth, ages 3 and up, are invited to participate to this "walk-up pageant" (no rehearsal needed). We will have angels, shepherds, sheep, wise men, etc. and each child will be in costume.

We are seeking a few adult or youth volunteers to help prepare props and costume bags, and hand out the bags at the service. Interested? Contact Jayne Watson at [jwatson@stjohnsplymouth.org](mailto:jwatson@stjohnsplymouth.org).

### ACRYLIC PAINTING CLASS

Wednesday, Dec. 13

This is the last class of the series which is on Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 6:30- 8:30pm. Acrylic painting is fun and easy! Cost is \$20. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Danisa Saltarelli at [danisart1215@gmail.com](mailto:danisart1215@gmail.com).

### 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**



### HAT, SCARF & GLOVES DRIVE FOR STARFISH

We would like to thank all the very generous members of SJP for the many hat, scarf and glove/mitten donations which will keep those at Starfish Family Services warm this winter. The collection bin was overflowing with 291 items!

### ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL SOCK DRIVE

The 13th annual sock drive was once again a great success! SJP members and friends generously donated \$1,200 to go toward the purchase of over 2,400 pairs socks which will provide warm feet for those who visit the St. Leo's Soup Kitchen & Crossroads Soup Kitchen during the Christmas season. Many thanks to Soyad Brothers Textiles in Fraser who allows us to purchase the socks at wholesale prices to make our funds go that much further. We would also like to thank the Thursday morning men's group for spearheading this effort!

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

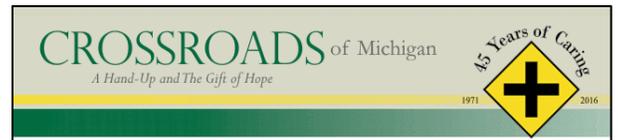


### ADVENT CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP II SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 FROM 10AM-12PM

*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.



### CROSSROADS UPDATE ONLY 4 MORE TURKEYS NEEDED!

**Cooked Turkeys-We only need 4 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. **If you committed to make a donation for pies, please make sure to do this Sunday 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.

## ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

We offer prayers today for those who have requested inclusion on our prayer list. Add names at our prayer station in the Narthex. Prayers continue for 30 days.

Clyde	Donald
Gray	Lexy
Cheryl Crouse	John Culotta
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

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 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

### SERVING NEXT WEEK - December 17

**Preacher** Rev. Dana Runestad

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

#### **Lay Ministers**

8:00 Susan Wainwright  
 10:00 Lynn Rison, Krista Dessin, Dick Bass

#### **Acolytes**

8:00 Maya Crouse, Ryan Crouse  
 10:00 Michael Zuckerman, Karen Sole

#### **Ushers**

8:00 Dee Fleming  
 10:00 Dave Smith, Robert Hurley, Carolyn Setty,  
 Paul Kapusky



## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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

### 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  
 Hanging of the Greens.....11:15am  
 Coffee Hour - Gathering.....11:15am  
 Choir Practice.....11:15am  
 Joyful Noise Youth Choir.....11:15am  
 Parent Small Group.....11:15am  
 PFLAG Meeting.....3:00pm

### MONDAY, December 11

Narcotics Anonymous.....7:00pm

### TUESDAY, December 12

Bible Study.....9:30am  
 Food Pantry.....2:00-4:00pm  
 Vestry Budget Meeting.....7:00pm

### WEDNESDAY, December 13

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

### THURSDAY, December 14

OA Meeting.....8:30am  
 Men' Devotional Group.....10:00am  
 Food Pantry.....2:00-4:00pm

### FRIDAY, December 15

### SATURDAY, December 16

Men's Bible Sunday.....7:30am  
 Al Anon Meeting .....8:00am  
 Advent Centering Prayer Workshop II.....10:00am

### SUNDAY, December 17

**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



### Dates to Remember

Stock Club.....Monday, Dec. 18  
 Crossroads Prep Day at SJP.....Saturday, Dec. 23  
 Crossroads Soup Kitchen-Detroit.....Sunday, Dec. 24  
 See page 2 for the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day  
 worship schedule.