



ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

ADVENT SERIES

Experiencing the Holy

As we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, St. John's has set aside time to experiment with fresh ways of experiencing the holy in our lives. Our **Advent Series** gatherings will begin at 5:30 and conclude by 7:30 and are all family-oriented.

December 3: *Experiencing the Holy through Contemplation*

December 10: *Experiencing the Holy through Art*

December 17: *Experiencing the Holy through Celebration and the Christmas Pageant*



A special note on our December 17 gathering: This will be a large (we hope) community gathering including activities for the whole family, caroling, food, and worship. We will need a lot of help to make this evening a success. There are ideas for healthy holiday foods available at the church for those willing to bring something to share. We have some craft and activity ideas that you might lead, or you are welcome to come up with your own ideas. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Meeting Room bulletin board or you can call the office.

BOOKS FOR OUR LITTLE LIBRARIES



What better way is there to spend a quiet winter's evening than curled up with a good book. St. John's maintains two "little libraries" in order to make books easily available to our neighbors. One is located on Town St. next to the produce stand and one is outside the Learning Center.

WE NEED BOOKS. Books for all ages are needed. As you think about giving at Christmas, consider the gift of new or gently used books that you and other members of your family have enjoyed and donate them to our little libraries. A box for books is on the stage in the Meeting Room and will remain there into the new year.

The soul of one who loves God always swims in joy, always keeps holiday, and is always in a mood for singing.

— John of the Cross

St. Nicholas to Visit on December 6

December 6 is celebrated as the Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, the much-loved bishop who is patron saint of children and sailors. Tradition has it that he provided dowries for three sisters who would not otherwise have been able to marry by dropping coins down their chimney, thus maintaining his anonymity. He is also said to have saved sailors from disaster at sea.



In modern times, St. Nicholas has visited children, leaving coins in their shoes while they sleep. At St. John's he visits and brings new socks to everyone at His Place with treats in the toes. He will be at His Place worship on Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00 and stay for dinner at 6:30.

ADVENT ADVOCACY DAY

December 5, 2017

Living into the hope that our faith provides
for all those who hunger and thirst for justice.



Advent is a time in the Christian tradition where we focus on our call to prepare for the Glory of God that is coming - it is a season of anticipation for something beautiful on the horizon. Advocacy is an Advent activity. Advocacy is one way that we are called to prepare the world to be in right relationship. Too many children, seniors, and hard-working Ohioans experience poverty and hunger each year. Through our advocacy, victories are not immediate, but we continue to faithfully address hunger with full knowledge that someday all will receive their daily bread.

So this Advent, join other people of faith at the Ohio Statehouse for a day of advocacy on hunger and poverty! The morning will feature training on why and how we do advocacy and the afternoon will allow us the opportunity to go in teams to meet state Representatives and Senators to discuss your concerns and passions on how to live into the reality of God's promise that all may receive their daily bread. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY** — you will learn everything you need to know and accompany seasoned advocates.

We will meet at **9:00** at **St. John's** and carpool to the Statehouse. Please let Lee Anne know that you will be there on **December 5th!**

A few facts:

- 1 in 3 households in Ohio are living on the edge or in poverty and are not able to make ends meet without assistance.
- More than 80% of households struggling to get by (on less than 200% of the federal poverty level) are working.
- An Ohioan needs to earn, on average, \$15 an hour to afford a 2-bedroom apartment. The average renter only earns \$12.87.
- 14.8% of Ohioans experienced food insecurity in 2016. Ranking Ohio 39th. This is an increase of 16.5% since 2006's rate of 12.7%.
- More than 1 in 5 kids struggle with hunger. Monroe County has the highest rate of childhood hunger with a rate of nearly 30%.
- Ohio food banks saw a 20% increase last year in senior citizens needing assistance.
- In Ohio, African Americans experience a rate of hunger more than 142% greater than European Americans. (22.5% to 9.3%)

The Circle of Life

We share the grief of **Karen Brown** upon the death of her father, **Charles Brown**. *Rest eternal grant him, O Lord and may light perpetual shine upon him.*

We celebrate with **Alexi and Maombi Gahungu** on the birth of their son, **Alex Fidele Magisha**. Also welcoming Alex are his six other sisters and brothers. *Into your hands, O God, we place your child. Support him in his successes and in his failures, in his joys and in his sorrows. As he grows in age, may he grow in grace, and in the knowledge of his Savior Jesus Christ Amen.*

Reaching Out to the Kaufman Family

Earlier this month, **Patrick Kaufman**, a member of Mission Council and active member of the Franklinton community, was diagnosed with cancer. He is in treatment and, along with his wife **Karen** and children, **Jeremiah, Emma, and Christian**, need our love and support.

Please pray for Patrick and his family. If you would like to receive updates and help with their needs, join the Facebook group "Caring for the Kaufmans" and/or sign up to take meals to the Kaufmans or help in other ways at <https://mealtrain.com/z940mr>

Honoring Altar Guild Members

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing for Sunday worship services — setting the table, cleaning up after the service, changing altar hangings, and making sure everything is ready for worship. It is one of those behind-the-scenes ministries that is vital to the work of the church. The Mission Council wishes to thank and honor all of those who presently serve.

Karen Brown

Karen has been a member of St. John's for about seventeen years and served on the Altar Guild for about ten of those years. She values the overwhelming sense of community and family that St. John's provides to all who come through its doors. She sees us as embodying a very welcoming and caring atmosphere as well as offering support and hope. When she's not at St. John's, Karen works in the non profit field in the Columbus area and has for the better part of the last 25 years. For fun Karen enjoys, movies, going out to eat, crochet, hanging out with friends and, when time permits, travel.

Julie Bull

Julie has been at St. John's for about 12 years and doing Altar Guild since intern Nikki Seger suggested the ministry to her. Before worshipping at St. John's, Julie and her family volunteered for many years in the His Place ministry. She values our involvement in the local community. She teaches and, for fun, watches old movies, tap dances, and walks.

Jonathan Youngman

Jonathan was been attending St. John's since 2008 and served on Altar Guild since 2011. He first started participating through Street Church and His Place. Jonathan values the community at St. John's the most. He loves his fellow parishioners, the deacons and priest, and the culture of the church (maybe best exemplified by the passing of the peace). And he also loves the service and the way in which the warmth of the parish culture is reinforced by the service. He says "the two work together very well in my opinion." He is the executive director of Franklinton Cycle Works and spends much of his time at the shop or working on behalf of FCW. He says he rarely leaves Franklinton anymore, but does enjoy camping and long bike rides when he can get away.

Bonnie LaFleur

Bonnie has attended St. John's for about 10 years. She is not sure how long she has done Altar Guild but thinks it is a couple years or so. She likes St. John's because the neighborhood is the ministry, because of the diversity in the congregation, and because of the clergy. She is busy grand-parenting, working a couple days a week, and is very involved with her Christi class at another church and is on it's "weekend team". She also looks forward to attending church on Sunday.

Looking Toward Christmas

The four weeks of Advent prepare us for the celebration of Christmas when we welcome the Christ child into our lives. As we move through Advent, we are making plans for Christmas worship and fellowship. Please make note of these activities:

- ◇ **Christmas Pageant** — Our annual Christmas Pageant will be in the context of our Advent evening on **December 17**. Everyone is welcome to participate— children and adults and no preparation is required. Just come and be part of the story at **5:30** on **Sunday, December 17**
- ◇ **Advent IV Worship** — Because Advent IV is on Christmas Eve, our **10:30 AM** worship will be a **Festival of Lessons and Carols**. Street Church at **1:00 PM** will be Eucharist with Advent IV readings.
- ◇ **Christmas Eve Worship** — We will gather for **Festival Holy Eucharist** at **5:30 PM** on **Sunday, December 24**.
- ◇ **Christmas Eve Dinner** — Immediately following 5:30 worship, those who have attended are invited to stay for a beautiful holiday dinner. **Desserts and vegetable dishes are needed for this dinner. Please sign up in the Meeting Room.**

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*For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
City of David
a Savior who is
Christ the Lord*

St. John's is a Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

Mission Council Members

Suzan Waller, Sr. Warden
 Kristyn Vergauwen, Jr. Warden
 Karen Brown, Clerk
 Julie Bull
 Lynn Gervais-Weinle
 Patrick Kaufman
 Cheryl Mellon
 Becky Papp
 Pam Thurston
 Kurt Wacker

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Lee Anne Reat, Vicar
 The Rev. Craig Foster, Deacon
 The Rev. Meribah Mansfield, Deacon
 Rich Rastetter, Treasurer
 Jeanne Jewell, Bookkeeper
 Darrell Forren, Director of Music
 Jeff Lucky, Building Maintenance

St. John's is a Body of Christians giving thanks to God through traditional worship in an informal setting and serving God, fully dedicated to being in ministry with our neighborhood and beyond.

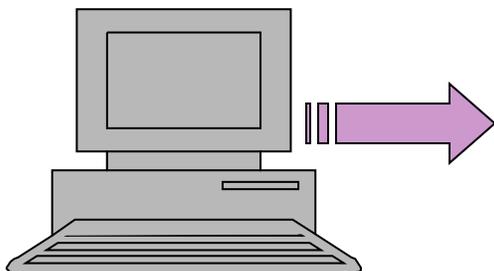
The Ministries of St. John's

Sundays	Holy Eucharist and Sunday School	10:30 AM
	Fellowship follows service	
	Street Church	1:00 PM
Mondays	Alcoholics Anonymous	8:00 PM
Wednesdays	Women to Women (Last Wednesday of month)	Noon
	Bible Study (September—June)	5:00 PM
	His Place Worship (September—June)	6:00 PM
	His Place Dinner (September—June)	6:30 PM
	Girl Sprouts (First & Third Wednesday, September—May)	7:00 PM

Godman Guild Learning Center

Adult Education Classes

(614) 294-5476



- Email us at stjohnsfranklinton@gmail.com
- We're on the web at www.st-johns-columbus.diosohio.org
- We're on Facebook at Saint John's Episcopal
- Our phone number is 614-221-9328