



From the *Interim Rector*

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.

[Ephesians 1:17-18a]

Dear people of God at St. John's Episcopal Church,
Happy New Year!

As I mentioned in my Thoughts for Thursday column last week, we will be organizing the year 2025 under the theme of "Hope and Healing."

I had already begun to establish this theme in last month's newsletter article, so this is a continuation of that theme.

My "hope" is to inspire you to be filled with excitement and anticipation as the Search Committee continues its work in its efforts to call a clergyperson and together, we prepare the way for what awaits us in the future.

Hope is believing firmly in what is in store for you, what the future holds for you and who holds your future.

That hope acts as your anchor in the storms of life, to hold you steady so you are not overwhelmed. God wants you to have this hope, to know it with every fiber of your being. .

But that does require some effort on our part.

And the effort begins with answering the question, "What is the hope to which God has called me?"

At its most basic element, the answer is in the verses written at the top of this page from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Simply put, the answer is in knowing Jesus better. If we know Jesus, then we'll know the hope to which God has called us.

So that begs another question, how do we get to know Jesus better?

The most obvious answer is the Bible. And you may not realize this, but 70% of our *Book of Common Prayer* is taken from the Bible.

For anyone who has not developed the practice of daily prayer, I would suggest turning to that book as a starting point. I will go even further and suggest you begin with page 136, which offers an outline for "Daily Devotions for Families and Individuals."

I will add one more suggestion.

Each Thursday in our weekly email we will share a verse for the week. As often as possible, it will be a verse from one of the lectionary readings for that upcoming Sunday, so you will hear it in our Eucharist. I ask that you memorize it and carry it with you for that week as you think of how it may apply to your daily living.

This present living is a time of listening...listening and proclaiming.

God has given us God's Word and wants all of us to gladly hear and learn it. It's hard to witness to what you don't know.

Our prayer should be that each and each and every one of us continues in Christ's teaching and thereby shows that we truly are his disciples.

+The Rev. Abraham D. Allende

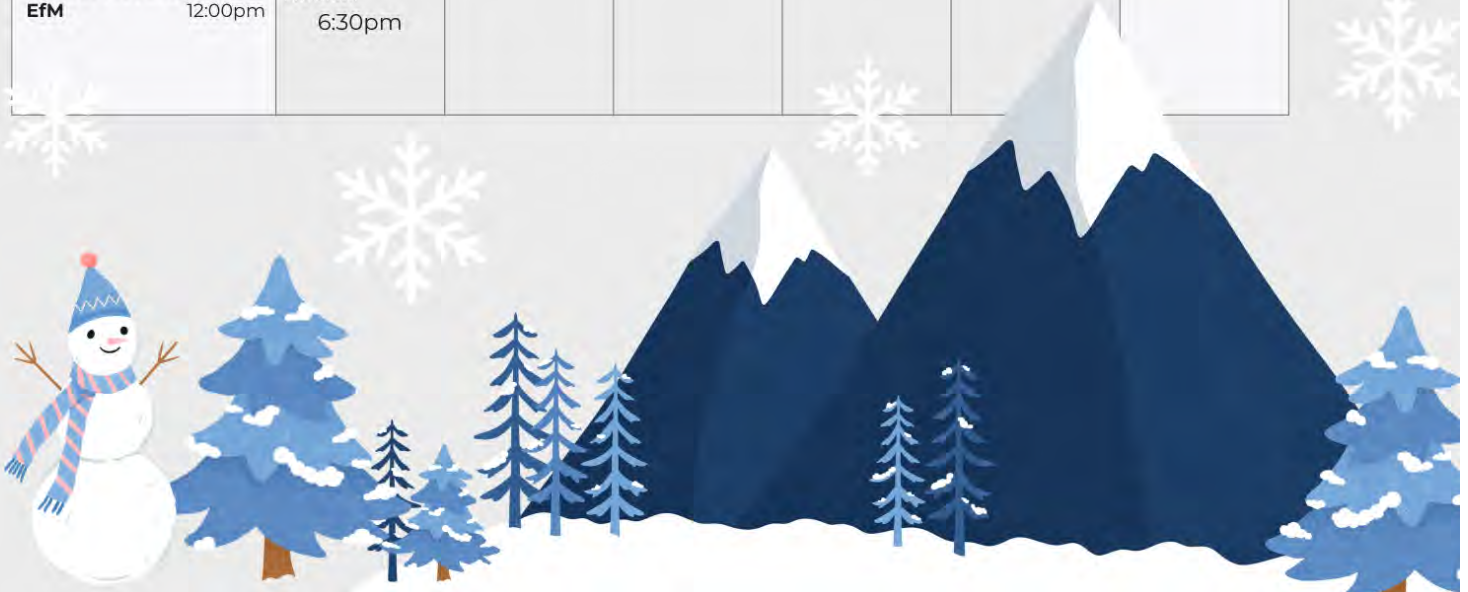
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Annual Meeting
January 26, 2025 10:45 am Great Hall

The **GOOD NEWS**

JANUARY 2025 · NUMBER ONE VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE
A publication of ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Office Closed	2 Exec Committee 5:15pm	3	4 Boar's Head Practice
5 Rite II 10:00am Boar's Head Performances 1:30pm 4:00pm	6 Office Closed	7 Read at Taft Elementary 9:20am	8 Abundant Life 6:00pm Book Club 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:15pm	9 Taft Student of the Month 12:30pm Vestry 5:15pm	10	11 Lit Youngstown Writing Intensives 9-5:00pm
12 Rite I 8:00am Rite II 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am EfM 12:00pm	13	14 PFLAG 6:30pm	15 Choir Practice 7:15pm	16	17	18 Women's Coffee 9:00am Pantry 10:00am
19 Rite I 8:00am Rite II 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am	20	21 Taft Mobile Pantry 1:15pm	22 Choir Practice 7:15pm	23	24	25
26 Rite II 9:30am Annual Meeting 10:30am EfM 12:00pm	27 YSU Faculty Recital 6:30pm	28	29	30	31	



WE HAVE A LOT TO Celebrate

January Birthdays

- 1 Jary Silver
- 2 Thomas Hays
- 5 Daniel Walsh
- 6 Sean Hare
Linda Vasconi
- 7 Shirley Fedor
- 8 Pat Rogers
- 10 Jason Lisko
- 11 Alana Callahan
- 12 Peggy Scott
- 14 Rex Leach
- 16 Nate Offerdahl
- 18 Max Caguiat
- 21 Mike Schubert
Anthony Estes
- 24 Anthony Furr
Liz Bulkley Testa
- 26 Bill Bonte
- 28 Margie Franklin-Smith
Lisa Elliott
T.J. Saxton
- 29 Rebekah Silver

January Anniversaries

- 6 Jean & Larry Misik
- 28 Donna & Tim Ruane

If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in or removed from upcoming newsletters or bulletins, please contact the office at (330) 743-3175 or email office@stjohnohio.org



Altar Flowers

Commemorate a loved one with Altar Flowers or an Aumbrey Candle. Your notice will be posted in the weekly bulletin. Altar Flowers are a suggested donation of \$25 for one week. Aumbrey candles are a suggested donation of \$10 for two weeks. If you would like to add a new name to the Altar Flower list, you can now do so on the bulletin board on the second floor or contact the church office.



The Good News Submissions

If you would like to submit something to the St. John's newsletter, please contact Heather in the office. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month and will appear in the following month's edition. We accept prayers, reflections, articles about events, or even things from the archives.



We Pray For

Those who have requested prayer this month:

T.J. Leo, Allen DeMarks, Kim Daniels, Jim Ehret, Vickey, Ginger Elliott, Carmela, Adam Sullivan, Doug Hotchkiss, Charles Rumberg, Twila, Carol, Wally, Ron Robertson, Gaynell Harris, Carlos & Julianna Caguiat, Heather Foley, Denise Lancaster, Donna Wynn, Tim Ruane

The faithful departed and their families: Emma Jones died on Sunday, January 5th. A Funeral service and Committal will be held at St. John's on Thursday, January 30th at 11:00am followed by coffee hour in the church parlor.



The Red Door Food Pantry

EVERY THIRD SATURDAY AT 10 AM

Red Door Food Pantry

Our upcoming Red Door Food Pantry is Saturday, January 18th from 10:00-11:15am. Volunteers are always needed. If you or your group would like to volunteer, please contact the church office at office@stjohnohio.org



Women's COFFEE

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY AT 9:00AM

Women's Coffee

Join us for Women's Coffee Saturday, January 18th at 9:00am.



Taft Elementary School Outreach

Reading at Taft Elementary Tuesday, January 7th, 9:20am

Taft Student of the Month Thursday, January 9th, at 12:00pm

Taft Mobile Pantry Tuesday, January 21st, at 1:15pm at the United Way Volunteer Center.



Sunday School

Join us each Sunday, for our Sunday School program at 10:30 am. Children will meet in the Sunday School room.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WINTER

St. John's Book Club

323 Wick Ave., Youngstown, OH 44503

All are welcome to join in our book discussion of the book *The Let Them Theory* by Mel Robbins.

Wednesday, February 19th
6:00-7:00pm
St. John's Parlor

For more information on the book, scan the QR Code.

Currently Reading

All are welcome to join in our book club discussion of *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. We are meeting on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:00pm in the St. John's Parlor. Light Refreshments will be served.

About the book:

What if the key to happiness, success, and love was as simple as two words?

If you've ever felt stuck, overwhelmed, or frustrated with where you are, the problem isn't you. The problem is the power you give to other people. Two simple words—*Let Them*—will set you free. Free from the opinions, drama, and judgments of others. Free from the exhausting cycle

of trying to manage everything and everyone around you. *The Let Them Theory* puts the power to create a life you love back in your hands—and this book will show you exactly how to do it.



Dear Friends,

Thank you once again for your generous donation of wonderful gifts for the children of Sojourner House. Those in charge who received the gifts and delivered them to the children were overwhelmed and very grateful.

I always like to imagine the joy and excitement on the children's faces when they receive your gifts. God bless you and your families throughout the new year.

With sincere appreciation for all you do,
Laura Manhollan

Thank you so much for your contributions to this years Sojourner House gift collection. We couldn't have done it without you!



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF OHIO

Invitation to St. Luke's Final Service - RSVP Necessary

Beloved Ones,

For 154 years, St. Luke's, Niles has been a community built on faith, resilience, and love. From humble beginnings in 1870 to weathering economic struggles, leadership transitions, and changing times, this parish has shared the transformative love of Jesus. Generations have gathered here to worship, to celebrate, to grieve, and to hope. Through partnerships, ministries, and lay leadership, St. Luke's has been a beacon of God's love in Niles - a place where stories of transformation and perseverance were lived and shared. On September 8, 2024, the vestry of St. Luke's voted to dissolve the parish, and we will ratify that vote at Diocesan Convention in November 2025.

As our Prayer Book reminds us, "to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended." With that faith, the people of St. Luke's Niles and I invite you to join us on February 9, at 11:00am for St. Luke's final celebration of Holy Eucharist. Together, we will gather in this beloved space one last time to remember, to give thanks, and to celebrate the legacy of this community.

When we gather it matters. When we pray together in one voice, we pray together with those who have gone before us and those who will come after us. Showing up for each other is part of our call as Christians. I invite you, or representatives of your congregation, to join us in person on February 9, either for the service or the reception afterward. Please RSVP using the QR Code below by January 25.

Additionally, as an expression of our shared membership in the Body of Christ, every faith community will pray for St. Luke's on that Sunday. Bearing witness to what has been and what will come matters. As we pray for St. Luke's, both together and apart, we will continue to share the transformative love of Jesus that has been known in Niles and will continue to be known, by the grace of God, throughout our whole diocese.

God's Peace,
+Anne

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

Please note: capacity is set at 125 attendees for the service. It is on a first come bases through the registration form. There is also a banquet lunch at Ciminero's Banquet Centre (123 N Main St., Niles, OH 44446) beginning at 12:30pm. While there is more capacity for attendees at the luncheon, you must still RSVP.



Taft Elementary Book Collection

We are collecting books for our Annual Taft Elementary Book Drive! Our goal is to give three books to each of the school's 250 children (total: 1,000 books). Ages range from Pre-K to 5th Grade. **All books must be delivered by February 7th.**

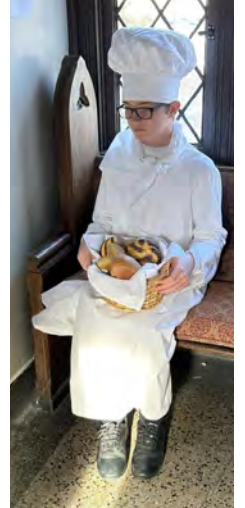
Some tips on picking books:

- **New** books are important because many kids may have never had a new book - this is that opportunity.
- We kindly encourage **diversity** when choosing books - representation is important!
- **Board books** are ideal for non-readers.
- **Picture books** are great for older school aged children.
- **Reading Level books** are great for established readers.
- **Small chapter books** for 4th and 5th grade.

Contact the office if you have any questions!



62ND ANNUAL Boar's Head & Yule Log FESTIVAL





62ND ANNUAL

Boar's Head & Yule Log

FESTIVAL



January Serving Schedule

	10:00 am Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	9:30am Jan 26
Altar Guild 8:00 am	None	Molly L.	Molly L.	Molly L.
Lector 8:00 am	None	Brooke B.	Sally O.	None
Usher 8:00 am	None	David B.		None
Altar Guild 10:30 am	Eva S.	Eva S.	Eva S.	Eva S.
Vergers 10:30 am	Eva S.	Noah S.	Meg S.	Meg S.
Usher 10:30 am	Cindy S. Tom S.	Bill B. Matt B.	Cindy S. Tom S.	David S. Matt B.
Lector 10:30 am	Sam D.	Judy G.	Logan B.	Gail P / Jack T.
Chalice Bearer 10:30 am	Noah S.	Sam D.	Judy G.	Logan B.
Videographer 10:30 am	Doug H.	Doug H.	Doug H.	Doug H.
Counters 10:30 am	Chet			
Acolyte 10:30 am	1. Sveva 2. Quin	1. Michael 2. Mathew	1. Morgan 2. Sveva	1. Emerson 2. Quin

Service Times and Schedules

8:00 am & 10:30 am In Person 10:30am streaming on Facebook Live & YouTube
Adult Forum 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am

Staff & Leadership

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly	<i>Bishop</i>
The Rev. Abraham Allende	<i>Interim Rector</i>
Dr. Richard A. Konzen	<i>Organist/Choirmaster</i>
Heather Seno	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Karen Warchol	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
Adam Sullivan	<i>Sexton</i>
Christa Buckler	<i>CE Coordinator</i>

Officers & Vestry

Tony Manhollan	<i>Senior Warden</i>	
Martie Witt	<i>Junior Warden</i>	
Joe DeNiro	<i>Treasurer</i>	
Jon Caguaiat	<i>Clerk</i>	
Brenda Barry	Sarah Quaranta	Liz Johnson
Logan Burrows	Sue Flasco	David Bobovnyik

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4 pm

The Good News

Send submissions to newsletter@stjohnohio.org



Contact Us

323 Wick Ave., Youngstown, OH 44503
 330.743.3175 330.743.3176 (fax)

stjohnohio@gmail.com
www.stjohnohio.org