

From the *Interim Rector*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

[1 Peter 1:3 NRSVUE]

Dear people of God at St. John's Episcopal Church,

It is February. We are one month into our year of "Hope and Healing."

However, this month I want to share a few random thoughts that cast a wider net beyond our life together as a parish to our life as children of God.

Easter is late this year, which gives us an extended opportunity to focus on readings from the Gospel according to Luke that we rarely hear because we seldom go this far into the Epiphany season..

Among them will be Jesus' "Sermon on the Plain," Luke's parallel to Matthew's "Sermon on the Mount." The message of Jesus is focused on compassion, mercy, and prioritizing the needs of the poor and marginalized.

February is a month of significant celebrations, not the least of which is Valentine's Day, where the focus is on love.

It is also Black History Month and on February 13, the Episcopal Church commemorates Absalon Jones (1746-1818), the first Black priest in the Episcopal Church.

While Black History Month is a secular observance, it also calls for all people of faith to seek racial justice and reconciliation, and to recognize and honor the value and dignity of every human being as a child of God.

We read the lessons for the coming month against the backdrop of our highly polarized political times and the general erosion in relationships.

Elected officials are behaving in ways that befuddle our sense of moral and ethical values.

We've almost become numb to the plight of immigrants and the reckless display of inhumanity inflicted against them.

These are challenging times in which we live.

The challenge is to try to hold in tension the Good News of the Gospel against the current partisan climate we are experiencing. It will come as no surprise that some, I dare say many, will see the lessons as political. It is important to point out that it is not me, nor any preacher, but God, speaking through Jesus, calling us to be light for the world in this season of Epiphany.

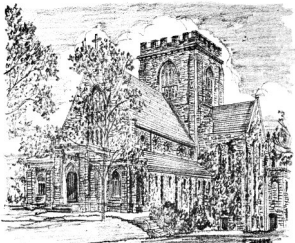
Christian living is like a light that illumines a world gone dark from the gloom of sin. Love for one another should not be contained to ourselves. It should seek to be poured out for others. Authentic love translates into good deeds and into glory for God.

The world needs us – ALL of us. Whether black, brown, or white; gay or straight, it needs the hope we offer, the food we share, the relationship with God into which we have entered.

The world needs to hear the message of salvation that God brings through us; to hear the word we have about our unity in the family of God, and about how God loves us and wants to help us be whole.

The world needs to see that we are all related and that our relationship is one of peace and justice, of God's righteousness and God's love.

+The Rev. Abraham D. Allende



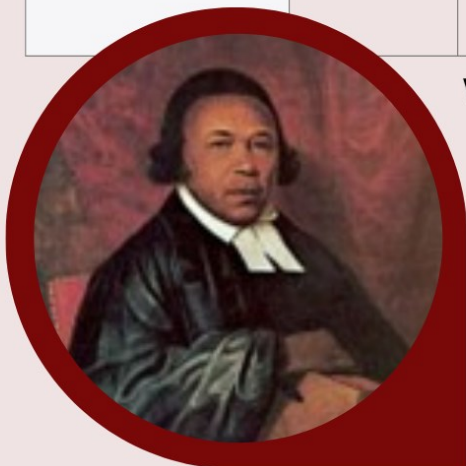
The **GOOD NEWS**

FEBRUARY 2025 · NUMBER TWO VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE

A publication of ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

February 2025

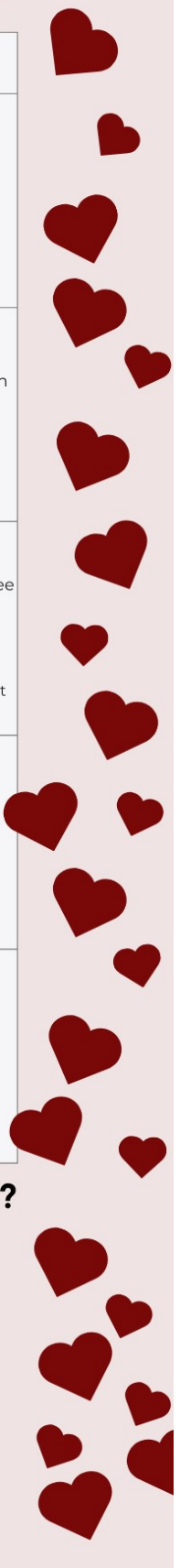
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Rite I 8:00am Rite II 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am Presentation of our Lord	3	4 Read at Taft Elementary 9:20am	5 NO Choir Practice	6 Exec Committee 5:15pm	7 Youngstown First Friday 5:00pm	8 Lit Youngstown Writing Intensives 9-5:00pm
9 Rite I 8:00am Rite II 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am EfM 12:00pm St. Luke's Niles final service & Luncheon	10	11 PFLAG 6:30pm	12 Music Event 10:00am Choir Practice 7:15pm	13 Taft Book Give 9:30pm Taft Student of the Month 12:30pm Vestry 5:15pm	14	15 Women's Coffee 9:00am Pantry 10:00am Absalom Jones at Trinity Cathedral
16 Rite I 8:00am Rite II 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am Finance 12:00pm Absalom Jones	17	18 Taft Mobile Pantry 1:15pm	19 Book Club 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:15pm	20	21	22 Lit Youngstown Winter Writing Camp 8:30am - 2pm YSU String Quartet 7 - 9pm
23 Rite I 8:00am Rite II 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am EfM 12:00pm	24	25	26 Choir Practice 7:15pm	27	28	



WHO IS THE REV. ABSALOM JONES?

On February 13, the Episcopal Church commemorates the Reverend Absalom Jones, the first black priest ordained in the Episcopal denomination in 1804.

Jones was born a slave in Sussex, Delaware, eventually won his freedom, was the prominent black priest of the St. Thomas African Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, and a founding member of the Free African Society.





February Birthdays

- 1 Richard Konzen
- 3 Kim Daniels
George Errington
Patty Frease
- 7 Adrian Amedia
Bill DeCicco
- 8 Lonnie Johnson
Philip Maiden
- 9 Pat Sekola
- 10 Ron Robertson
Marie Lewis
Jim Welch
- 11 Dale Lisko
Alexander Grim
Mathew, Michael,
Morgan Robertson
- 12 David Bulkley
Keith Schiffhauer
- 15 Heidi Perry
Tommy Slagle
Katie Elliot
- 16 David Hill
David Fedor
- 17 Bill Hays
- 20 Mary Ann Furr
Kathy Young
- 21 Mark Robertson
Cathy Norton
- 23 Delaney Baber
- 25 Sally Oberman
- 28 Sean Leach
Aiden Glatz

February Anniversaries

- 7 Lance & Dianne Grahn
- 8 Margaret & Lynn Hatch

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

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, February 19th 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.



Taft Elementary Book Collection

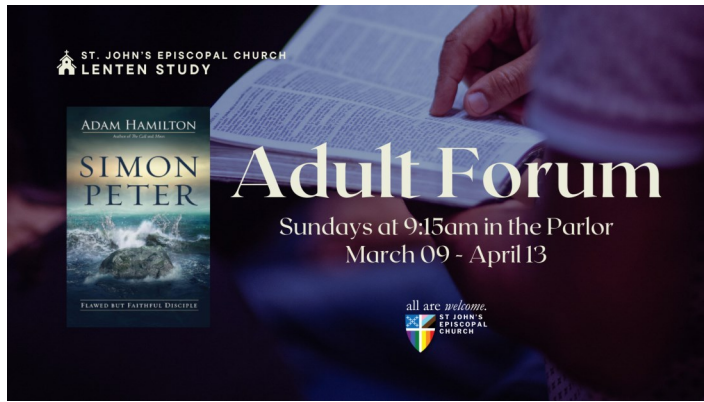
We are collecting books for our Annual Taft Elementary Book Drive! Our goal is to give three

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!



Adult Forum - Lenten Study

In Simon Peter, Flawed by Faithful Disciple, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton tells the story of this ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. Peter was poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears - an ordinary guy. Yet in response to God's extraordinary call, Peter left everything to follow his teacher and found a passion that would change the world.

Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today.

All are welcome and encouraged to join us for this 6-session study led by Rev. David Hill on Sunday mornings in the Parlor from 9:15 to 10:20a.m., beginning March 9 and concluding April 13.

Please let David or Heather know if you are interested, so that we can order study books soon. A donation of \$5 is suggested to defray the cost of the books.



Red Door Food Pantry

Our upcoming Red Door Food Pantry is Saturday, February 15th 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

Join us for Women's Coffee Saturday, February 15th at 9:00am.



Taft Elementary School Outreach

Reading at Taft Elementary Tuesday, February 4, 9:20am

Book Giveaway at Taft Thursday, February 13, 9:30am

Taft Student of the Month Thursday, February 13, at 12:00pm

Taft Mobile Pantry Tuesday, February 18, at 1:15pm at the United Way Volunteer Center.



Sunday School

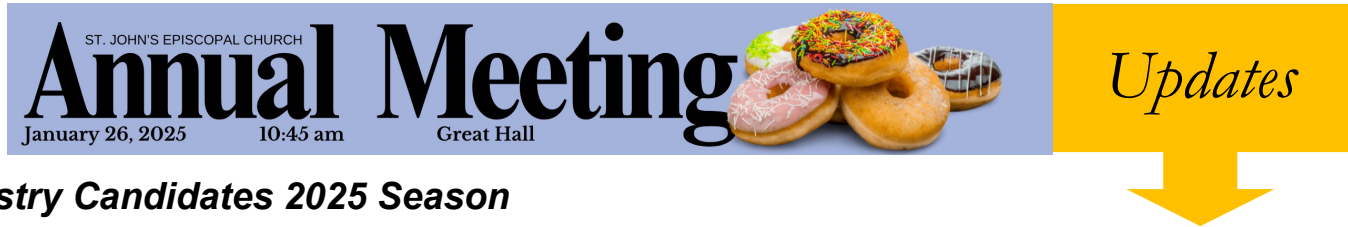
Join us each Sunday, for our Sunday School program at 10:30 am. Children will meet in the Sunday School room.



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, Olivia Carlos & Julianna Caguiat, Heather Foley, Denise Lancaster, Donna Wynn, Tim Ruane



Vestry Candidates 2025 Season

NOAH SILVER

My name is Noah Silver. I was baptized and raised here at St. John's for 25 years. I am currently in my 3rd year of teaching at Struthers High School. I currently live in Poland OH. with my parents, Meg and Jary, who are both active members of St. John's.

Since my return from Bowling Green State University, I've become an active member of the church, participating in EfM, and becoming a lector, chalice bearer, and vergier. While this would be my first time serving as a vestry member, I have represented my church during Winter Convocation and the 208th Episcopal Convention.

MOLLY LETCHER

My name is Molly Frances Holliday Letcher. I was born in Hampton Virginia. I received a Master's Degree in Nursing from Kent State in 1992 and became an Advanced Practice Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist- Adult Mental Health. I retired in 2022.

My husband is Larry Letcher, I have two children – Dan Barker in Seattle Washington, and Leah Colvin in Shreveport, Louisiana. I have seven perfect grandchildren. My hobbies are water aerobics, Zumba, and walking. With Sally Oberman, I have started the Nurses Connection Meetings.

MARTIE WITT

My husband Jim, and I have been members of St. John's for 54 years. We have a married daughter and two grandsons, living in a suburb of Cincinnati.

I am a retired Registered Nurse after having worked for 47 years in the profession. I have served at St. John's on the Worship and Arts commission, co-chaired the Landscaping committee with my husband for several years, have sung in the choir for 40 years, and helped with several renovation projects in our building in the past.

The Endowment Board / Heritage Society 2024

TO THE VESTRY:

The annual meeting of our Church is set for next Sunday January 26, 2025. Due to various personnel issues, scheduling a meeting of our Board for this week appears to be somewhat difficult so I propose that we take care of our annual obligation by a written roll call vote of the voting members in advance of the meeting. As you know, after the Finance Committee determines the Budget then we meet and advise the Vestry of the amount of contribution to the Church Operating Fund from the Endowment for calendar year 2025.

From an examination of the records provided by PNC (Hitchcock/Tod Trusts) which are 5% distributive income trusts that at or about \$31,674 would be available to be transferred to the Church Operating Fund from the PNC Trusts for calendar year 2025. The Tod trust will distribute at or about \$17,520 annually and the Hitchcock trust at or about \$14,154 annually. This is a reduction from the distributions in 2024.

In addition, the Endowment income from our investments managed by Morgan Stanley will be at or about \$55,330 for calendar year 2025.

Coupling the PNC Trusts with the Morgan Stanley investments for 2025, amounts to at or about \$87,004 (\$31,674 + \$55,330 = \$87,004) annually available to the Church Operating Fund for 2025.

Respectfully submitted, ENDOWMENT BOARD Jim Messenger, Chair

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Meeting

January 26, 2025

10:45 am

Great Hall

*Updates*

2024 Award Winners

The following awards were announced at the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025. Congratulations to the award winners.

The Vestry Silver Cross was presented to Sally Oberman and Molly Letcher by Tony Manhollan. Both Sally and Molly were chosen for this award due to their initiative to start The Nurse Connection group at St. John's.

The Boar's Head Award was presented to Adam Sullivan and Heather Seno by Meg Silver. Both Adam and Heather were chosen for their behind the scenes work to make sure the annual Boar's Head happens.

The Community Service Award was presented to Margie McBane by Martie Witt for her work with the Taft Reading Program and Taft Book Collection.

Congratulations to the award winners! You make St. John's a beautiful and inspiring place to worship and work!

There are many more updates within the full Annual Meeting packets.

If you missed the Annual Meeting and would like a packet of all of the information, there are some remaining on the bridge or contact Heather if you would like one emailed or sent to you.



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.



Reminder

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DUE DATE

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.

Upcoming in March 2025

March 05
Ash Wednesday

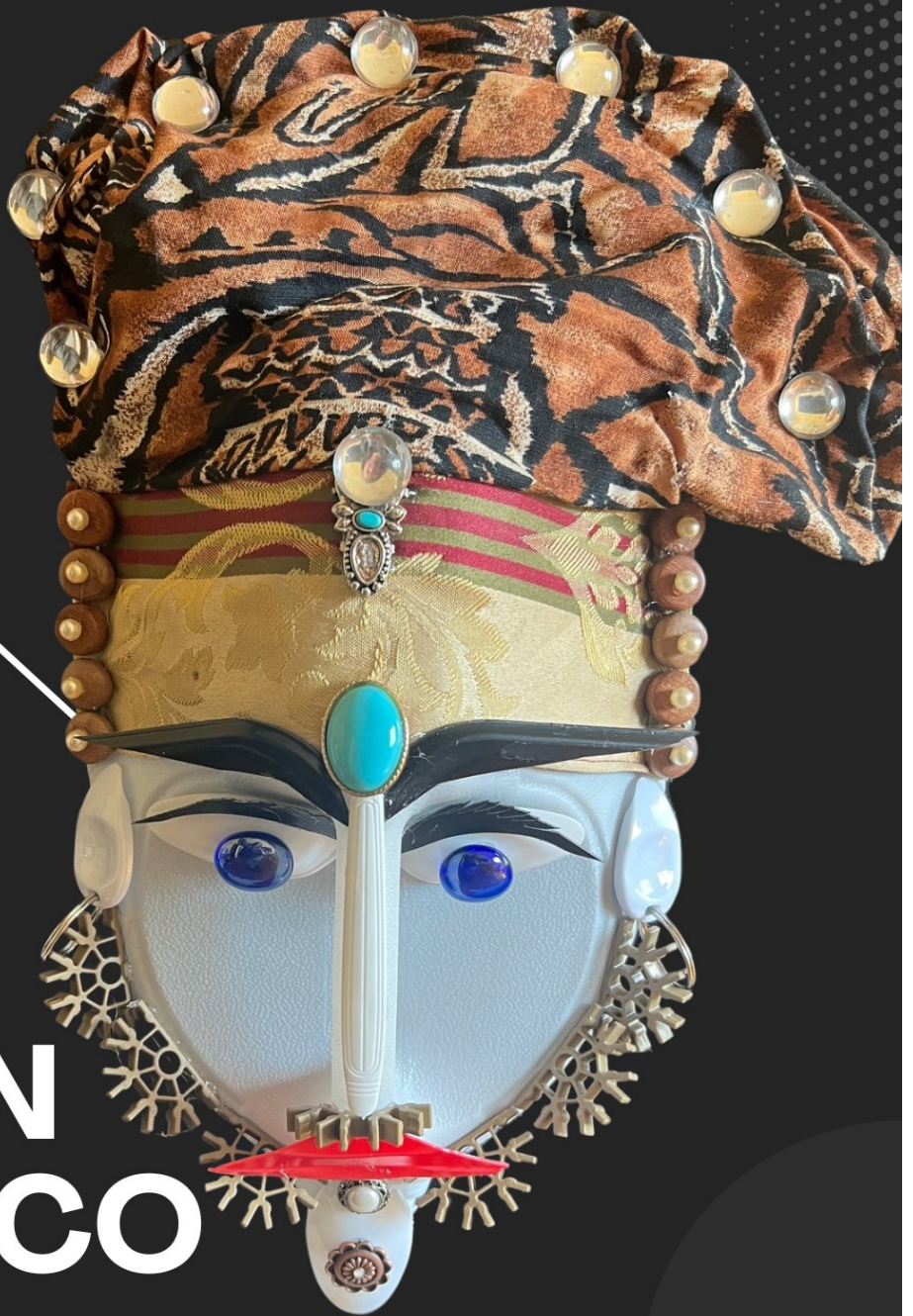
March 13
Noon service
in the Chapel

March 16
David Russell
Guitar concert

March 21-22
Vestry Retreat



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FEBRUARY FEATURED ARTIST



JOSE MARTIN PACHECO

Three Kings

Opening Reception:

Friday, February 7, 2025

5:00pm-8:00pm

St. John's Episcopal Church
323 Wick Ave. Youngstown, OH

February Serving Schedule

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Denise J. Kim M.	Denise J. Kim M.	Denise J. Kim M.	Denise J. Kim M.
Lector 8:00 am	David B.	Gail P. Jack T.	Sally O.	Brooke B.
Usher 8:00 am	Joe D.	David B.	John M.	Joe D.
The Red Door Café	Boardman United Methodist Church	Kendal Christoff + Alpha Xi Delta Sorority	Boardman Poland Junior Women's League	St. John's Altar Guild & Acolytes
Altar Guild 10:30 am	Molly L.	Eva S.	Eva S.	Molly L.
Verger 10:30 am	Noah S.	Eva S.	Noah S.	Meg S.
Usher 10:30 am	Cindy S. Tom S.	Bill B. David S.	Cindy S. Tom S.	David S. Matt B.
Lector 10:30 am	Judy G.	Sam D.	Logan B.	Doug H.
Chalice Bearer 10:30 am	Doug H.	Logan B.	Judy G.	Sam D.
Videographer 10:30 am	Tony M.	Tony M.	Tony M.	Tony M.
Counters 10:30 am	Lance G.	Judy G.	Joe D.	Lance G.
Acolyte 10:30 am	1. Michael 2. Mathew	1. Quin 2. Sveva	1. Sveva 2. Morgan	1. Emerson

Service Times and Schedules

8:00 am & 10:30 am In Person 10:30am streaming on Facebook Live & YouTube

Sunday School 10:30am

Staff & Leadership

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

Officers & Vestry

Tony Manhollan *Senior Warden*
 Martie Witt *Junior Warden*
 Joe DeNiro *Treasurer*
 Clerk
 Sarah Quaranta
 Logan Burrows
 Liz Johnson
 Sue Flasco
 Noah Silver
 Molly Letcher
 David Bobovnyik

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4 pm

The Good News

Send submissions to newsletter@stjohnohio.org

S · A · I · N · T
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 Episcopal Church · Youngstown

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