



Ways to Connect and Serve

At St. John's During Covid-19

“May you use those gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you.”



St. John's Episcopal Church
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stjohnsroyaloak.org 248-546-1255

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Welcome!

During COVID-19 we are challenged to re-think our ministries and consider new ones too. We are finding new ways to connect via technology (Zoom), emails, phone calls, and by mail. Especially during the summer and fall, we will be embracing meeting outdoors, working outside and volunteering in safe ways in our communities.

Whether you speak with a voice that causes people to listen, or have a heart for fighting poverty; whether you like to help others, garden, work with children; whether you have handy-person skills or love to plan creative worship or arts, there is a space here for you to express these gifts.

And, if your passion is to start a new ministry that the church hasn't tried before, gather a few like-minded folks, and talk to a member of the vestry or the clergy to find out how to launch your idea.

Mostly, we try to plug into the church's work where we feel passionate and engaged so that God can touch the world through us in meaningful ways. If you would like to work on discerning your spiritual gifts and ministries, we will help you with that too! We hope this updated Ministry Handbook will help you stay connected and engaged with St. John's until we are all able to gather together again.

There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:6-7

CONNECTING

Virtually

While our in-person services are suspended, or when it's time to re-enter, we will be using technology to connect when being together isn't practical or safe.

Visit our website www.stjohnsroyaloak.org to find our services and special events via a program, called Zoom. You can also call into our services from your cellphone or landline.

Services And Events

Sunday Service	Sunday 10am
Meditation	Monday 6:30pm
Bible Study	Wednesday at 10:00am
Adult Forums	Wednesday 7:00pm
Evening Prayer	Thursday 7:30pm

On the website there are videos for connecting on Zoom and written instructions for the Desktop, Iphone, Android and IPAD.

Need help connecting? [Contact Us](#) and ask for *Zoom help*. One of our parishioners will help you.

More Ways to Stay Connected

There are many ways to stay in touch at St. John's. Contact us at:

<https://www.stjohnsroyaloak.org/contact-us>

- Receive our E-Newsletter
- Receive a personal contact by a Clergy or Newcomer representative, [Contact Us and write in *personal contact*](#)
- Join our Phone Tree Ministry, [Contact Us](#)
- Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Keep in Touch with Your Fellow Parishioners

Calls, cards, and letters go a long way to brighten someone's day. We hope our members stay connected at this time through our directory. If you would like a digital version, [contact us](#).

WORSHIP

Greeters

The role of the Greeters is to welcome people to the church. During the re-entry phase, greeters will assist in keeping a log of those coming to services, supplying masks as needed, and working with the ushers to ensure that procedures are followed for safe services. A gift for friendliness and making others feel comfortable is important to this ministry.

Contact: Lynne Muth 203-912-1983
lynne.muth@gmail.com

Lectors

Lectors (lay readers) read assigned passages from the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament from the Bible each Sunday and at special services. Lectors also lead the congregation in the Psalms and Prayers of the People. Children, teenagers and adults are welcome to participate. If you are interested in being a reader, please let us know.

Contact: Tim Spannaus 248-346-2529
deacon@tspannaus.com

Liturgy Planning Team

The Liturgy Planning Team works with the clergy to plan worship services throughout the year. We draw our prayers and music from a variety of resources within our Anglican tradition. The process for liturgy planning will change this year. If interested in learning more, please contact us.

Contact: The Rev. Beth Taylor 248-721-4325
bethtaylor@stjohnro.org

Choir and Music Ministry

The Choir presents and leads service music, hymns and organ/piano/instrumental/vocal and choral music as needed. The Choir meets on Zoom on Thursdays from 7:30-9pm. Although our singing will be quite limited during this time, choir members will be called on for performing in other ways: instrumentals, recordings for services virtually or in appropriate settings following safety measures.

Contact: Steve McGhee 734-678-4647 (mobile)
Steven@operamodo.com

Ushers

When it is time to re-enter the building, ushers direct people to bulletins and seating. They help make sure everyone feels comfortable (especially visitors). During COVID-19, we will guide parishioners in/out of the service, ensure members and visitors are logged in and follow procedures to make our services safe. **Contact: Scout Osborn 586-214-8808 caliosb255@att.net**

ADULT FORMATION AND EDUCATION

Adult Education Committee

The Adult Education Committee identifies and develops programs of educational interest to all St. John's adults. We alternate formats and topics in order to cover as many areas of interest as possible and to make adult education available to everyone. Adult formation programs are generally offered on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting virtually via Zoom. Visit www.stjohnsroyaloak.org for the link. We meet two to three times a year to plan upcoming topics.

Contact: Rev. Beth Bingham 248-712-4325
ebingham@stjohnsroyaloak.org

Bible Study

Join us on Wednesday mornings via Zoom at 10am to read and share our perspectives on the upcoming Sunday lectionary readings. We explore the historical and contextual aspects of the text, but the emphasis is more on inviting those gathered to share what arises in their minds and hearts after reading and reflecting on the passages. Our discussions are lively and engaging. All are welcome!

Contact: The Rev. Beth Bingham 248-721-4325
ebingham@stjohnro.org

Book Club

This program meets occasionally (watch for announcements and flyers) to discuss a book. Sometimes the group meets in conjunction with Adult Forum, and sometimes it stands alone. **If you have a Book Club idea or would like to host a discussion, contact The Rev. Beth Bingham at ebingham@stjohnro.org.**

Education for Ministry (EfM)

EfM is a Christian formation program for lay persons at the parish level. Major goals of this multi-year program are to learn together to think theologically, and to learn how to be more effective ministers in the world. We study scripture, church history, and Christian theology. Enrollment happens annually in the Fall, and participants make a one-year commitment. We meet virtually at this time via Zoom.

Contact: Rev. Dcn. Tim Spannaus 248-346-2529
deacon@tspannaus.com

Meditation Group

Meets Monday Evenings at 6:30 pm via Zoom (visit www.stjohnsroyaloak.org to join). The group reads from a book called *Jesus Calling*, then meditates for 20-30 minutes. We listen to music or a guided meditation and focus on our breathing with the intent to meet God. There is no right or wrong way to meditate. All are welcome and if you haven't meditated before we will help make you feel comfortable doing so.

Contact: Lee Ann Morgan 248-506-0943
lmorgan5168@wideopenwest.com

CHILDREN AND YOUTH FORMATION AND EDUCATION

Sunday School (Ages 4 years through 5th grade)

Each week families are sent resources to learn about our faith at home. These can be completed as the family sees fit. A Godly Play video filmed by Holly is posted weekly on Facebook for the children to watch, so they can keep up with Godly Play at home. If you would like this video emailed to you instead of viewing it on Facebook please let Holly know.

There is also a weekly Sunday School Zoom call at 1:00 on Sunday afternoons where the kids can see one another and share about their week. There is no formal lesson taught during this time, it is a time to connect with one another. For more information please contact: **Holly McNeal at hollymcneal@stjohnro.org**

Youth Group (6th through 12th grades)

Youth Group meets on Zoom Sunday mornings for 45 minutes starting at 11:30 am. This is a time to check in, play games and connect with one another.

There is also a youth check in on Wednesday nights on Zoom at 6:30 pm just to touch base in the middle of the week. This check in normally lasts 15-30 minutes. We will also be connecting during other times for things like Virtual Lock-ins, at home movie nights, Zoom game nights etc. We will launch other check ins and possibly a Bible Study once school is out for the summer. For more information please contact: **Holly McNeal hollymcneal@stjohnro.org**

OUTREACH

Beekeepers

The bee ministry nurtures and cares for the St. John's hives as an outward sign of our commitment to be stewards of God's creation. Our bees pollinate our plants and flowers (including the Open Hands food garden), as well as those of our nearby neighbors. When appropriate for the health of our hives, we harvest a small amount of honey that is available to parishioners and included in our welcome bags. If you are interested in occasionally helping, please contact us.

Contact: Kris Beckett 517-402-7035

kris.beckett@gmail.com

Coffee with a Cause

This ministry supports non-profits and the wider community at St. John's. We meet once a month via Zoom or other means. Volunteers work for a half hour on an identified need and share fellowship for a half hour. All are welcome. Please join us or suggest a task we could do to support your ministry or event.

Contact: Bob Davis bdavis506@yahoo.com

or Linda Watkins lindamthc@yahoo.com

248-506-7653

Helping Frontline Workers

Several of our members are helping to make masks for members, Open Hands guests and essential workers (hospitals and nursing home staff, first responders, etc.) The community needs are great and more volunteers, fabric (100% cotton) and donations are needed. Sewers make masks and caps. Non-sewers can make no-sew gowns. To volunteer, donate and learn more contact:

Janie Hamilton 248-930-4790

Preferred Contact:

oaklandcountymaskdonations@gmail.com

Open Hands Food Pantry

Hunger is real in Oakland County especially during this challenging time. Open Hands Food Pantry receives and packs groceries for curbside pick up to those who need food and other personal items. Volunteer opportunities: Food distribution on Saturdays (9:30-11am); truck unloading and packing on Fridays (8am-1pm - 3 shifts of 1 ½ hours each); clean-up on Mondays (10-11:30 am). If you are interested in volunteering, some restrictions apply (one must be under 65 years of age or with no underlying health conditions). To sign up go to [this link](#).

Contact: Timi Wittig 248-506-6846

timimwittig@gmail.com

Open Hands Garden

Open Hands Garden provides fresh produce to the Open Hands Food Pantry. With eight raised beds and the Hoop House, the garden has the ability to provide fresh food nearly year-round. The garden is managed by the Garden Steering Committee and depends on volunteers to plant, harvest, wash and package produce for weekly distribution. For volunteer opportunities, visit the garden's [Facebook page](#) or the volunteer tab on openhandspantry.org and sign up online.

Contact: Dennis Spatafora 586-431-5527

djspatafora@comcast.net

Faith in Justice Group

We seek to build the Beloved Community through working for justice and equity for all. We build relationships, identify issues of concern, research them and organize for change. Our work may take the form of advocacy, hosting events, mobilizing or community organizing with other groups in the region. We meet every second Sunday of the month at 11:30 by Zoom with follow up work required. If you would like to join in this important work, please contact us.

Contact: Lynne Muth 203-912-1983

lynne.muth@gmail.com;

Veronica Griffith 574-286-6887

vgriffith777@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE

Card Ministry

The card ministry writes and sends cards for birthdays, anniversaries, get well, sympathy and other significant events, with a blessing, to members in our parish each month. During this time, we are addressing and mailing cards from our homes. We are always looking for stamp and card donations. In the month of May we mailed 77 cards alone.

Contact: Kathy Kustowski and Gloria Brown

248-583-1550

Pastoral Care Team

Pastoral Care is carried out by the clergy and a dedicated group of lay people. Clergy respond to urgent needs: hospitalizations, dying, emergencies that require immediate care. Lay people respond to long term needs: loneliness, inability to attend church, chronic illness, being homebound, loss due to death or conflict, or other conditions requiring the presence of the faithful. Included in these long-term care ministries are Stephen Ministers, The Phone Tree Ministry, Card Ministry, Healing Ministers, Meals, and Prayer Shawls.

Contact: The Rev. Dcn. Tim Spannaus

248-559-7282 deacon@tspannaus.com

Phone Tree Ministry

Help keep the St. John's community connected by reaching out and keeping in touch with members. This can take the form of phone calls, emails, letters, texts to share news, check in on one another and send encouragement while we are apart from one another. We are stronger together during this time and it is fun to get to know each other better! To volunteer please contact:

MaryAnn LeComb 248-930-0713

mlecomb@gmail.com

Sheeba Zacharia 713-530-6151

sheeba107@gmail.com

Prayer Partners

It's a powerful thing to know that someone is praying for you - not for a material thing or for an outcome, but just for YOU (in all the ups and downs, discoveries and mistakes and joys of life). Prayer Partners is an intergenerational program that connects youth from grades 5-12 with adult members from Bible Study and Education for Ministry (EfM). Once paired, the only commitment is to pray for each other throughout the year. Pray whenever, wherever! It's that simple! To become a Prayer Partner, please contact us.

Contact: Veronica Griffith 574-286-6887

vgriiffith777@gmail.com

PARISH LIFE

Church History and Archive – *Many volunteers will be needed this year and next for the 100th Anniversary*

Church history is a ministry that collects, stores, and occasionally shares historical material concerning St. John's. We are currently looking for people to re-form this committee. If you have an interest in volunteering please contact us.

Contact: Mary Fairman 248-591-4620

marfairman@comcast.net

Craft Night

This program meets occasionally (watch for announcements) to craft together. Sometimes the craft is selected ahead of time and directed by an experienced artist. Other times, participants bring the craft of their choice and simply spend time together as we work with our hands. If you have a Craft Night idea or would like to host a craft night via Zoom or outdoors, please contact us.

Contact: Jelane Richardson

Jelane.richardson@gmail.com

Hiking Group

This group meets during the summer (based on the weather) and adheres to guidelines for safe distancing. Come build community, appreciate nature by visiting our parks systems. All ages are welcome. Hikes will be announced in the Enewsletter and on Facebook. All trail guides and difficulty levels will be listed on park websites.

Contact: Cindy Fellner 734-718-6943

cfellner@att.net

Newcomers Committee

This group seeks to invite, welcome and connect members to St. John's. Our goal is to meet new members and connect members to form friendships and become part of the life of the parish. We meet monthly with some follow-up work required. We also facilitate small group gatherings. Please join our team if you like to make people feel at home and foster connections with our members.

Contacts: Bruce Donigan 248-225-7340

brdonigan@comcast.net or Lynne Muth

203-912-1983 lynne.muth@gmail.com

Small Group Meet Ups (E.g. "Taco Tuesdays")

Small groups are fun ways to connect and get to know each other. It could be sharing takeout virtually (e.g., "Taco Tuesdays") or meeting outdoors or sharing any other interests and hobbies. If you'd like to participate and/or volunteer to lead and host one of these small groups via Zoom or in outdoor settings, let us know and we'll help you join with others.

Contact: Lynne Muth 203-912-1983

Lynne.muth@gmail.com

Mom's Group (Moms with children under age 18)

We have a weekly Mom's Night "Out" Zoom call on Wednesday nights at 9 pm. This is a casual conversation where we laugh, vent, chat about life and help one another through this difficult time. Everyone brings their favorite beverage (alcoholic or non) and we spend time fellowshiping together.

Contact: Holly McNeal

holly.mcneal@stjohnsroyaloak.org

OPERATIONS

Closers and Openers

The Closers and Openers are appointed individuals who open or close the church for services or events to assure the building is locked and secured. This is a very important ministry that is appointed by the Rector. Let us know if you are interested.

Contact: Dennis Spatafora 586-431-5527

djspatafora@comcast.net or

Tim Morgan 248-850-6500

timmorgan1653@gmail.com

Finance Committee

Serving in an advisory capacity to the Rector and Vestry, the finance committee works to ensure the long-term financial health and stability of St. John's and take on ad hoc finance related assignments as requested by the Rector and/or Vestry. If you have expertise in accounting, finance or investment, and would like to serve (monthly meeting via zoom and some research), please contact us.

Contact: Maria Walter 248-565-7262

mlwalter824@gmail.com

Grounds Committee

The Grounds Committee works once a month to keep the gardens and church area maintained (i.e., weeded, soil, compost and mulch added, annuals and donated perennials planted, etc.) Please consider volunteering to keep our grounds beautiful.

Contact: Linda Watkins lindamthc@yahoo.com or

Bob Davis bdavis506@yahoo.com

248-506-7653 or Barbara Thornton 586-776-4630

Maintenance Committee

The Maintenance Committee comprises volunteers who do small and medium maintenance or repairs according to their talents, or analyze maintenance or repair issues and forward findings and recommendations to the Rector and Vestry for further action. Occasionally, a maintenance member is present when a contractor is on site. There is always room for additional volunteers.

Contact: Tim Morgan 248-850-6500

timmorgan1653@gmail.com

Resurrection Garden

Come join the grounds crew who provide loving care for Resurrection Garden. This involves maintaining the garden from late-spring through fall by planting and/or watering plants, weeding, mulching, etc. The garden crew is open to all ages who are interested in learning the importance of creating a loving garden for the remembrance of those who came before us who are interred in the garden.

Contact: Cindy Fellner 734-718-6943 (call/text)

cfellner@att.net

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee promotes stewardship of the parish in terms of financial pledges and ministry. The committee works with the Rector to establish themes and activities for an annual stewardship campaign in order to solicit pledges of financial support for the coming year. It also helps to coordinate follow-up and other stewardship-related activities. The Stewardship Committee is appointed by the Rector.

Contact: Will Wittig wittigw@udmercy.edu

Vestry

The Vestry, comprised of nine to twelve members of the parish, are the elected leaders of the St. John's community.

The Vestry meets monthly to discern and set the vision and priorities of the congregation. They are stewards of their congregation's property and lay spiritual leaders of its mission and ministry. Three to four new members of the Vestry are elected each year to serve a three-year term. From within the group, a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden are elected by the Vestry as leaders. Members of the parish may attend Vestry meetings as guests on the fourth Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in being considered for election, contact the Rector or a member of the Vestry.

Contact: Rev. Beth Taylor; 248-546-1255

bethtaylor@st.johnro.org

