

▪ children & youth news ▪

Youth group meets each Sunday outside from 6-7:30. All 6th through 12th graders are welcome to come for fun distanced socializing and a time to connect with friends and God!

We are also hosting a lunchtime Zoom for youth who are doing online school. Open Lunch is every Tuesday from 11-1. If interested please contact Mother Kelly for the Zoom information.

St. Thomas Kids' Celebrations! I think everyone should be celebrated for new levels of creative ways to spend your time, learning how to be alone, and (guessing) reaching new levels on video games!

Keep 'em coming, friends! Email any special news about your child to Barbara—bmccall@stthomasop.org or Kelly—kdemo@stthomasop.org so that we may add it to our feature in each weekend's Tower Talk and in each month's Children & Families Newsletter!

St. Thomas Family Forum on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasOPFamilies>

Stay connected with other St. Thomas families with children & youth via our new page! This page will be where you can find Sunday School each week along with activities/resources daily to keep the kids entertained during these long days at home. This is a challenging time, and we hope that this can be a source of connection and community until we can be together again. Also, please know that the church is here to support our families! If you have any needs during the extended school break, please reach out to Barbara McCall, Director of Children and Families, at bmc-call@stthomasop.org or via call/text to (913) 909-7318 to let the church know how we can support you.

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Are you supporting a person with mental illness?

According to the Ntl. Inst. of Mental Health, one in five adults in the U.S. will experience a mental illness in their lifetime. Some illnesses will be severe with impact on a person's ability to function at home or work. Supporting a person with severe mental illness can be very challenging.

E3: Encourage • Empower • Educate is an interactive, eight-session course taught by trained volunteers with personal experience caring for someone with mental illness. It is conducted in an atmosphere of compassion and confidentiality. Each two-hour session focuses on a different mental health diagnosis and includes information about treatment options, handling real-life situations and coping strategies for caregivers. Classes are designed to support anyone caring for a friend or family member with mental illness. If you are dealing with a child's mental health issues, it is recommended that both parents attend.

The E3 course will be offered at Nall Avenue Baptist Church, 6701 Nall Prairie Village, KS on **Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00pm, beginning Sept. 23** for eight consecutive weeks. There is a \$25 fee to cover the cost of materials. Registrations are handled online at: <https://pathwaytohope.org/e3-courses/>. Questions? Contact Tracie Glasscock at: thume@usa.net.

▪ In-Person Services ▪

Several more services are scheduled for in-person worship, currently limited to 15 people. Communion services coming up this weekend are on Saturday at 5:30pm and Sunday at 11:00am and 5:00pm (note time change). All are welcome! We do need you to sign up ahead of time, wear a mask, social distance, bring a chair (some seating available) and don't come if you have any signs of illness. If there is rain or bad weather we will move inside for worship with proper social distancing, etc. You can sign up here:

<https://reopen.church/r/e2dW8tj0>

Next Family Worship/Holy Communion—

(PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE)

Sunday, September 27, at 11am outside at St. Thomas

Be on the lookout for a signup next week!

▪ Worship with us Online! ▪

Saturday, 5:30pm—Holy Communion

Sunday, 9:00am—Holy Communion (note time change)

Monday—Friday, 8:00pm—Compline

Services will be available to watch anytime after that on both YouTube and Facebook. www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop and www.facebook.com/stthomasop

Visit our website www.stthomasop.org for bulletins for the weekend services and LIVE services (on the home page click on the **Red Arrow** under "Live Stream")

Want to just hear the sermon again? You can find it here:

<https://youtu.be/xd1-Zg62pdU>

TOWER TALK

September 19 & 20, 2020

▪ Sunday Christian Education ▪

Adult Forum this Sunday at 10:00am on ZOOM. Links to follow will be sent in email on Friday.

FORGIVENESS. These last 6 months have been some of the most difficult times in recent memory. There are so many changes and fear and division are riding high. What is the role of the spiritual practice of forgiveness? How are we as followers of Christ called to forgive others in this time? What does this hard work look like? How has COVID changed us?

Children/Middle School Christian Education THIS SUNDAY!

Join us once again for Zoom Sunday School beginning this Sunday! We'll meet in two groups for some time to connect with friends and the bible! Each group will meet for approximately 30 minutes for stories, music/movement, games, creative time and more!!

GROUP 1: 9am - "Pre through Grade 3 FAITH BUILDERS!" Grab your Legos, favorite building blocks, dolls or art tools and join us this fall as we Journey with the People of God to the Promised Land!

GROUP 2: 9:30am - 4th through 8th "Bible Brunch Bunch!" Grab your bowl of Wheaties (or Cheerios or whatever) and join us as we explore your questions about our church and the bible! **If you have a bible, please have it with you for some detective work!**

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81547741899?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81547741899?pwd=QTFONXhPYUI2TIV0QVMrT3VVL0o3QT09)
pwd=QTFONXhPYUI2TIV0QVMrT3VVL0o3QT09

Please join in at the assigned time for you/your child's age group. This link is set up the same in hopes that families with one or more children in each group can simply trade off the device without having to leave and re-enter the meeting for each kiddo.

▪ Outreach at St. Thomas ▪

Dear IHN Family:

I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your consistent dedication to IHN! You each have a heart for this ministry and the compassion to lift up and support our guest families! Each of you have worked together to lift up 774 individuals. Of the 774 we have served, 447 were children and 79 were single women. You have worked together to provide 51,534 bednights, and 154,602 meals.

Our Family has continued serving our guests every day. COVID-19 has not caused our IHN Family to waiver in its commitment to IHN! God bless you all for your faithfulness to IHN, your belief in our mission, and your perseverance!

I began my 16th year as your Executive Director on 8-31-05. I am so grateful to ALL of you for the number of individuals whose lives we have positively impacted. Whether we are planting seeds to be fertilized later, or reaping the rewards of our labors of love now, we have lightened the loads of so many of our brothers and sisters in need.

Feel the love and so much gratitude—

Vicki L. Dercher, MSW, LSCSW
Executive Director of Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network
913-345-2121

Don't miss out on the 9th Annual IHN Charity Auction!

The bidding opens on Friday, September 25 at 10am and closes after the live event on Tuesday, September 29.

Join us September 29 from 7 - 8pm for our live event!

The cost of obtaining a virtual ticket to this year's auction is \$50 per person and is a contribution showing your commitment to participate in our event. Purchase tickets at <https://jocoihn.givesmart.com> or text **jocoihn to 76278 on your smart phone.**

Once you purchase your ticket you will receive messages by text or email with more specifics about the silent auction and live event. You will be able to view items and will be notified when the silent auction bidding begins. Bidding will begin on September 25 at 10am and will close after the live event on Tuesday, September 29. Contact the Auction Committee at jocoihnauction@gmail.com should you have any questions between now and the event.

Thank you from First Christian Church of Olathe

Thank you to Fran Wheeler and all of the members of your congregation at St. Thomas who participated in the food drive. Your generosity is amazing. We serve a God of abundance and it was obvious yesterday when the food you donated to the food pantry at FCCO filled the 17 tables in our church. The members of our church were amazed by your contribution and many have volunteered to help put it away this week. We look forward to working with the congregation of St. Thomas to serve our community. Peace and grace,

Neal Heckman
Outreach Director at FCCO

Please schedule gatherings with office



To hold a small group meeting or gathering outside at St. Thomas we ask that you clear the date/time/space with Meribeth in the church office to eliminate any conflicts. 913-451-0512 or email mrisebig@stthomasop.org. Thank you!

▪ The week ahead at st. thomas ▪

Saturday, Sept 19: Blood Drive-8:30-12:30 PH 2, 3; Prayer Shawl Small Grp-10am-12 Online; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Online and Outdoor Altar

Sunday, Sept 20: Children & Youth Sunday School-9-10am Online; Holy Communion-9:00am Online; Adult Forum—10-10:45am Online; Holy Communion 11:00am and 6:00pm Outdoor Altar

Monday, Sept 21: Thom's Helpers-10:30am-1pm PH 1; AA-6:30-8:30pm Outside or LL; Compline-8pm Online

Tuesday, Sept. 22: Journeymen Small Grp-6:30-8pm Online; Sword Guild Practice-7-9pm Outside or PH 2; Compline-8pm Online

Wednesday, Sept. 23: Thom's Helpers-10:30am-1pm PH 1; Wed. Study Group-10:30am-12 Apostle's Garden; Staff Meeting-1-2pm PH 1 or 2; Holy Communion-6:30pm Outdoor Altar; AA Fellowship-7:30pm Outside or LL; Compline-8pm Online

Thursday, Sept. 24: Classics Men's Small Grp 7-9pm Online; Sword Guild practice, 7-8:30pm Outside or PH 2; Explorers Small Grp Genesis study—7-8pm Online; AI-Anon Family Grp-7-8pm LL or Outside; Compline-8pm Online

Friday, Sept. 25: AA-8-9pm LL or Outside; Compline, 8pm Online

Saturday, Sept. 26: Holy Communion, 5:30pm Online and Outdoor Altar



During this time, we are still accepting altar flower commemorations and donations. Any donations received will be used when the Nave will once again be utilized for services.

Remember a special occasion, anniversary, birthday, or loved one! Contact us (451-0512) or send an email to stthomas@stthomasop.org. We'll need to know the weekend you prefer and what you'd like to include in the weekly Tower Talk and email update.

When you sign up in advance you will receive an e-mail or phone call about a month in advance asking for details of your commemoration. This information is needed at least a week before the date you signed up. Suggested donation for flowers is \$50.

Love your (St. Thomas) neighbor!

In the coming weeks we are going to be starting St. Thomas neighborhood clusters so you can learn who from your church lives in your neighborhood! In this time of uber-disconnectedness this is another opportunity to stay connected. Our hope is that neighborhood groups will meet periodically in person (maybe your neighborhood park or someone's driveway) in a covid responsible way. Then neighbors can know each other and help each other as well. Need to borrow some sugar? Ask your St. Thomas neighbor! Going out of town and need someone to water your plants? Ask your St. Thomas neighbor! We are also looking for people to be neighborhood anchors (they will contact everyone in their cluster and help make the gatherings happen). If you are interested in being an anchor please email Mthr. Kelly at kdemo@stthomasop.org.

Responding to Prayer Requests

- * In our Prayers of the People during services we read aloud a list of names of those to be prayed for. We invite you to add to this list by contacting Deacon Fran 913-226-0540 or fwheeler@stthomasop.org. Send the name of a person (or group) and we will include it during services. They will be included for three weeks unless notified otherwise.
- * For an immediate prayer response you may make a request through one of our messengers for the St. Thomas Prayer Chain. Deb McArthur (themcarthur4@gmail.com or 913-620-2426); or Diane Monteen (dmonteen@hotmail.com or 913-268-7788). If leaving the information on their phone, please include your phone number in case they have any questions in order to complete the call.



The church will be open for prayer 9am-4pm M-Th and 9am-12pm Fri. Please let the church office know ahead of time if you'd like to come pray in the Nave. The office will be open during those hours but limited to staff. We ask that you continue to contact us by phone or email.

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
12251 Antioch Rd, Overland Park, KS 66213
913-451-0512

email address: stthomas@stthomasop.org
Visit us on the website: www.stthomasop.org
Facebook: St. Thomas Episcopal OP