

## ❖ children & youth news ❖

### Youth Group will meet outside this coming Sunday from 4-

**5:30pm.** Please watch for communication from us each week on the status of youth group on our Facebook page, texting, and emails. All 6th through 12th graders are welcome to come for fun distanced socializing and a time to connect with friends and God!

**Coming Soon—Advent! Mark your calendars...**Join Ms. Barbara and Ms. Addy on November 29 for a "Friendsgiving" and Advent Season Kickoff party on Zoom! All ages at 9am!

**Upcoming Theme: Beginning November 29,** Sunday Morning Christian Education (Pre-school through 8th grades in their respective groups) will focus on the stories and characters of the Advent Season. Our Children's Chapel and Family Morning Prayer videos will offer devotions around the Advent Wreath (remember, these videos are posted by 8am, but remain available at any time of day that works for your family).

***We will have an Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season kit pickup THIS SUNDAY during the Commitment Weekend drive-through from 2-4pm.***

**HELP & SUPPLIES WANTED!** Our Sunday School Program is looking for a few hands and supplies as we begin the process of filling out our Godly Play Story collections! We are thrilled to have grant money coming in from the Diocese and we'd like to stretch these dollars as far as they can go by making as much as we can in-house and purchasing only the most specialized items. So, if you're looking for something to keep you busy while we're still limited on what activities we can do in the community, give Barbara McCall a shout! (bmccall@stthomasop.org or 913.909.7318)

A few things we're looking for...

- Remnant/leftover wood stains/seals - any colors/shades welcome! (And any person interested in doing some staining/sealing of our wood pieces.)
- Any woodworkers out there looking for a project...scroll saw work, shelf building, maybe more!
- Seamstresses and/or Felt/Fabric Crafters...we'd love some seasonal frontals and/or banners for our Family Worship Service and Children's Chapel when we're able to return to that!

**St. Thomas Children & Youth Celebrations!** We think everyone should be celebrated for new levels of creative ways to spend your time, learning how to be alone, or maybe 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 Tower Talk and each month's Children & Families Newsletter!

Children & Youth, cont.

### 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, Dir. of Children and Families, 913.909.7318 or [bmccall@stthomasop.org](mailto:bmccall@stthomasop.org) or via call/text to let the church know how we can support you.

## ❖ In-Person Services ❖

Services are scheduled for in-person worship at the Outdoor Altar, currently limited to 20 people. **Communion services** this weekend will be on Saturday at 5:30pm and Sunday at 11:00am. A Family Worship /Communion service will take place on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 11:00am. All are welcome! We do need you to sign up ahead of time, wear a mask, and social distance. If you sign up and end up with a fever, congestion or other symptoms, or have been told you were exposed to COVID-19, you need to stay home. You can sign up here:

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

## ❖ Worship with us Online! ❖

Saturday, 5:30pm—Holy Communion

Sunday, 9:00am—Holy Communion

Monday—Friday, 8:00pm—Compline

Services will be available to watch anytime after that on both YouTube and Facebook. [www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop](http://www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop) and [www.facebook.com/stthomasop](http://www.facebook.com/stthomasop)

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

**The church will be open for prayer 9am-4pm Mon-Thurs 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.**

# TOWER TALK

## NOVEMBER 14 & 15, 2020

### Commitment Weekend November 14-15

You may return your completed pledge in any of these ways:

- ❖ Online at [www.StThomasOP.org](http://www.StThomasOP.org)
- ❖ Mail to St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 12251 Antioch Rd, Overland Park KS 66213
- ❖ Drive-Thru Event:  
Bring to the church from **2-4pm on Nov. 15**. As you drive up, we will be offering a special blessing. We will also be hosting a coat, mitten, and food drive. Please consider donating gently worn coats, cold weather clothing, or food items so that we can bless others (Details have been sent.)

### Get your 2020 Advent Wreath Materials/Kit at our November 15 Drive-Thru Stewardship Event!

Metal Wreath Forms, Taper Candles and Decoration Kits (including ribbon, wire and faux greens) will be available for pick up by request! Let us know what you need by [CLICKING HERE](#) -

<https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/25fea3>

\*\*Can't make the drive-thru event??? Don't worry, we'll leave yours for you on the "pick up table" in the church Narthex for pickup afterward.

## ❖ Sunday Christian Education ❖

**Adult Forum this Sunday at 10:00am on ZOOM.** Links to follow and details will be sent in an email on Friday. We are getting into some new studies on prayer and civic life. Join us for lively and timely conversation!

### Children & Youth: Zoom Sunday Schools This Weekend:

**9am - "Pre(school) through Grade 3"** "Quail and Manna" - How did God care for his people as they roamed the desert looking for the Promised Land? Bring along your breakfast as we hear this story of how God provides for his people!

**9:30am - Bible Brunch Bunch (Older Elementary/Middle School)** bring along your favorite art or building materials as we listen to another one of the Psalms and create images of what we picture in our mind as we listen to the words.

**Children's Church/Family Morning Prayers** - Check it out on Facebook or the You Tube Channel's "Children's Ministry" Playlist anytime after 8:00am on Sunday!

## ❖ Outreach ❖

**IHN Host Week Update and Holiday Support** Thank you to all the parishioners and volunteers who helped with our recent Host Week at New Haven Seventh Day Adventist church. We want to share this update from IHN Executive Director, Vicki Dercher. It helps explain our current guest population and assistance available in the community.

We know many of you Donated, Supported and Attended the IHN Holiday party St. Thomas hosted for most of the last 15 years. IHN has reached out to past recent recipients and has a list of those needing assistance. Please see the information in Vicki's letter and consider donating gift cards which will be given to those IHN families and women.

From Vicki:



I hope this message finds you all doing well and staying healthy! This is such a challenging time for all; however, our IHN Family continues to work together to meet the needs of our guests!

I am pleased to report that Keith and his two year old daughter graduated into housing within a very few days of being in the Network. Donna and her 15-year old granddaughters left the network within a week. We were disappointed, yet very supportive. Donna's brother was battling significant health issues. Donna spent quite a bit of time praying about her decision, but, ultimately determined they needed to move in to help care for him.

Our current guest is Judi (69). She is working hard to address the issues that brought her to our family. We have offered admission to a couple of families; both found alternatives. The Fed. Govt. sent \$400,000.00 to our area to support homeless families to cover their motel expenses. The funds must be expended by Dec. 30, 2020. We are only able to assist those in need of shelter if they have reliable transportation. Our top priority is keeping everyone safe and transporting our guests does not keep our volunteers safe.

The holidays are right around the corner. There will not be a holiday party due to the pandemic. We have reviewed the list of past recent recipients and have a list of those wanting assistance. **The plan is to collect ONLY GIFT CARDS (prefer Target & Walmart) for those who requested assistance.** We'll divide cards prior to the holidays and place them in an envelope for pickup. Guests will come to IHN on a scheduled day and time, remain in their vehicle wearing a mask and call the IHN phone. One of Family Center staff will take the gift cards to their vehicle.

For those wanting to donate gift cards, I would ask that you follow the same procedure for "dropoff" of cards. We are being very protective of our environment and would prefer to walk to your car masked, as opposed to having individuals step inside the office.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or Cheryl if you would like to donate gift cards for our past guests. Feel the love and gratitude, Vicki L. Dercher, MSW, LSCSW—Executive Director of Jo Co Interfaith Hospitality Network—913-345-2121

Thank You!

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for supporting our families the week of Oct. 25. Your efforts make a difference to people who need a helping hand. Vicki & Cheryl!

## ❖ The week ahead at St. Thomas ❖

**Saturday, Nov. 14:** Blood Drive, 8am-12:30pm PH 2, 3; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Online and Outdoor Altar

**Sunday, Nov. 15:** Children & Youth Sunday School, 9-10am Online; Holy Communion, 9:00am Online; Adult Forum, 10am Online; Holy Communion, 11:00am Outdoor Altar; Youth Group, 4-5:30 Outdoors

*Stewardship Pledge Dropoff, Blessing, Coat/Mitten/Food Drive, and Advent Wreathmaking Kit pickup—2-4pm*

**Monday, Nov. 16:** Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1pm PH 1; UMKC Brass Ensemble reh, 6:30-8pm Nave; AA-6:30-8:30pm LL; Compline-8pm Online

**Tuesday, Nov. 17:** Book Club, 7-8pm PH 1; Contemplative Prayer Small Grp, 7-8pm Nave; Compline, 8-8:45pm Online

**Wednesday, Nov. 18:** Coffee Small Grp, 9:30-11am PH 2, 3; Thom's Helpers-10:30am-1pm PH 1; Wed. Study Grp, 10:30-12 Online; Staff Mtg, 1:30-2:30pm PH 1 or 2; Music Recording session, 5:30-6:30pm Nave; Pinehurst Estates mtg, 6-9pm PH 2, 3; UMKC Recital/Recording, 7:30pm Nave; AA Fellowship-7:30pm LL; Compline-8pm Online

**Thursday, Nov. 19:** Bible Study (Roller/Strom), 10-11am Online; Classics Men's Small Grp, 7pm Online; Explorers Small Grp, 7pm Online; PEO mtg (McCall), 7pm PH 2, 3; AI-Anon Family Grp-7-8pm LL; Compline-8pm Online

**Friday, Nov. 20:** AA-8-9pm LL; Compline, 8pm Online

**Saturday, Nov. 21:** Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am Online; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Online & In-Person TBD

### Please schedule gatherings with office



To hold a small group meeting or gathering at St. Thomas, we ask that you clear the date/time/space with Meribeth in the church office to eliminate any conflicts. If you decide NOT to meet at the church, let her know that as well. 913-451-0512 or email [mrisebig@stthomasop.org](mailto:mrisebig@stthomasop.org). Thank you!

### St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church

12251 Antioch Rd, Overland Park, KS 66213 913-451-0512

email address: [stthomas@stthomasop.org](mailto:stthomas@stthomasop.org)

Visit us on the website: [www.stthomasop.org](http://www.stthomasop.org)

Facebook: St. Thomas Episcopal OP

## Some ways to Get Connected!



### PEACE Challenge

We would like everyone to submit a new Peace video or picture to be used during the online St. Thomas service. Please submit your most creative Fall theme 'Peace Be with You' video to share with your fellow St. Thomas members. Send videos and pictures to Fr. Gar: [gdemo@stthomasop.org](mailto:gdemo@stthomasop.org)



### Love your (St. Thomas) neighbor!

We have started 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!

---

\*\* You can access the parish database at any time by going to [stthomasop.breezechms.com](http://stthomasop.breezechms.com) and logging into your account. If you don't have access, let us know and we will get that to you. \*\*

---



### 2020 Advent series:

#### "Pandemic: Where is God in all of this?"

Mother Kelly Demo will be leading an Advent series called, "Pandemic: Where is God in all of this?" On December 2, 9, and 16 at 7pm we will gather via Zoom to hear talks from Biblical scholars and historians and have time for conversation about what we hear. Watch *Tower Talk* and your email for more information and links.

### Wednesday Study Group begins November 18 at 10:30am via Zoom—a new 6-week session

*Beyond Belief* contains favorite moments and core teachings of the late Episcopal priest Marcus Borg. For information please call: Suzie Taylor-Meadows 785-979-0606 or Martha Sharp 913-381-6270.