

❖ children & youth news ❖

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).

If you couldn't pick up your Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season kit last Sunday there are more in the church lobby on the "pickup table".

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!

Youth Group will meet outside this coming Sunday from 4-5:30pm, weather permitting. 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!

Celebrating Children & Youth! We think everyone should be celebrated for new levels of creative ways to spend your time, learning how to be alone, accomplishments in school, 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 or via call/text to let the church know how we can support you.

Flowers on the Altar are Given to the Glory of God and

*In Loving Memory of Mary Elman—
from Dan, Lynn & Bre Elman*



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.

The church office will be open 9am-4pm Mon-Thurs and 9am-12pm Friday, but limited to staff. We ask that you continue to contact us by phone or email.

TOWER TALK

NOVEMBER 21 & 22, 2020

❖ 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. Join us for a brief study video and lively discussion on Sunday Mornings!

Children & Youth: Zoom Sunday Schools This Weekend:
9am - "Pre(school) through Grade 3 God's 10 Best Ways...God tells his people how he wants them to live.

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 minds 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!

❖ 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 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")

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2021

If your household did not receive a Stewardship Campaign packet in the mail, please contact the church office so we can send you one. It contained a colorful brochure, pledge card and envelope. 913-451-0512 or email mrisebig@stthomasop.org.

You can also make your pledge commitment online—go to the St. Thomas website—www.stthomasop.org, and click on the tab "**Online Pledge 2021**".


❖ Outreach ❖

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Thank You!

Thank you for sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on Nov. 14. We had a great day with a pretty good turn out. Thank you for having us and supporting us in our mission to save lives!

Keana, Maddie, Trina, Ryan, and Tara

Results: Presenting donors—38; Total Units—41!

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.

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!

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, LCSW—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 ❖

Please Note: Next week many of the staff will be working from home on Tuesday and Wednesday and the church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and Friday, Nov. 27.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Saturday, Nov. 21: Prayer Shawl Small Grp, 10-12 Online; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Online

Sunday, Nov. 22: Children & Youth Sunday School, 9-10am Online; Holy Communion, 9:00am Online; Adult Forum, 10am Online; Youth Group, 4-5:30 Outdoors

Monday, Nov. 23: Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1pm PH 1, 2, 3; UMKC Recording session, 1-4pm Nave; Nave or pH 1 reserved, 4-5pm; Finance Committee, 5:45pm Online; AA, 6:30-8:30pm Online; UMKC Brass Ensemble reh, 6:30-8pm Online; Journeymen, 6:30-8pm Online; Vestry mtg, 6:45pm Online; Compline-8pm Online

Tuesday, Nov. 24: Compline, 8-8:45pm Online

Wednesday, Nov. 25: Thom's Helpers-10:30am-1pm PH 1, 2, 3; Wed. Study Grp, 10:30-12 Online; UMKC Recital/Recording, 7:30pm Nave; AA Fellowship-7:30pm Online; Compline-8pm Online

Thursday, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Day. Office Closed. Al-Anon Family Grp-7-8pm Online; Compline-8pm Online

Friday, Nov. 27: Office closed. AA-8-9pm Online; Compline, 8pm Online

Saturday, Nov. 28: Holy Communion, 5:30pm Online

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

Some Ways to Get Connected!



PEACE Challenge

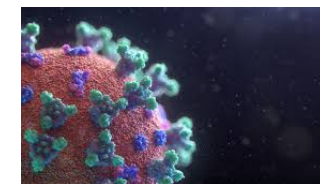
We would like everyone to submit a new Peace video or picture to be used during the online St. Thomas service. Please submit your most creative Fall theme 'Peace Be with You' video to share with your fellow St. Thomas members. Send videos and pictures to Fr. Gar: gdemo@stthomasop.org



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 and logging into your account. If you don't have access, let us know and we will get that to you. **



2020 Advent Conversations

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. The first conversation will be with The Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi.

We will talk about where to find God and hope in this pandemic and what good might come out of the times we are in. We will watch the video and then have a conversation together about what we heard. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87652095356> Meeting ID: 876 5209 5356, One tap mobile +13462487799

Wednesday Study Group now meeting 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.