



THE ST. JOHN'S PRAYER

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for St. John's, broad creek. strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, restore the penitent, draw the seekers, and increase our numbers. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy church; through Jesus Christ our lord.
Amen

VISION STATEMENT

St. John's will continue to grow as a positive source of comfort and love in the lives of our diverse parish family. the surrounding community will come to know us as a welcoming, inclusive shelter in a world of uncertainty, and a source of help in crisis.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's church is an inclusive community of faithful believers and earnest seekers, where worship is the foundation of our common life, and where the holy spirit moves us to gather and thrive as a loving extended family while reaching out to serve our neighbors with the Good news of God's love.

AUGUST 2020

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FROM THE PULPIT



World's Longest Train Wreck



The Rev. Sarah Dodds Oldenwol

I can do anything as long as I know how long I will have to do it. In other words, like almost everyone else, I struggle with the unknown. Part of what makes living in the wake of a global pandemic so hard is that there are so many unknowns.

Living on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina in a torn-up home with missing windows and pieces of its roof missing was a piece of cake compared to this. The hurricane came, did its destructive thing, and left. Then we were able to get about the business of cleaning up AND we were able to gather and care for each other without putting anyone at risk. What we are doing now is something unseen before in our lifetimes— a disaster that keeps coming and coming and coming – the world's longest train wreck.

Living in the midst of disaster is hard and stressful. Living in the midst of the world's longest train wreck is altogether different. If you are feeling down and isolated and frustrated and angry and at the end of your rope...you are not alone. What we are doing – trying to maintain some sense of order in our lives in the midst of a global pandemic train wreck – is hard work. No one can tell us exactly when it will end. Even when it does end, we know in our heart of hearts that things will never be just as they were before the train wreck. Some days it all feels like too much!

Be gentle with yourselves. It is OK not to be OK. If you feel stuck in 'not being OK', please ask for help. If you do not know whom to contact for help, start with me. We can explore next steps together.

On those days when I feel the weight of waiting for the end of the world's longest train wreck, I look for the helpers. The oft told (perhaps over told) story that Fred Rogers (Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood) told of his own childhood has brought me comfort: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" When I look for the helpers, I am reminded that this is NOT a hopeless situation. I think of medical workers, scientists, government leaders, first responders, grocery store workers, sanitation workers, and the countless others who continue to go to work, sometimes at great risk to their own lives. Then I think ways I can be a helper: prayer, volunteering with and/or donating to the Fort Washington Food Pantry, wearing my face mask, checking in with those who live alone, writing thank you notes to helpers...

AND THEN I am able to see God at work in our world redeeming the world's longest train wreck.

PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP!

- Beginning August 9th, we will use the Morning Prayer liturgy for Sunday worship. If you are interested in helping with worship, we are looking for Morning Prayer presiders (Morning Prayer can be led by anyone!) and readers. Please contact Libby at lwibel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org to indicate your willingness to help!
- Send us a short video of yourself (and family members) ringing the St. John's bell and we will use the recordings to open worship! If you cannot record yourself, let Libby know lwibel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org and we will arrange for Libby or Sarah to record you!



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING OF THE DEVICES

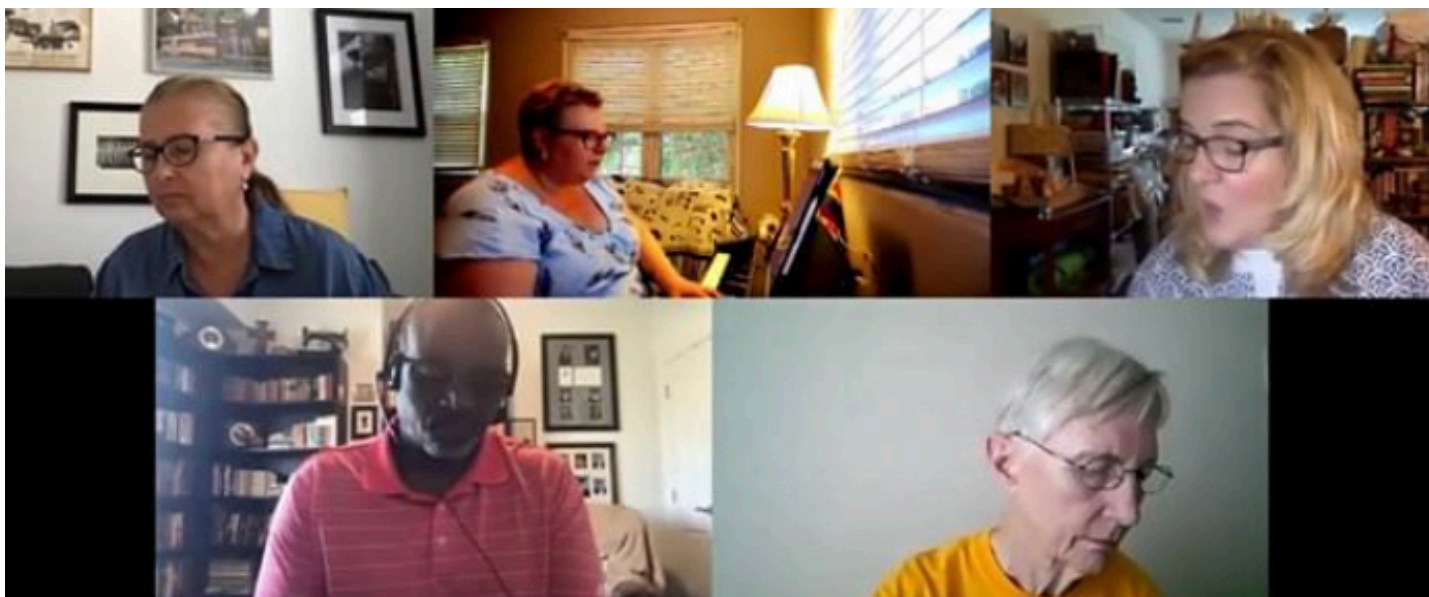
Most students in this area are going back to school from home in digital classrooms to begin this school year. On Sunday, August 23 at 4 p.m. we want to honor, celebrate, and bless this very different school year with a special liturgy. We will gather (masks on) in the circle with our "devices" (or a picture of our devices) at the St. John's circle. We will trot out the "bells and smells" and pray a good beginning on our learning. The service will be short! If you feel you need it, please bring your own chair. Bathrooms available for emergency use only. Pre-packaged ice cream treats will be offered! Everyone is welcome. RSVP to lwibel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org so we have enough ice cream treats.

Forward Day by Day – If you are among those who regularly picked up a copy of the daily devotional Forward Day by Day in the parish office, Faith Chisholm has offered to mail them to those who want them. Please send your contact to Faith at: faithmusicislove@gmail.com

AUGUST 30: AGAPE MEAL WORSHIP!



... AND LIFE GOES ON ...



“In the midst of it all ... in the garden ... I can hear the Divine whisper to my soul ... you are beloved ... hope surrounds you!”





Episcopal Diocese
of Washington



Dióceses Episcopal
de Washington



This Is Your Life

"Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe."

John Lewis

In Anne Tyler's novel [Saint Maybe](#), a young man named Ian struggles with guilt for something he said that he believes caused his brother to commit suicide. One day he stumbles into a storefront aptly named The Church of the Second Chance. The minister speaks to him about forgiveness and restitution. Ian decides to drop out of college, take a job as a carpenter, and help his parents raise his brother's children. He joins the church and finds solace among its community of misfits.

But as the months and years go by, Ian continues to struggle. One day he tells his minister that he wants to go back to college and get on with his life. The minister responds quietly, "This is your life, Ian."

The minister's words hit Ian hard at first, but he takes them to heart and begins to embrace the life he did not choose. They hit me hard as well when I first read them. At the time I was struggling with how frustratingly slow my life felt when I wanted things to happen quickly. I heard God speaking through the minister's words, asking me to accept my life as it was and trust the horizons beyond my sight.

For most of us, acceptance of what we did not choose comes gradually, through hard work and pure grace. In acceptance we let go of magical thinking, that we'll wake up one morning in the life we want as opposed to the life we have.



Because God also calls us to change, and to work for change, acceptance has the suspicious ring of passivity to it. But acceptance is not the same as resignation or learned helplessness. Paradoxically, we can only change what we first accept. And because we never know where our lives fall in the larger continuum of change, we can't judge our faithfulness based on results.

This is your life.

In 587 BCE, the prophet Jeremiah wrote to the Israelites who had been taken into exile in Babylon after the fall of Jerusalem. Other prophets were assuring them that their time of banishment would be brief. Jeremiah warned the Israelites not to be deceived by false dreams. Instead, he encouraged them to make their home in exile.

Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage . . . Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Exile was now their life, not the one they wanted, but the life they had. Yet Jeremiah also held before them God's vision for their future: "Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." That is what a grounded faith looks like--accepting our lives as they are while placing our hope in God.

This is your life.

During these long months of pandemic and of collective reckoning, I confess that whenever I've tried to imagine the future, I find myself slipping into worry and deep sadness. In prayer, what I've heard is the call to accept my life now and tend to the work at hand, which is what I've done.

But as we've been celebrating the life of Congressman John Lewis, I've been inspired by his example. He unflinchingly faced the harsh realities of racism. Yet he lived each day according to his true identity as a beloved child and God's vision of beloved community. Inspired by Lewis' example, I'm praying now for that same faith, grounded in acceptance yet never losing hope.

In [***Across That Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change***](#), Lewis writes:

There is one question people ask me more than any other: How did you do it? How did you hold to nonviolence when a pounding wall of vicious hate was pushing through you like waves of fire? How is it possible to be cracked on the head with a nightstick. . .and not raise your hand one time in self-defense? How could you bear the clear hypocrisy of being arrested on trumped-up charges and taken to jail for disturbing the peace when you were the one who was attacked and abused? How could you survive the threats, the bombings, and murders of a lineage of people without holding any bitterness or anger?

The answer is simple. Faith. Faith has the power to deliver us all, even from the greatest harm. . . Faith is being so sure of what the Spirit has whispered in your heart that your belief in its eventuality is unshakable. Nothing can make you doubt that what you have heard will become a reality. Even if you do not live to see it come to pass, you know without one doubt that it will be. That is faith.

This is your life. This is your time. This is your home, not forever, but for now. As you live, may God sustain your faith in what the Spirit has whispered in your heart. By grace and with courage, may you continue on, as Lewis did, across the bridge that unites your life as it is to the vision of hope God has entrusted to you.

[Leer en español](#)



THE ST. JOHN'S
BROAD CREEK
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

We are here for you

VESTRY

LOOKING FOR NEWSLETTER DESIGNER/EDITOR

St. John's needs you!

Let Pastor Sarah know
if you are interest.
This is a great way
to show off your creativity.

HOW TO DONATE ONLINE! NEW INSTRUCTIONS!

1. If you have a Realm account, sign into realm. If not, skip this step ... or better yet, email Betsy Winters (betsywinters@gmail.com) to get you signed up!
2. Go to **www.stjohnsbroadcreek.org/give** -- you can also get there via the St. John's Homepage by clicking "Donate Online" at the top right menu.
3. Fill out the form to submit your one-time or regular donation! Some options on the form:
 - A) Recurring donations: You can set it to give once per week, once every two weeks, once per month, or once per quarter!
 - B) Funds: Right now we have everything going to General Funds with this new system, but feel free to write details on the MEMO line if you'd like to designate monies for other funds or just to write details.
4. Click "Continue" and complete the steps to process your payment! You will have a couple more options:
 - A) ACH or Credit Card: ACH Bank Transfer is now available -- the exact same thing as writing a check, and less fees.
 - B) You will also have the option to offset the fees for the online banking service, which St. John's would greatly appreciate!

Then you're done! Hooray!

If you've logged into Realm, this donation will be automatically entered into your account.
If not, we'll post the donation to your account as quickly as possible.

How To Donate via Text!

St. John's is excited to introduce giving via text! Text **StJohnsBroadCreek \$50** to **73256** and replace the \$\$ amount with the amount of your choosing!
Then follow the instructions when you receive a text back.

Then you're done! Easy as pie!

NOTE: Standard text message rates apply.

ONLINE GIVING VIDEO





UPCOMING EVENTS

Jean Anderson-Jones

Dates and times are subject to change, please check with the office at **301. 248.4290** or online at **www.stjohnsbroadcreek.org**.

[Join us for Online Worship on Sundays at 10 a.m!](#)

Please join us in Sunday Worship! You will find the link on our [YouTube Channel](#), on our [Facebook Page](#), and on the [Virtual Worship Videos section of the website](#), where you can also find all previous Sunday worship videos! Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, all in-person worship services are suspended until further notice.

SALE! 2020 CALENDARS = \$10 EACH - Please see Sandra Bouchelion.

SALE! PERSONALIZED BRICKS - Please see Karen Chapman for details.

SALE! ST. JOHN'S SHIRTS = \$20 EACH - Call Karen Herbert at 301.440.4294.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (PGCPS)

Summary and full versions of reopening plans for Prince George's County Public Schools are now available online.

The PGCPS Reopening Plan Summary provides an overview of state requirements, distance learning schedules, resources and supports in addition to key dates, next steps and other considerations.

The full Reopening Plan includes comprehensive details on the instructional program, school facilities, student activities, employee services and equity issues. The document will be updated weekly through Friday, Aug. 14, at which time it will be submitted to the Maryland State Department of Education.

For more information, please visit www.pgcps.org/reopen.

El plan para la reapertura de PGCPS está disponible en internet

Ya están disponibles en internet la versión completa y la versión resumida del plan para la reapertura de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Prince George.

El resumen del plan para la reapertura de PGCPS ofrece una sinopsis de los requisitos del estado, los horarios de aprendizaje a distancia, los recursos y apoyos, así como fechas clave, próximos pasos y otras consideraciones.

El plan de reapertura completo incluye información detallada sobre el programa de enseñanza, las instalaciones escolares, las actividades estudiantiles, los servicios para los empleados y asuntos relacionados con la equidad. El documento se actualizará semanalmente hasta el viernes 14 de agosto, momento en el que se enviará al Departamento de Educación del Estado de Maryland.

Para más información, por favor visite www.pgcps.org/reopen.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

if you would like to submit information to be considered for inclusion in the "St. John's Way" newsletter, email your information DIRECTLY to bsbrevard@yahoo.com at least one week in advance* of the newsletter's distribution date (which is usually on the first day of the next month). Inclusion in the newsletter is **NOT** guaranteed.

ABOUT YOUR SUBMISSION(S)

- Articles which are selected for publication will be proofread for content, spelling, and grammatical errors.
- Articles should be submitted in Word format and discuss subjects relevant to the St. John's community.
- Articles should include section headings.
- Illustrations, tables, sidebars are encouraged to illustrate and emphasize the message.

STRUCTURE OF YOUR ARTICLE(S)

- News items and announcements - short, topical, news oriented
- Major Articles
 - in depth discussions of topics of interest

Email your information DIRECTLY to bsbrevard@yahoo.com at least two weeks in advance of possible placement. Please remember, submitting your article does not guarantee placement.

* Deadlines for submissions can also be found on the last page of the newsletter



AUGUST

Willie Alexander, Isabella Tart, Victoria Alston,
John A. Mberger, Tara Benn, Charles Day,
Laurel Duffy, Jameson Duffy, Jean Eisenbrey,
Don Horton, Mary Alice Johnson, Erica Kallop
Ebenezer Nwughala, Susan Petroff, Jessica Puzon,
Pam Ritter, Lucy Slattery, George Stevens,
Dezi Vereen

AUGUST IS

Admit You're Happy Month
Family Fun Month
Dog Days of Summer - July 3 - August 11
International Clown Week - always August 1-7
National Catfish Month
National Eye Exam Month
National Golf Month
Peach Month
Romance Awareness Month
Water Quality Month
National Picnic Month

August Weekly Events:

Week 1 - National Simplify your Life Week
Week 2 - National Smile Week
Week 3 - Friendship Week
Week 4 - Be Kind to Humankind Week

WORSHIP AND STUDY SCHEDULE ALL WORSHIP LINKS & INVITATIONS WILL BE SENT BY EMAIL!

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY

9:30 a.m. - In Zoom

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

7 p.m. - In Zoom.

VBS!

We are exploring a Vacation Bible School opportunity with the Episcopal Churches in Upper Marlboro.

St. Barnabas Leeland is hosting this socially distanced, outdoor program with an online component.

VBS will take place on the first four Saturday mornings in August. St. John's is being asked to supplement volunteers on any of the Saturdays; there is particular need on August 8. Please contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@stjohnsbroadcreek.org if you can offer to volunteer. Stay tuned for enrollment information.

EXTENDED PRAYER LIST

Those for whom prayer needs are not immediate, but for whom continuing prayers are requested: Faith Chisholm, Jane Thornhill, Diane, Sigismund, Benji, Larry, Reuben and Rose, David and Noriko.

CONNECT WITH ST. JOHN'S BROAD CREEK

Send your contact information to info@stjohnsbroadcreek.org or leave a message at 301.248.4290.

ONLINE GIVING TUTORIAL VIDEO

Thank you, John and Kristen Slattery for producing this How-To Video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Smho3aZ0Wq8>



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PLACE IN TIME CONTINUED...

With St. John's "A Place in Time" Brick Project, we are looking forward to adding your personalized brick "in memory of", "in thanksgiving for", you or your family member's baptism, an anniversary or a message of encouragement.

St. John's bricks are \$50 each for a 4x8 brick. You may purchase as many as you wish. Engraving is included. If you wish to add a symbol to your brick, please add \$10 to your order. Symbols can be email upon request or seen in the binder in the back of the church.

Yes, I would like to reserve a permanent brick(s). Please engrave my brick as follows:

Note: A PERIOD, COMMA, COLON, DASH, etc. IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE

ALL TEXT IS CENTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

EXAMPLE

G	O		N	E	W	T	O	N		H	I	G	H		L	I	O	N	S	
S	T	A	T	E		C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N	S						
2	0	0	2	,		2	0	0	3	,		2	0	0	4					



4 X 8 BRICK (\$50.00)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21

Symbol (Brick 1): _____ Symbol (Brick 2): _____

(please write in what symbol you would like.)

*** A symbol takes up one (1) line leaving you three (3) lines for your text ***

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

St. John's Church (MEMO: Brick Project) - 9801 Livingston Road – Fort Washington, MD 20744

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Total # of Bricks: _____ Check #: _____ If Cash check here ☐

If you have any questions, call Karen Chapman at (240) 515-0707 or Church Office at (301) 248-4290

You may email your form to kcconnects01@gmail.com



LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!

The deadline for the September 2020 issue of "St. John's Way" is Tuesday, August 25.

Submissions may only be mailed or emailed.

The preferred way to receive your submissions is as a Microsoft Word document, via email. More info on "Upcoming Events" page.

Please email your letters, ideas, articles, comments, information, questions to bsbrevard@yahoo.com.

NOTE: dates, times, locations mentioned in this newsletter are subject to change. All information has been edited to the best of our abilities.
Be kind and understanding. PEACE!

REMEMBER the August 25 deadline.



A publication for members and friends of St. John's Episcopal Church, Broad Creek:
"All are welcome - all inclusive - no judgment!"

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