



ST. JOHN'S WAY



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.

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FROM THE PULPIT



You Can Trust ...



The Rev. Sarah Dodds Oldersol

- 1) You are loved by God. No matter who you voted for or who you didn't vote for. No matter what someone else says about the candidates for whom you voted. God loves you.
- 2) Victory does not equal God's endorsement. God will work with what we offer God. God's end game isn't about what is good for you or for me as individuals. God is concerned about the good of God's creation...which happens to include us.
- 3) We love each other! Even if we do not share the same opinions or party affiliation: Dottie Fogie will still make us laugh; your Vestry will continue to work hard; St. John's will continue to flood; Libby will still offer engaging music; our children will ask great questions; the Ritters will eventually go right back to sitting in the back, parking lot side of the church...We love each other!
- 4) How we respond to the results of this election says more about us than how we voted. *Listen here, mortal: God has already made abundantly clear what "good" is, and what God needs from you: simply do justice, love kindness, and humbly walk with your God.*

Micah 6:8 The Inclusive Bible

ADVENT – PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Just when I feel like life is irrevocably off kilter, I am reminded that the larger rhythms are still there thrumming in the background. Despite the din of campaign noise and Covid19 infection/death counts, fall arrived and there are leaves on the ground, my cats still like to nap on the heat registers, and Ordinary Time is winding down to make way for Advent. The altered pace of Covid-tide (Yes, I have created a churchy sounding name for this time in our lives. ;-) offers us a new opportunity to embrace Advent.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29th this year. Advent by its nature is countercultural. In a time when everything is speeding up for the downhill slide into Christmas, Advent asks to slowdown, breathe deep, listen, and reflect. Slowing down makes room for the Holy Spirit to show us those things in our own hearts and in our congregations that we might rather leave undisturbed and unacknowledged. The lectionary readings assigned for Advent urge repentance; another practice best not hurried. It may not be pleasant to acknowledge the places in our lives where we have wandered; nor is it delightful to hear a word about a God who has standards and who is angry about both individual and corporate sin. Still Advent asks us to make time for such things.

The central message of Advent is perhaps the most countercultural aspect of this season. **God is about to come! God is coming not as an angry judge but as a human among us.** This is good news! This is why we prepare during this season.

- 1) **Make a fun Advent Calendar and/or Advent Wreath for your home.** If you Goggle "How do I make an Advent wreath?"/ "How do I make an Advent calendar?" you will get more ideas than you can entertain. You will receive a color and cutout Advent wreath in your email later this month!
- 2) The latest surge in Covid-19 cases will alter your plans to gather with friends and family this season. **Start now to handwrite notes to the people you will miss seeing.** Tell them about your gratitude for their presence in your life.
- 3) **Follow and participate in the global Advent calendar online:** <https://www.facebook.com/AdventWordOrg/>
- 4) **Be gentle with yourself.** Holidays are a particularly hard time to do things differently. Ask for help if you need it!



GOT ZOOM?





Episcopal Diocese
of Washington



Dióceses Episcopal
de Washington



The Hidden Virtue of Perseverance

Jesus told the disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not lose heart.
Luke 18:1

If we were to list the personal attributes necessary to make it through this prolonged and anxious season, perseverance would surely be among them.

Yet perseverance is a hidden virtue. Rarely do we see what it costs others to pick themselves up after a disappointment, nor do they see what it costs us. We don't know what it takes for others to keep going in the face of physical or spiritual fatigue, nor do they know what it takes for us. In persevering, to paraphrase W. H. Auden, we all do what is hard as if it were easy.

Intellectually, we know that there are bound to be long stretches of costly work with little to show for it, and times of exhaustion, when more is being asked of us than we can healthfully sustain. Yet as this season takes up seemingly permanent residence in our lives, the toll on us still comes as a surprise. We didn't know it would be this hard for this long.

On some days, perseverance may be our only offering.

Prayer is a vital part of the persevering life, which is why Jesus encouraged his disciples to pray always and not lose heart. Jesus knew that life is hard and that we're bound to get discouraged. Yet he assures us that as we persevere in prayer and everything else worth doing, in time we will find that our heart-strength returns, stronger for the testing.



Hard as it is, there is growth that comes with testing, and an increased capacity to meet the challenges we face. As a character in one of my favorite novels says about perseverance in relationships: “It’s the only purpose grand enough for a human life. Not just to love--but to *persist* in love.”¹

I often turn to history for inspiration. Today I remember the example of the American pastor and theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, perhaps best known for composing the Serenity Prayer:

Lord grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.

Reinhold Niebuhr knew a lot about perseverance. He began pastoral ministry in the 1920s, in a working class congregation of Detroit. He and other clergy of his generation fought on the side of unions in labor struggles for a living wage. He lived through the Great Depression. He later found his public voice speaking out against U.S. complacency in the face of Hitler’s rise to power. After the war, Niebuhr joined the faculty of Union Theological Seminary in New York City and rose to national prominence in the 1950s. Niebuhr taught, wrote books, and mentored rising generations until the mid-1960s, when a series of strokes weakened him. He lived long enough to see his influence wane, as his view of God and humanity passed from favor.

Niebuhr’s daughter, Elisabeth Sifton, wrote of her father and his associates: “They had both high spirits and serious, dedicated hearts. They worked so hard. They were so very loving. And their labors were informed, in the end, by the humble recognition that it is not within our human powers to understand the final tally.”

“Like them,” Sifton goes on, “we must persevere under all trials. We shall never have enough courage to change what must be changed. The grace to accept with serenity that which cannot be changed will not come easily to us. And the wisdom to discern one from the other takes more than our lifetime to acquire.”

Sifton quotes her father again, words well worth committing to memory:

*Nothing worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing that is true or beautiful makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; there we must be saved by faith. Nothing that we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we are saved by love.*²

Pray always, Jesus said. Don't lose heart. Dare to believe that in the long stretches of fatigue and uncertainty that God is with you. Do the work that is yours to do. Then leave the rest in God's hands. Above all, persevere in hope; persevere in faith; and persevere in love.

~~~~~

<sup>1</sup> Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees* (New York: Penguin Books, 2002).

<sup>2</sup> Elisabeth Sifton, *The Serenity Prayer: Faith and Politics in Times of Peace and War* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2004).



THE ST. JOHN'S  
BROAD CREEK  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

*We are here for you*

**VESTRY**

**REPORTS**

## 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](mailto:betsywinters@gmail.com)) to get your signed up!
2. Go to [www.stjohnsbroadcreek.org/give](http://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. Johns 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

### PLEA FOR HELP

Dear Friends,

I am at Stage V kidney failure from PKD (polycystic kidney disease). This means, my kidney function is at 9% and falling; on the bright side, I'm a perfect candidate to receive one. I have been on "The List" for close to 3 years. Live donors give the recipient a much higher rate of success and lasts much longer. Over 20 friends and family members have been tested. One incredibly generous parishioner has offered and has been qualified to \*donate\* a kidney; sadly, I am not a match. Although we are waiting to see if we can do a chain-donation (as in daisy chain), no luck yet in finding a pair. Time is running low for me.

**Please give me a chance to see Roberto graduate from high school.** Consider helping our tiny family by getting tested. If you are not able to, please share this post to help me find a match?

Just call UMD nurse Kayla 410.328.6838; or Nurse Helene 410.328.4333 and fill out this form:

<https://www.umms.org/ummc/campaigns/livingdonorkidney>.

Thank you so much for your support. **Love,**  
**Sandra**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates and times are subject to change, please check with the office at 301. 248.4290 or online at [www.stjohnsbroadcreek.org](http://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.

## THANKSGIVING 2020

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated on various dates in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Liberia, and the sub-national entities Leiden, Norfolk Island, and Puerto Rico. It began as a day of giving thanks and sacrifice for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year.



## EXTENDED PRAYER LIST

Those for whom prayer needs are not immediate, but for whom continuing prayers are requested: Faith Chisholm, Diane, Sigismund, Benji, Larry, Sheyla, Reuben and Rose, Ron Weiss, Connie, Noriko, all those who live in community facilities, and all those whose work places them at risk for contracting COVID19.

## SALES

**PERSONALIZED BRICKS** - Please see Karen Chapman for details.

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

## CONNECT WITH ST. JOHN'S BROAD CREEK

Send your contact information to [info@stjohnsbroadcreek.org](mailto: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>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



## NOVEMBER

Faith Chisholm, Dorothy Foggie, Jamil Neil, Heather Puzon, Deneen Persell, Edith Pulscak, Annie Rodenberg, Brianna Sampson, John Slattery, Charles (Joe) Taylor, Elizabeth (Libby) Wiebel

## NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Aviation History Month  
Child Safety Protection Month  
Family Stories Month  
Gluten Free Diet Awareness Month  
Good Nutrition Month  
Hospice Month  
International Drum Month  
Lung Cancer Awareness Month  
Manatee Awareness Month  
Military Family Appreciation Month  
Music Month  
National Adoption Awareness Month  
National Candle Month  
National Caregivers Appreciation Month  
National Child Mental Health Month  
National Diabetes Awareness Month  
National Epilepsy Awareness Month  
National Fragrance Month  
National Healthy Skin Month  
National Inspirational Role Models Month  
National Model Railroad Month  
National Native American Heritage Month  
National Novel Writing Month  
National Scholarship Month  
National Senior Pets Month  
National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month  
Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month  
Peanut Butter Lovers Month  
Picture Book Month  
Spinach Month  
Squash Month  
Sweet Potato Awareness Month  
U.S. Beard Month (also No-Shave November)  
World Communications Month  
Worldwide Bereaved Siblings Month

## 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.

### RING THAT BELL!

Send us a short (5-10 rings) video of you and/or family members ringing the church bell and we will use it to open worship in St. John's Digital Church (SJDC)! If you don't have anyone to record you ringing the bell, please let Libby know and we will make arrangements to record you. Contact Libby at [lwiebel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org](mailto:lwiebel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org).

# Prince George's County Public Schools

## 2019-2020 School Calendar – Revised 6/1/20

| <b>2019</b>             |                                                                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 4-5                | Independence Day Holidays – Schools and Offices Closed                         |
| August 11               | Eid al-Adha*                                                                   |
| August 19-21            | Professional Duty Days for New Teachers                                        |
| August 22-30            | Professional Duty Days for All Teachers                                        |
| August 28               | Professional Development                                                       |
| August 29               | Orientation Day for Pre-K and Kindergarten Students                            |
| August 30               | Orientation Day for New Gr. 6&7 Middle Schoolers & New 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders |
| September 2             | Labor Day Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed                                 |
| September 3             | First Day of School for All Students                                           |
| <b>September 27</b>     | <b>Professional Development – Schools Closed for Students</b>                  |
| September 30 -October 1 | Rosh Hashanah*                                                                 |
| October 9               | Yom Kippur*                                                                    |
| October 11              | First Quarter Progress Reports Released                                        |
| October 18              | Professional Development – Schools Closed for Students                         |
| October 27              | Diwali*                                                                        |
| November 5              | End of First Quarter (44 days)                                                 |
| November 6              | Professional Day for Teachers – 3-Hr. Early Dismissal for Students             |
| November 11             | Veterans Day & Parent-Teacher Conferences – Schools Closed for Students        |
| November 19             | First Quarter Report Cards Released                                            |
| November 27-29          | Thanksgiving Holidays – Schools and Offices Closed                             |
| December 20             | Second Quarter Progress Reports Released                                       |
| December 23-31          | Winter Break & Christmas Holidays – Schools and Offices Closed                 |
| <b>2020</b>             |                                                                                |
| January 1               | Winter Break & New Year's Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed                 |
| January 20              | Martin L. King Jr. Day Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed                    |
| January 24              | End of Second Quarter (45 days)                                                |
| January 27              | Professional Day for Teachers – 3-Hr. Early Dismissal for Students             |
| February 7              | Second Quarter Report Cards Released                                           |
| February 17             | Presidents' Day Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed                           |
| March 9                 | Third Quarter Progress Reports Released                                        |
| March 30                | End of Third Quarter (40 days)                                                 |
| April 9-16              | Passover                                                                       |
| April 9, 10 & 13        | Easter Holidays – Schools and Offices Closed                                   |
| TBD                     | Third Quarter Report Cards Released                                            |
| April 24                | First Day of Ramadan                                                           |
| TBD                     | Fourth Quarter Progress Reports Released                                       |
| May 23                  | Last Day of Ramadan                                                            |
| May 24                  | Eid al-Fitr*                                                                   |
| May 25                  | Memorial Day Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed                              |
| June 2                  | Primary Election Day – Instructional Day for Students*                         |
| June 15                 | Last Day for Students <sup>1</sup> and End of Fourth Quarter (51 days)         |
| June 17                 | Last Day for Teachers <sup>1</sup>                                             |
| July 1                  | Fourth Quarter Report Cards Mailed                                             |

\*PGCPS received a waiver from the state to convert this mandated holiday to an instructional day.

<sup>1</sup>**NOTES ON LAST DAYS** – The last days for students and teachers have been adjusted to include five make-up days. The state granted a waiver for 5 of the 10 days schools were closed by Governor Hogan from March 16-27. The statewide closure from March 30 through the end of the school year will count as student learning days. Last days for 10- and 11-month employees will be determined at a later date.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS** - Major religious holidays are noted for planning purposes only. Jewish and Muslim holidays begin the day before at sunset. To avoid excluding students, families and staff from important meetings or activities, PGCPS prohibits scheduling these events on major holidays noted with an asterisk (\*) on this calendar. This restriction does not apply to state or regional events.



## 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

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#### 4 X 8 BRICK (\$50.00)

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Brick 1

#### 4 X 8 BRICK (\$50.00)

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

Brick 2

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 [kconnects01@gmail.com](mailto:kconnects01@gmail.com)



## LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!

**Deadline for December 2020 issue of  
"St. John's Way" is Friday, November 20.**

**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](mailto: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 November 20 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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