



ST. JOHN'S

E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

July - August 2020

THE GOOD NEWS

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

SUSPENDED — Holy Eucharist, Rite I

SUSPENDED — Adult Christian Education

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM - 10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist, Rite II • Visit StJohnsMLB.org

SUSPENDED — Converge (Youth Ministry)
Holy Apostles', 505 Grant Ave.,
Satellite Beach

MONDAY

SUSPENDED — Bible Study

SUSPENDED — A.A. (Big Book Study)

TUESDAY

SUSPENDED — Cub Scouts

ONLINE ONLY — Bible Study -
Email for details,
Office@StJohnsMLB.org

WEDNESDAY

7:00 P.M. — Choir Practice in Sanctuary

ONLINE ONLY — Bible Study
Email for details, Office@StJohnsMLB.org

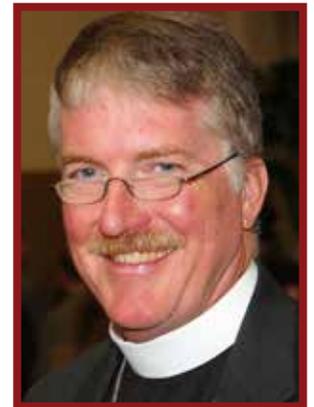
FRIDAY

ONLINE ONLY — TGIF
Email for details, Office@StJohnsMLB.org

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

This is the most confusing and challenging period we have faced in my time as a priest of the church. Historically, there have been other pandemics, some even worse, but most of us have not lived through them. In race relations, there have been periods of great upheaval in our history. I was a child during the civil rights movement of the 1960's. The level of upheaval we face in this moment is unprecedented for most of us who are alive today.



What does Jesus' life and teaching say to these issues? What guidance and solace might we find in our faith?

There is little in Scripture that speaks directly to pandemics and quarantines. Nothing, actually. Looking, then, to the broader principles we find in Scripture, we see the call to value life, health, and care for others. This doesn't tell us when to open up, when to lock down, or what precautions are prudent. It does not give us vaccines, treatments, respirators, etc. Nor does it tell us how to balance the risks of personal contact with the needs for enterprise and community. We need to work, to support ourselves and one another, and we need to be with one another. These are real needs, wired into us by God. Our faith teaches that we are to be driven by love for one another, including the weakest and most vulnerable around us. Seeking to be "wise as serpents and gentle as doves," we follow the best science available because that is the most compassionate path regarding our care for one another. We sacrifice our own comforts, like movies and theme parks and full worship services, for the sake of others. We tolerate masks to allow people to be out and about. We learn to socially distance for the sake of whatever experience of community we can muster and to allow the economy to move again.

Continued on Page 2...

The issue of race is, on one level, simpler and on another level, vastly more complex. The Old Testament makes clear that we are blessed – we are chosen – not to make the lives of one race or nation better but to be a blessing for all. The New Testament carries that principle much further, driving us to take the good news of Jesus’ love and redemption to every people, language and nation. It is impossible to believe that we are to carry the Gospel to others even as we think or treat them as lesser. The Gospel mandate is plainly that all are to be loved, valued, and treated equally. Period.

How we live that out in the context of centuries of mistreatment, enslavement, prejudice, fear, etc. is vexing indeed. I don’t think there is one simple answer, but it is clear that we all need to work hard to understand one another in a more profound way. That means listening when it is hard to do so. That means withholding judgement until we can be clear that we have understood what the other is saying. And, to be frank, I think white Americans, like myself, need to work much harder than we have at listening to the experience of our black and brown brothers and sisters.

So, what role should the church seek in all of this? Martin Luther (not Dr. King, but the 16th century priest and reformer) taught that it is not the business of the church to tell construction workers how to build bridges, but it is the business of the church to insist that bridges be built safely and that the workers be paid a fair wage. In the same vein, I do not presume to know what changes may be needed or helpful in policing or other areas, I look to those with experience and expertise. But we must insist that policing be fair, even handed and transparent, as well as that our police, who place themselves in the breach for our safety, be treated and supported fairly. All government policies should reflect our Baptismal covenant by “respecting the dignity of every human being.”

The church needs to model racial equality. Sadly, Sunday morning remains deeply segregated and that is a blight on our witness. The Episcopal Church acted early to ordain black clergy following emancipation, but, of course, it was assumed that they would only serve black congregations. Sadly, that remained the unspoken assumption for centuries and it is only too recently that we see clergy of color being called to predominantly Anglo congregations.

In our highly polarized society, I pray that the church can be a place where these issues can be hashed out honestly. Not that I think the church can or should dictate the precise answers, but that we should model a

life that honors all people and where it is safe for us to have those uncomfortable conversations so needed at this time. That may be the most important contribution the church can make at this time. People of good will may differ on the specifics of how best to address the issues of race before us, but I do not think that people of genuinely good will can differ on the goal of a truly equal society in which people are judged “not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” (MLK, Jr., August 28, 1963)

I pray that the church, broadly, and St. John’s in particular, can be such a model. In Christ,

In Christ,
Fr. Eric Turner • Rector



“Good News” Sept - Oct 2020 Schedule & Deadline



The deadline for the next issue of “The Good News” (September – October, 2020) will be Tuesday, August 11. Please email (preferred) your submissions to office@stjohnsmlb.org or get them to the church office by **August 11, 2020**.



Seaside Stitches

now meets at St. John’s, but are suspended for the duration of the lockdown. Church members are welcome to join, and several have! The schedule varies, so please contact Shirley Muzzy (321-254-2206 or shirleymuzzy@aol.com).



St. John’s Episcopal Church
610 Young Street • Melbourne, FL 32935
Phone: 321.254.3365 • Web: www.StJohnsMLB.org
Church Email: Office@stjohnsmlb.org

Bishop Gregory O. Brewer
Rector - Fr. Eric Turner
Eric@stjohnsmlb.org • Cell: 321.615.0205

Priest Associate - Fr. Terry Highland
redemcec@gmail.com • Cell: 321.831.2587

Deacon Elizabeth Murray
yarrumea@gmail.com • Cell: 321.777.0168

Sunday Ministries Schedule

For the time being, we will not be developing or publishing a calendar or Sunday Ministries schedule. When we return to in-person worship we will publish a new Sunday Ministries Schedule.

Rector's Summer Schedule & Vacation

Fr. Eric Turner will be on vacation July 14 – August 3, 2020. Fr. Terry Highland, Priest Associate, will lead worship and preach on July 19, 26 and August 2. He will also be available for pastoral emergencies. He may be reached at 321-831-2587 or redemcec@gmail.com.



Converge: Our Joint Youth Ministry

Two Episcopal Churches in the area have teamed up for ministry with middle and high school students: Holy Apostles, Satellite Beach and St. John's now have a joint youth ministry called "Converge" and meets:

SUSPENDED DURING LOCKDOWN

The Yellow House (formerly known as the Flower House)

St. John's has been exploring the possibility of making the Yellow House available to Family Promise of Brevard as a short term, low cost housing option for their clients who may need transitional housing. In the process of preparing for this, we had an electrician evaluate the house for some upgrades. We learned that the wiring of the building is extremely unsafe and we were warned that we should not have anyone staying in the building until repairs are made and repairs would mean completely re-wiring the house at a cost of more than \$20,000 (plus repairs to walls following the electrical work, various appliances, and other repairs). The vestry has agreed that the building is not worth that investment so, for the time being, we are shutting off the electrical power and using the space only for storage.

Church Calendar

Since so many church functions have been suspended for the pandemic and we do not know what the re-opening might look like, we are not publishing a calendar in this issue as it will surely change, probably several times. We will provide updates as the situation develops.

Loaning of Church Items

If you would like to borrow tables, chairs, cribs, linens etc. please speak with Fr. Eric or Kathy Oas, Jr. Warden, first as there might be an event on the schedule where these items are needed. And, of course, we need to keep track of the church's property. Please contact Kathy at kmoas40@gmail.com, Fr. Eric at eric@stjohnsmlb.org, or call the church office at 321-254-3365.

Nursery

We have re-opened St. John's Nursery for Sunday mornings, but could still use a few more volunteers. This is generally a once a month commitment. Please speak with Deacon Elizabeth (321-777-0168) if you are willing to help in this important ministry!

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

KEEPING UP WITH ST. JOHNS ONLINE



YOUTUBE CHANNEL

St. John's now has a YouTube Channel which is where we post worship live streams and sermons. Visit YouTube.com and search for St. John's Episcopal Church, Melbourne Florida, then follow us! You can also find links to all past and upcoming worship services by visiting stjohnsmlb.org and clicking on Worship Live Stream.

ST. JOHNS WEB

StJohnsMLB.org

You will find a variety of information there including schedules, the church calendar, archives of the "Good News", Sunday Ministry schedules, the latest eNews and much more. Poke around!

FACEBOOK

If you are on Facebook, you can also search "St. John's Episcopal Church" and like the page. Then you will get updates in your newsfeed, which you can respond to, or share with your friends.

ST. JOHNS CHAT

is an email "list" that allows you to keep up with the latest news at St. John's, prayer list updates, etc. You can also share things with others at St. John's. To subscribe, please just send your email address to Fr. Eric at eric@stjohnsmlb.org.

WEEKLY ENEWS

is a weekly email newsletter giving information on upcoming activities, what will be happening on Sunday, and other things. It generally includes a reflection from Fr. Eric on the lessons for the coming Sunday along with links and other information. This comes out every Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. To subscribe, please send your email address to Fr. Eric at eric@stjohnsmlb.org.

SHARING JESUS' LOVE

Daily Bread Duty Days

We have 2 Daily Bread teams! They are open during this time of lockdown serving carry out only, so volunteers are still needed to prepare and distribute the meals. Those who are not in a high risk group and are comfortable in such a role are encouraged to continue to volunteer.

Your help is greatly appreciated!



THIRD SUNDAY

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. • Contact Doug Ludwig
321.243.3686 • Ludwig.Murray@att.net

Duty Day for July:

Sunday, July 19

Duty Day for August:

Sunday, August 16

FOURTH THURSDAY

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. • Contact Ian Johnson
321.674.0932 • Johnsoni051075@gmail.com

Duty Day for July:

Thursday, July 23

Duty Day for August:

Thursday, August 27

GUIDED BY SCRIPTURE



Men of St. John's ONLINE ONLY

TGIF, our men's breakfast and Bible study gathers every Friday, 8 a.m. at the Old Village Restaurant, 1180 Aurora Rd. (just west of Route 1). We are now gathering online and following a study called "Dare to be Uncommon" by NFL coach Tony Dungy. Email office@stjohnsmib.org for log in information.

GROWING SERVANTS OF CHRIST



Daughters of the King

The St. John's Chapter of the DOK has suspended meetings during the lockdown and will resume when we are able to resume in-person worship and meetings. At that time, the studies for new members will resume and others will be welcome. DOK continues to take the call to prayer seriously. You may send your prayer requests to Sarah Kendall at 537sarah@gmail.com or 702-203-6093. Please be aware that prayer requests to the DOK are only shared with the members of the DOK. They will not be shared with the clergy or put on the church prayer list unless specifically requested.

SHARING JESUS' LOVE

Outreach Focus: July - August



Their historic ministry had been providing pre-packaged meals that require no cooking and are distributed directly into qualifying elementary aged children's backpacks on Friday afternoons. However, in the current crisis, they have had to get far more creative to find ways to deliver food supplies directly to children, and they have found a greatly increased demand.

For June, they anticipate distributing 3,300 weekend food packages through 15 Brevard Public School sites at a cost of nearly \$53,000. To learn more about this work, visit their website: TheChildrensHungerProject.org.

All offerings in the lavender pew envelopes or specifically marked "outreach" in the months of July and August will go to The Children's Hunger Project.

Family Promise Will See Major Changes

The only certainty about the Family Promise Shelter Program is that it will be different; probably a lot different. It is very uncertain when it will resume and may take an entirely different form.



Mark Sexton, Program Services Coordinator, Family Promise of Brevard, at the virtual June 8, 2020 quarterly Coordinators meeting, attended by our Coordinator Ben Kendall, stated "it is hard to imagine we can return the same way. There is so much unknown."

How will it look? Phase I is information gathering and FPOB will contact churches about their individual situations regarding reopening and capability to continue with Family Promise. Some have already said they will not be able to. By August they hope to have a good understanding of what it will look like. Mark says there is no urgency as they are successfully providing services to those in need. St. John's, as of today, is planning to continue participating in the Shelter Program.

Mark described the tremendous work that FPOB has been doing during the pandemic to serve homeless families. Outreach, prevention, financial support, and rehousing services have continued due to the around the clock work of the FPOB staff. While in quarantine the staff has streamlined some of their programs, especially noteworthy is the applications process is now completely online speeding up the process.

Other interesting information from the Coordinators meeting included:

- FPOB received 16 thank you notes from families!!
- Changing the names of the three FPOB programs to Prevention, Shelter, and Stabilization which are much more descriptive of their missions.
- FPOB has added one full time employee and three college interns to the staff.
- The annual golf tournament is canceled, but the ball drop will continue. The sponsor, Indian River Colony Club, has decided not to have tournaments.
- The annual volunteer appreciation function will be virtual. No details yet.
- They are still looking for another Resource Center (the church that owns the house they are now occupying needs it back). An abandoned Cocoa Firehouse is a possibility.
- They are looking for a fixed location to use for a week or more for just one family. Let Ben Kendall know if you have any information.

Please contact ben.kendall@gmail.com for more information.

From Deacon Elizabeth Murray

Dear brothers and sisters,

First of all I hope that everyone is doing well with this virus that is adjusting so many things in our lives. I have definitely missed the opportunity to worship with the faithful body of Christ. Since I started this letter churches are starting to open their doors again. Please be careful, and wash those hands.

I want to take this time to thank you for the honor of serving you as your Deacon at St. John's. It has been a blessing for me in so many ways. However, the time has come for me to step back and adjust many things in my life. My mom is still doing well at Discovery village. I shop for her once a week but haven't been able to sit with her or see her for a few months as the facility has locked down. Thankfully there has been no case of COVID-19 in her buildings. My sister Mary (paralyzed in a horseback riding accident several years ago) still struggles with many health issues and appreciates your prayers. I have been over to help her a few times but she does not venture out as her immune system is weak.

Douglas and I were enjoying going to church together before all of this craziness ramped up and we are finally driving to Oklahoma to visit Murray, Sarah and baby Ryker. We are looking forward to this very much. Murray will be deployed in the fall sometime and Sarah is going back to school. Now is the time for a trip north. As things settle down, I would like to pursue my position as a volunteer Chaplain with Health First, but time will tell.

We are currently registered at Holy Apostles Episcopal Church which is very close to home. We have only attended service a couple Saturdays and they are still closed for business.

I still work two days a week at the Brevard Achievement Center, but the participants have not been back to the facility, and we continue to change the work-bays and classrooms to align with the CDC guidelines.

I'm not sure of anything in our future right now but willing to see what God has in store for us. It simply has become clear to me that this is a time of change for my husband and I. We plan to stay involved with Family Promise and with Daily Bread for now. St. John's should be very proud of both of those outreach programs.

Thank you again for some wonderful years. May God bless you and watch over you.

Deacon Elizabeth

Vestry Notes

The vestry met by video conference on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7 p.m.

The Vestry had met via Zoom with Scott Holcombe, Canon for Congregational Development for the Diocese of Central Florida on May 5. Take aways from that meeting included:

- Begin the process of identifying future Vestry members earlier
- Invest in Vestry education and leadership development
- Develop a deliberate track for bringing people into leadership roles.
- Revisit St. John's Mission Statement.

The Diocese published guidelines for re-opening on-site worship. The Vestry weighed possible dates for the first post-Covid live worship and selected May 31 at the 10 a.m. service. The following requirements will be in place for in-person service:

- All prayer books and hymnals will be removed from the pews
- A deep cleaning of the sanctuary
- Pews will be marked to support social distancing.
- Attendance will be restricted to a maximum of 45, masks will be required and available, hand sanitizer must be available and used.
- Attendees must sign in to support contact tracing in the event of infection.

Memorial Garden and Siding work: Power washing, installment of new wood and re-sodding were completed - cost \$2,780. A proposal to replace and paint the wood on the east side of the sanctuary was made - cost \$1,700 - \$3,700. A motion was made to provide an amount up to \$3,700 from the Memorial Fund for the effort was made. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Fr. Eric's vacation will be July 14 - Aug 3 - three Sundays.

Deacon Elizabeth is retiring as Deacon of St. John's.

The Vestry met in-person on Thursday, June 18, 2020 with 2 members joining via Zoom.

Approved establishing an account for clergy continuing education, approved launch of the St. John's organ repair drive, reviewed and approved updated Mission Statement language, and approved up to \$1,000 for ongoing repair of the east side of St. Nick House. The Vestry was brought up to date on Fr. Eric's purchases of equipment to support ongoing internet livestream of services with the technical assistance of Andrew Lester. Research on identifying the proper cleaning materials and equipment to appropriately clean St. John's facilities for future services and use of facilities continues.

Lengthy discussion about the current state of the Yellow House, following an electrician's evaluation of the property was held. While no final decisions were made, for now the Yellow House must remain unoccupied due to fire risk.

Financial Summary:

	Apr Budget	Apr Actual	May Budget	May Actual	YTD Actual
Income	\$ 20,000	\$ 21,533	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,724	\$ 92,874
Expenses	\$ 17,725	\$ 16,502	\$ 17,510	\$ 16,948	\$ 86,376
Net	\$ 2,275	\$ 5,031	\$ 1,490	\$ 2,776	\$ 6,498

Treasurer's Chat

Over the past ten years that I have been treasurer at St John's, we have had years of Operating surpluses and deficits. The one thing I have noticed is the resiliency of parishioners to rise to the occasion and support the church when it really needed it. That resiliency has been demonstrated once again when our church was faced with being closed for two months.

After the end of March, we had a Year to Date deficit of (\$1,308). For the month of April, we exceeded our Income plan of \$20,000 and realized contributions of \$21,533. For the month of May our income plan was \$19,000 and we received \$19,724. During the last two months our Operating expenses declined due to the church being closed (the FPL bill alone was \$599 less than budgeted). All of this has contributed to reversing St John's Year to Date deficit and we now have a surplus of \$6,498.

Over the years historically the summer months have been deficits and we are in a good position to offset that. Your continued support will ensure that the financial strength of St John's will continue for the remainder of the year.

However, there is more good news! We submitted under the CARES Act a request of \$20,400 for consideration for the Payroll Protection Program. The government approved our request and the funds were deposited into the St John's checking account. If St John's can demonstrate that we are paying all of our employees during the next eight weeks (after receiving the funds), we can request that the loan will be converted into a grant. That would mean we would not have to pay the loan back!

Thank you for your faithful support!

Steve Bradley,
Treasurer

St. John's Mission Statement

When Canon Scott Holcombe from the Diocese of Central Florida met with the vestry in April, one of the things he asked was if anyone could quote something from St. John's Mission Statement. While all were aware that we have one, and we have discussed it, no one could quote it! That highlighted the need to make it more visible to not just the vestry, but the whole congregation. One way of doing that is to use the phrases of the Statement as headings in various announcements, etc. in the "Good News" as well as the Sunday bulletin.

This actually required some very minor tweaking of the wording so that it would work well in this context. The vestry, at the June meeting, approved some very minor word changes that do not affect the meaning. Here is the new Statement:

St. John's is

A WORSHIPING COMMUNITY,

GUIDED BY SCRIPTURE,

GROWING SERVANTS OF CHRIST,

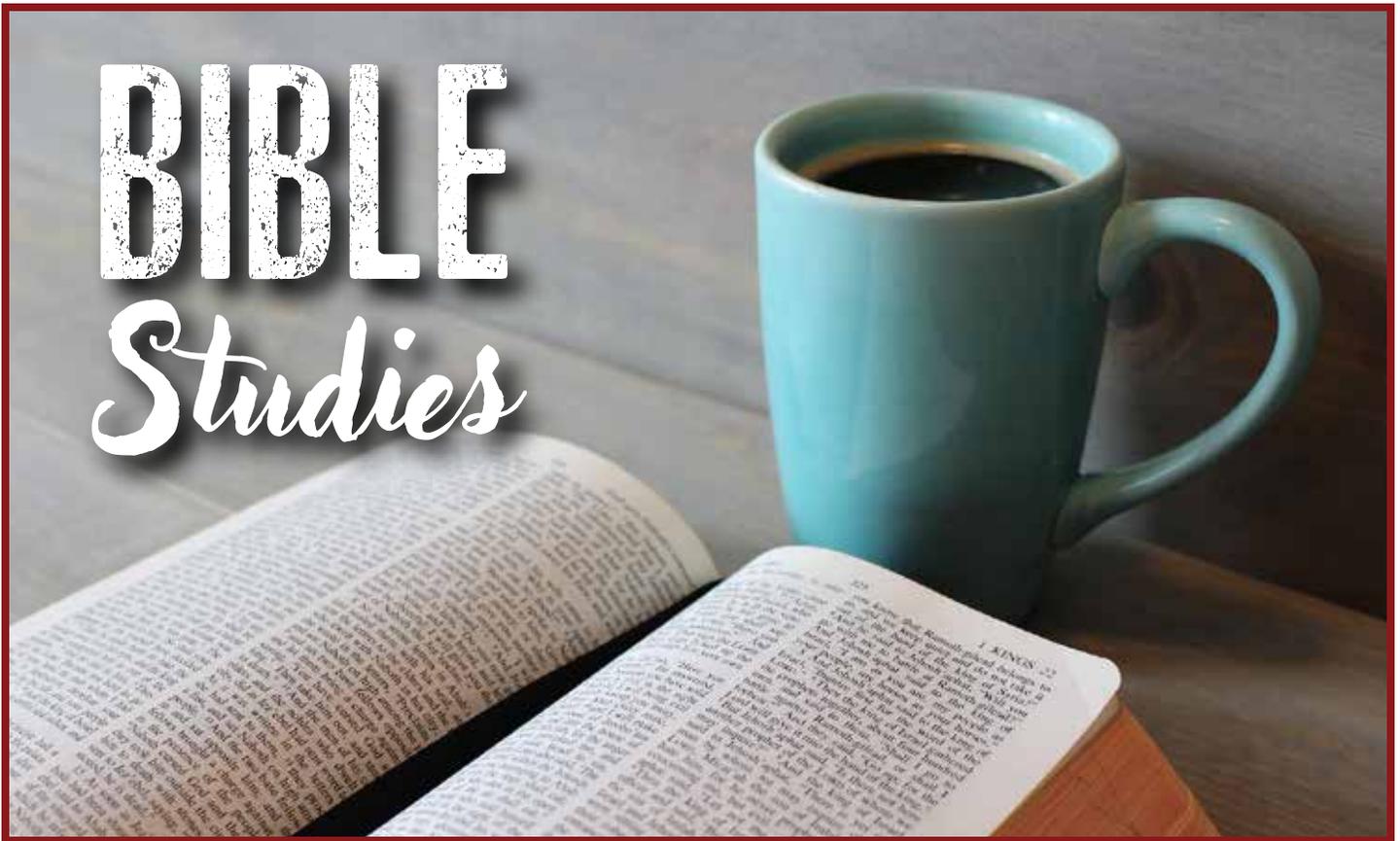
and SHARING JESUS' LOVE in word and deed.

It is hoped that this will become more of a driving force in our ministry and our decision making.

Thanks!

In Christ,
Eric

BIBLE Studies



Guided by Scripture

We hope that you are able to find one that meets with your regular schedule!

Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in Fr. Eric's office, led by Deacon Elizabeth. Contact Dcn. Elizabeth at 321-777-0168. **NOW ONLINE ONLY.** Email office@stjohnsmlb.org for log in information.

Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. at Fr. Eric's home (4581 Bellaluna Dr., West Melbourne), Contact Fr. Eric at 321-615-0205 for more information. **NOW ONLINE ONLY.** Email office@stjohnsmlb.org for log in information.

Friday morning: TGIF – Men's breakfast and Bible study, Fridays, 8 a.m. at the Old Village Restaurant, 1180 Aurora Rd. (just west of Route 1). In addition to solving all the world's problems, we are studying the first epistle of Peter. **NOW ONLINE ONLY.** Email office@stjohnsmlb.org for log in information.

Adult Christian Education - SUSPENDED Sunday morning Adult class are currently suspended for the duration of the lockdown. Once we are able to gather again, we will continue every Sunday, 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We will pick back up with our study of the book of Genesis, seeing what the very beginnings teaches us about God's work among us today. No pre-requisites beyond a desire to learn!



July

- Judy McClendon • 07/02 Al Sykes • 07/27
- Michael Irsfeld • 07/08 Aaron Stitzel • 07/04
- Deborah Miller-Caldwell • 07/22 Sabrina Williams • 07/18
- Jordan Evans • 07/04 Ron Hollerand • 07/29
- Ben Stitzel • 07/12/1991

August

- Julie Miller • 08/02 Brittany Tuten • 08/23
- Jack Kenworthy • 08/16 Nancy Steininger • 08/11
- Dennis Stitzel • 08/20/1900 Lesa Kaleel • 08/19
- Nick Herrnkind • 08/05 Mason Evans • 08/29
- Hal Martin • 08/17



July

None Known

August

- Richard & Ellen Huffman • 8/1 Andrew & Jen Lester • 8/11
- Dennis & Patty Stitzel • 8/20 Susan & Jim Badgio • 8/17

A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY



Saturday, 5 p.m.
In the Park

Come and stay in your car or sit in socially distanced seats. Sound will come into your vehicle via FM radio (91.30). Communion (bread only) will be brought to your car.



Sunday, 10 a.m.

The Live Stream will continue even after we resume in-person worship services. Visit stjohnsmib.org and click on Worship Live Stream where you will find a link to the Live Stream as well as the Order of Service and announcements for the week.

In-Person Worship - Sunday, 10 a.m.

We have re-opened in-person worship! Those attending are expected to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer and sign-in for contact tracing. Communion is bread only.

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

610 Young Street
Melbourne, FL 32935