



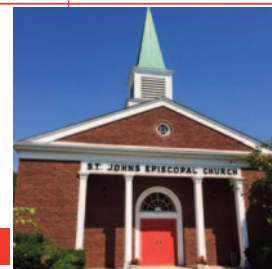
**St. John's
Episcopal
Church**

The Red Door

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

*Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of
St. John's Episcopal Church*

October 2026 - Volume 2, Issue 9



Progress...and a year of discernment ahead

Fr. Mitch Yudasz Well here we are. Fall is now in full swing. We have some beautiful weather to go with the busy mode that we are in at St. John's right now. Your priest actually did a thing this past weekend. I got out of town, went down to Gatlinburg, TN, and had a great - albeit short - weekend. It just goes to show that one has to practice what they preach. Self-care is important for every one of us. Do take time to focus on that and add that balance into your life!

We did it! We successfully raised the funds from many different donors for the bell/carillon upgrade. The system is currently in the end stages of being built and should be delivered here within the next week or so. [News alert: The new system is arriving September 29!!] Hopefully, it will be installed and operational by mid-October. This was generously and thoughtfully paid for by many folks in memory of many saints that have gone before us. And the best news is that the entire thing has been paid for by donations - not one single cent (short of the postage to mail in the check and purchase order - came from our funds and budget! This is a testament of community dedication and cooperation to make a project come to fruition! May the voices of those who's memory this system was made possible be heard every time a bell rings from that tower!

Our rummage sale is currently being set up right now with the help of many wonderful people and donations from many wonderful people. [See details on page 2.] This is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year and supports our food pantry. Again, more activity and a community working together. This is what church and church family is all about. Please keep it up!

Sometime before the weather gets bad, the parking lot is going to be restriped. This has to be done every so many years as weather takes its toll. We are almost to the point where the lines are gone so it has become a necessary thing. We have a paint-striper for that purpose and a few people willing to take a shot at doing this project. If you would like to help in this endeavor, please see Don. I'm sure your help would not be refused!

Our 125th anniversary is fast approaching. I'm still working on the bell clapper and getting out to get the bell stripped and repainted. Mary and Sharon have been going through and assembling pictures that will be displayed in the fellowship hall for you to look at. History and heritage is our foundation and builds upon what we do in the present and in the future!

October 1 marks 3-years for me here at St. John's. This is an important turning point for my ministry. This begins a period of discernment. I discern whether God is calling me to continue my ministry at St. John's, and the vestry discerns whether God is calling them - and everyone - to continue ministry with me. When the 3rd year comes, and if everyone agrees based on discernment, I am then called as Rector. Please pray for our parish as we embark on this journey of discernment.

Happy early fall!

Fr. Mitch+

Worship With Us - All are Invited! Sunday Services



- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Oct. 4 | 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
<i>Celebrant & Preacher:</i>
<i>Fr. Mitch Yudasz</i> |
| Oct. 11 | 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
<i>Celebrant & Preacher:</i>
<i>Fr. Mitch Yudasz</i>
<i>Blessing of the Animals service.</i> |
| Oct. 18 | 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
<i>Celebrant & Preacher:</i>
<i>Fr. Mitch Yudasz</i> |
| Oct. 25 | 9:30 am Morning Prayer
<i>Officiant: Wendy Clayton</i>
<i>Reader: Sande Godbout</i> |



ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your pet to be blessed at a special Eucharist service on Sunday, October 11 at 9:30 am. Our pets bless us so now it's their turn to be blessed!

[apologies to Fr. Mitch, your editor couldn't resist, inserting your image lol!]



Community Trunk or Treat Event

Date: October 22, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: 18th District Court

Address: 36675 Ford Rd, Westland, MI 48185

St. John's will be participating in this fun event again this year. We have one car registered. Over 1000 kids are expected so candy donations are needed. Please drop your candy off no later than Monday, October 19 by 4 pm. If you would like to help pass out candy, please contact Sande Godbout. Thank you!

Our Biggest Outreach Event of the Year

Thursday, Oct. 1 - Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026



Rummage Sale Hours:

Thursday, Oct. 1 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Friday, Oct. 2 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Saturday, Oct. 3* 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

(*Saturday only: 1/2 off or \$5 per bag!!)

A big thank you to all of our parishioners that put so many hours into making this event a success! Please stop in for some great bargains.

Proceeds to St. John's Outreach Projects



ST. FRANCIS: A GOOD STEWARD

The Franciscans, were founded by Francis of Assisi and our Church recognizes October 4th as his feast day. Many people know about Francis and his love of nature, creation and especially animals. It is common for our churches to practice a yearly ritual of blessing animals in honor of St. Francis on the Sunday closest to his observed feast.

But Francis did more than just identify with the goodness of animals and nature. He believed fervently in being a humble servant of God. But he didn't start out with this attitude. As a young adult Francis used his family's wealth to party and outfit himself with armor and the weapons of war to serve as a knight in the petty fiefdom battles of his day. On one such military excursion, he fell ill and had an encounter with God. He left the campaign and went back to his family home.

Through prayer, discussions and much searching he experienced a conversion. In a public meeting with his family and the bishop, Francis renounced his inheritance and gave all of his possessions, including the clothes he was wearing back to his father. He went off naked and assumed the clothing of a beggar.

In addition to his clothes, Francis threw off his self-centeredness and started seeing the entire natural world around him as a blessing from God.

He began singing songs in praise of God's goodness as he realized his inter-connectedness with everything and everyone in God's creation. He began referring to every aspect of God's creation as brother or sister.

He heard the command of Jesus saying, "Go and rebuild my church". Francis took this literally and began repairing an old run down church, but as he continued to listen, Francis began to understand his role as servant. He began ministering to the poor, the outcast and the lepers.

Francis lived the rest of his life with this changed attitude. He understood that his behavior impacted nature, animals and people so he set out to live in harmony with every created thing on the planet. Francis went out to be in communion or right relationship with God and the world.

In his mind, Francis was just doing his job, nothing more and nothing less. Francis did not seek out praise, thanks or riches, rather he gave all the glory to God.

Francis saw himself as a caretaker for the natural world that God had given him and the rest of humanity. Francis treated all of creation: the sun, moon, stars, plants, animals and humans with love and respect. He was a faithful steward of all the things that God had given him.

We, like Francis, are also called to be good stewards of the many gifts that God has given us. We already have everything we need for abundant life; all we need to do is be grateful and to use our time, talent and treasure to help build up God's kingdom here on earth.

I invite all of us to be thinking and praying about how we may share our resources here at St. John's and in the wider community as we enter into our stewardship season.

[Article reprinted from October 2017 Red Door]



October Birthdays:

6	Dan Dillingham	23	Pam Brescoe
13	Audrey Suchy	25	Jeff Brescoe
14	Sonya Kowalski	25	Christine Brown



Our apologies if your name should have appeared here! Please help us update our list. Send your special day to: minutemgr@gmail.com

A feast to celebrate our Junior Warden's 86th birthday!
Happy Birthday Don and thanks for all you do
for church St. John's!



*A birthday blessing
from Fr. Mitch.*

Mark Your Calendars for Our 125th Anniversary Celebration on November 15, 2026!



The celebration will start with a special service at 9:30 am followed by a potluck, a bell ringing ceremony, a celebration concert with our new carillon system and a commemorative gift for everyone!!

St. John's Episcopal Church

555 S. Wayne Rd., Westland, MI 48186

Office: (734) 721-5023

Parish office hours: Mon., Thur., Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

www.stjohnswestland.com

stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com

We're on Facebook!

St. John's Church Westland

Live-streamed every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsepiscopalwestland>

October Altar Guild Schedule

Oct. 4	Sande, Priscilla
Oct. 11	Sande, Julie
Oct. 18	Wendy, Violet
Oct. 25	Sande, Priscilla



FOOD PANTRY OPEN

Thursday, October 8,
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

On the last Sunday of the month
collection plate donations go to our
Food Pantry Ministry.



OCTOBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Oct. 4	Daughters of the King Meeting
Oct. 18	Vestry Meeting

Join us for **Coffee Hour** after our 9:30 Eucharist services, the first three Sundays of the month: October 4, 18 and 25. Enjoy coffee, tea, light refreshments and fellowship.
(no Coffee Hour after Morning Prayer)

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY & STAFF

Rev. Mitch Yudasz, Priest-in-Charge

frmitchy@gmail.com

Rev. Jenny Ritter, Deacon

jjritter@comcast.net

Mary Vellardita, Parish Administrator

stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com

Dan Dillingham, Music Director/Organist

mcclungave@comcast.net

2026 OFFICERS

Sande Godbout, Senior Warden

Don Streeter & Nick Hamblin, Junior Co-Wardens

Mary Vellardita, Clerk

Erin Downey-Tarnowski, Treasurer

2026 VESTRY MEMBERS

Amelia Hamblin, Nick Hamblin, Julie Jones, Susan Mallard