



This Week at St. John's Church

Please note that changes to these plans can change; we will inform you of such changes as quickly as possible.

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| <i>Sunday, March 15</i> | The Third Sunday in Lent | 10:30 a.m. | Holy Eucharist – Live Streamed |
| <i>Monday, March 16</i> | | 7:00 p.m. | EfM – via video conference |
| <i>Tuesday, March 17</i> | | 10:00 a.m. | Knitting Circle, Library |
| | | 2:30 p.m. | Staff Meeting, Library |
| <i>Wednesday, March 18</i> | | 10:00 a. m. | Prayer Group, Keeper's Cottage |
| <i>Thursday, March 19</i> | | 4:30 p.m. | Care for the Administration Meeting, Library |
| | | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Practice, Choir Room |
| <i>Sunday, March 22</i> | The Fourth Sunday in Lent | 10:30 a.m. | Holy Eucharist – Live Streamed |

In our prayers this week:

For Metropolitan Richmond: for health care in Metropolitan Richmond: for emergency response personnel and all emergency room staff; for hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice programs; and for persons diagnosed with terminal illness.

The sick or in need: for Ally, Kendra, Lindsey, Virginia, Susan Blanchard, Herb Broda, Amanda Daggett, Bill Ferguson, Patti Ferguson, Ellen Flory, the Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Patti Grogan, Gayle Haglund, Helen Hudson, Curtis Payne, Faye Proto, Paul Roper, Virginia Smith, Bill Thornton, and all those affected by the coronavirus.

Those who have died: for Annie Thornton, who died recently

The diocesan cycle of prayer: for St Philip's, Richmond; St. Peter's, Richmond; and St. Patrick's, Falls Church.

If you have a prayer request, please notify Patty Duffy, our Parish Administrator. We will pray for those who are sick or in need for one month, unless you specifically request us to do otherwise.

Lenten Adult Forum: Stop, Pray, Work, Play, Love – Available Online

During the season of Lent, our Adult forum has been following the program created by the Society of St. John the Evangelist, "It's Time to: Stop, Pray, Work, Play, Love," which explores the sacredness of time in all aspects of our daily life and invites us to recapture time as a gift. Though we will not be meeting for Adult Forum this Sunday, the compilation video of this week's reflections on "Work" can be accessed at <https://www.ssje.org/time/>. Amelie has also provided these discussion questions available on the Christian Education page of our website, saintjohnsrichmond.org, and welcomes your responses by emailing her directly. Program manuals and the daily videos from the monastery are available at www.SSJE.org/time. Adult Forum will resume when we return to our regular worship schedule, as advised by the Bishop.



Lenten Supper Series Postponed

This Lent, the congregations of St. John's and St. Peter's have been learning about our shared history and discovering opportunities for creating Beloved Community in support of the Episcopal Church's ministry of racial reconciliation. For the next two weeks, the program will be postponed until we receive further notice from our Bishops. However, you are still invited to continue your reading of *Jesus and The Disinherited*, written by Howard Thurman in 1953, who invites us into a question for our Lenten Journey that is still so relevant for today: "Why is it that Christianity seems impotent to deal radically and therefore effectively with issues of discrimination and injustice on the basis of race, relation and national origin?" The book can be purchased online or downloaded for free by googling the title and the word "free." A copy of our supplemental reading for this week, "Healing our Broken Humanity," can be accessed at our website, saintjohnsrichmond.org, on the Christian Education page.

Next Evening Contemplative Service, Saturday, May 9

St. John's offers an evening service the second Saturday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Each service includes Holy Eucharist, contemplative music, a quiet, candlelit atmosphere, and the rite of healing. We hope you will find this service to be a relaxing supplement to your Sunday morning worship. Invite friends who prefer a more contemplative form of worship.

New Inquirer's Class being Formed

This spring, we will begin a new formation series for those who are interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church or in becoming a member of St. John's through Confirmation or Reception. This class is also a great refresher for those who were confirmed years ago and would like to reaffirm their Baptismal Vows. Our meetings will be tailored to accommodate the schedules of all the participants, who will gather for six sessions throughout the late spring and summer. This will serve as preparation for our Bishop's visitation in November. Please email Amelie directly with your interest or questions.

Gentle Yoga with Andrea Bleck-Smith – Postponed This Week

Join Andrea Bleck-Smith for a class for those who enjoy moving more slowly and who are looking to maintain or increase strength and flexibility. We focus on moving joints and muscle groups, alignment, and breath awareness to maintain and restore balanced body function. Each class ends with relaxation to balance the body. \$54 for the 6-week session or \$10 drop-in per class. Classes meet Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact Andrea at ablecksmith@yahoo.com. **Yoga class will not meet Thursday, March 19.**

Spotlight on Outreach

St. John's is committed to living our Baptismal Covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves and respecting the dignity of every human being.

Laundry Love: Clean clothes are essential to a sense of self-worth, yet doing laundry at a laundromat is expensive. You can help eliminate laundry costs for our neighbors by volunteering to help do their laundry from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. the third Saturday of each month at Richmond Coin Laundry at the corner of Nine Mile Road and N. 25th Street. Please contact David Curtis with any questions at dcurtis@saintjohnsrichmond.org.

Next Laundry Love Day-- Saturday, March 28.



Join the \$5 Club: Pledge to spend \$5 a month on non-perishable foods. Bring your donations on the first Sunday of each month, or deposit them in the basket at the rear of the church at any time.

First Fruits Sundays: First Sunday of every month. Bring non-perishable food for donation to the Christ Ascension Food Pantry. *The Food Pantry is very low on boxed spaghetti, canned fruit, canned chicken, and saltines.* **Next First Fruits —Sunday, April 5**

RE:Work Richmond Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities are continually being identified at Re:Work Richmond, St. Peter's Episcopal Church's East End employment initiative in collaboration with community organizations and other parishes. Please complete a "Good Neighbor Network" card, available in the Parish Hall, and place it in the basket provided. For more information, contact Diana Vasquez at diana.vasquez@reworkrichmond.org.

Next Vestry Meeting, Tuesday, April 14, at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

All members of St. John's Church may attend vestry meetings as observers. Minutes of recent meetings are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall foyer. Please share your ideas and questions with a vestry member.

The Market at 25th Street Community Rewards Program

Please support the Market at 25th Street, which provides nutritious foods and vital services to the East End. The market has initiated a rewards program for churches, contributing 3% of all purchases made by members. Cards are available at the market's service desk.

Register now for the first-ever LGBTQ+ Diocesan Retreat

Register by May 10 for the Diocese of Virginia's "Bringing Our Whole Selves: Exploring the Vital Gifts the Queer Community Offers to the Church" a Shrine Mont retreat August 21-23 designed by and for the LGBTQ community. The retreat's keynote speaker will be Rev. Elizabeth Edman, Episcopal priest and author of *Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity*. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bringing-our-whole-selves-exploring-the-vital-gifts-of-the-queer-community-tickets-84782351295>. For questions about the retreat and scholarships, email lgbtqministrydiova@gmail.com.

A Note about Pastoral Appointments and Emergencies

To schedule an appointment with one of our clergy, please contact Amelie directly at her email or her voicemail at 649-7938; you will hear from her or another member of our clergy staff within 24 hours. If you have an emergency, please contact Patty Duffy at 649-7938, and she will ensure a more immediate response. Please note that Monday is Amelie's Sabbath Day.

"Wonder in All"

Thanks to all who have pledged their time, talent, and treasure to support our ministries in 2020. Eighty-three families have pledged \$197,427, bringing us to over 114% of our goal. We are especially grateful for the 23 families who pledged for the first time and for families who pledged \$9,150 in matching funds. For those of you still discerning your pledge, please consider how you are being called to create "wonder in all" of our shared life, then fill out and return your pledge card, either by mail or by placing it in the offering plate. Extra cards are provided in the back of the church.



With Love, from Amelie

Dear Friends,

As with many of you, I awoke this morning to an inbox of emails from local and national organizations and establishments announcing the precautionary policies they have instituted in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19. On Wednesday, I sent out a similar email updating all of you on the decision made by the Diocese of Virginia to cancel public worship services for the next two weeks. In the coming days, I will continue to consult with our vestry and colleagues in the diocese to determine which meetings and gatherings will continue as scheduled, and which ones will be cancelled. Our most recent decisions will be reflected in this current newsletter, and we will keep you posted with additional updates.

As you can imagine, it makes my heart sink to think of spending the next few weeks without the opportunity to see you on Sundays, worship with you, gather to learn during Adult Forum, or catch up in conversation during Coffee hour. But as I've pondered this, I am reminded of a reflection written by Henri Nouwen years ago on "Solitude and Community." He writes:

"Solitude is not a private space over against the public space of community, nor is it merely a healing space in which we restore ourselves for community life. Solitude and community belong together; each requires the other as do the center and circumference of a circle. Solitude without community leads us to loneliness and despair, but community without solitude hurls us into a "void of words and feelings" (Bonhoeffer)...

Solitude is essential to community life because in solitude we grow closer to each other. When we pray alone, study, read, write, or simply spend quiet time away from the places where we interact with each other directly we are in fact participating fully in the growth of community. It is a fallacy to think that we grow closer to each other only when we talk, play or work together. Much growth certainly occurs in such human interactions, but at least as much growth can take place we enter into solitude. We take the other with us into solitude, and there the relationship grows and deepens. In solitude we discover each other in a way which physical presence makes difficult, if not impossible."

So while we may not physically be together to gather in larger groups for worship, learning, and fellowship in the next few weeks, I pray that we can use this quieter time, this Lenten time, to embrace the gifts of reflection, prayer, visioning, and perspective that come to us as we hold one another in our hearts while being apart. And I also encourage you to participate in the "virtual" worship that we will be offering you this Sunday and next, beginning at 10:30 am. Instructions on how to tune in via our website and Facebook page will be provided in advance of the service, so be on the lookout for future emails from our offices.

In Christ,

Amelie+



St. John's Church

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Jim Bennett, Minister of Music — jim@saintjohnsrichmond.org

The Ven. David Curtis, Deacon—dcurtis@saintjohnsrichmond.org

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The Rev. Dr. Dorothy White, Associate Priest—dwhite@saintjohnsrichmond.org

The Rev. Amelie Wilmer, Rector—awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org

Check us out on Facebook. Search “St. John’s Church” then “Like” and “Share” us.

The deadline for submitting copy for the weekly bulletin insert and parish-wide email is Wednesday morning, but earlier is always appreciated. Please send your content to Patty Duffy at pduffy@saintjohnsrichmond.org. and be sure to include date, time and details of your event. Please note that content may be edited for consistency of style and space availability.