



# The Eagle

St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette, Ind. | Summer 2020

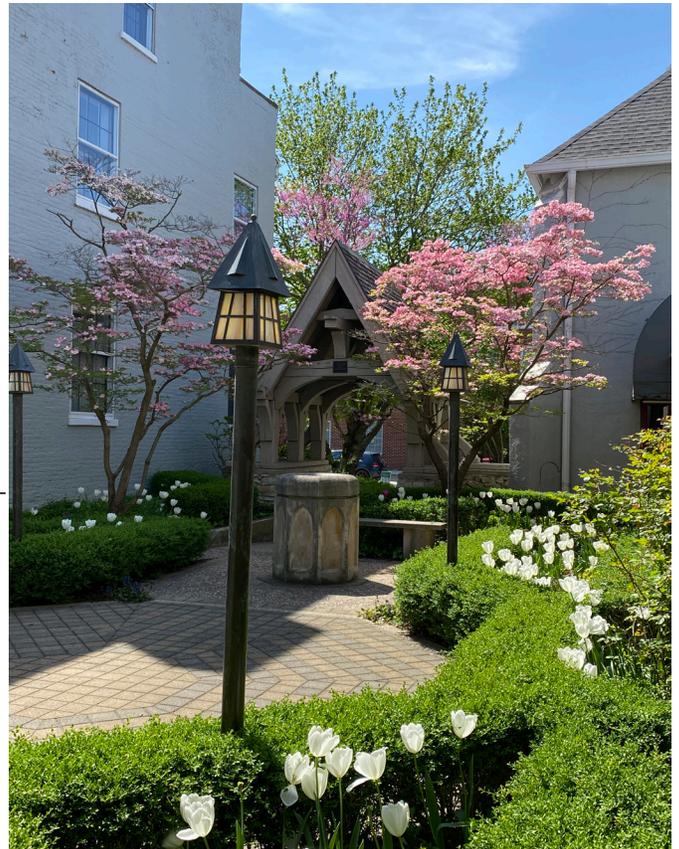
## St. John's Reopening Plan: An overview

I know that many of you are anxious about when we will be able to gather again for in-person worship. At this point, I can only say that the leadership is working on a reopening plan that prioritizes the health and safety of those who might gather for worship. In May, the Bishop released guidelines for reopening, and, in response, I appointed a task force to create our own, local plan (you can read her revised guidelines in their entirety at [indydio.org/revised-diocesan-reopening-guidelines/](http://indydio.org/revised-diocesan-reopening-guidelines/)). I have been very grateful to Michael Bennett, Anna Burman, Gretchen Freese, Bruce Johnson, Maggie McClure, Tom Melville, Mary Anne Robinson, Annie Schreiber and Cynthia Stauffacher for their insight and counsel as we work together to create this plan.

In the meantime, I can say that it is likely to be several more weeks before we consider gathering for in-person worship. The Bishop's directive makes our timeline dependent on certain metrics that are not under our control. In order to gather for in-person worship:

- The number of COVID-19 cases in Tippecanoe County must have decreased for 14 days or have held steady with a mere handful of cases. As of this writing, the number of new cases in Tippecanoe County continues to bounce up and down (with 20 new cases being reported June 19).
- The infection rate (known as the "R-naught" number) must be less than 1.0, which means that on average in the community, each infected person is infecting less than one other person and the total number of current cases is shrinking. The current rate for Tippecanoe County is 1.02 (compared to a statewide rate of 0.91). This means the virus continues to spread in our community.
- The positive test rate must be less than 10 percent, preferably closer to 3 percent or less. The positive test rate measures how many people test positive compared to all who were tested in a given period of time and indicates whether testing is widespread enough to detect most new cases. At present, the positive test rate for Tippecanoe County is 5.77 percent.

According to the Bishop's directive, once we meet these metrics, we may petition the Diocese to have in-person gatherings of no more than 25 people. At present, there are no plans to fully reopen. To be honest, the additional guidelines (masks will be required for all participants; the Eucharist is highly discouraged for the time being; coffee hour, physical contact of any kind, and singing are all prohibited; high-touch surfaces must be cleaned between services; etc.) will make gathering difficult generally and may make worship strange and unfamiliar. To get a sense of what worship will be like under these guidelines, see a recent blogpost by the Rev. Erik Parker at [millennialpastor.ca/2020/05/26/so-your-church-is-opening-up-after-covid-19-closures-it-wont-be-what-you-are-hoping-for/](http://millennialpastor.ca/2020/05/26/so-your-church-is-opening-up-after-covid-19-closures-it-wont-be-what-you-are-hoping-for/). While his description doesn't fit our situation exactly, it does offer some sense of the impact COVID-19 will have on our worship for the time being. (continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1)

While we continue to work on details for regathering, the task force has determined to use the summer months (June, July and August in particular) to gather additional information about the scope of COVID-19 infections in Tippecanoe County and to create local guidelines that adhere strictly to the Bishop's directives. As such, we are considering a number of issues around re-gathering: adjusting the worship schedule or adding additional services, cleaning protocols, reservations and registration for contact tracing and ways to communicate these guidelines.

The task force hopes to have a plan ("we plan to have a plan") no sooner than the end of July. Once that plan has been approved by the vestry, we will hold a Zoom meeting town hall to discuss with the congregation.

Again, I know that many of you are looking forward to returning to church and to a sense of normalcy in your lives. I wish I had better news or could offer a more optimistic appraisal of things. But for the time being, we must continue to protect one another and to love our neighbor by gathering in other ways. As we continue our work together, I ask that you continue praying for the members of St. John's and for all who find community here.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. My God bless you and our ministry together. — *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org), (312) 208-8791*

You can find the public health information cited above at [coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm](https://coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm)  
[covidactnow.org/us/in/?s=54069](https://covidactnow.org/us/in/?s=54069)  
[regenstrief.org/covid-dashboard](https://regenstrief.org/covid-dashboard)

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## **Summer Celebrations**

### **July Birthdays**

**4** Teddy Sovinski | **5** Michael Benner, Courtenay Murakowski | **7** Samuel Scharer | **9** Lillian Umulis | **10** Randy Brist | **11** Steve Shook | **12** Miriam Pace | **13** Vicki Bower | **14** Paul Lawson | **17** Pequita Behrnt, Barbara Bower | **18** Sharon Evander | **19** Michelle Schmierer | **20** Eric Yuill | **22** Raymond Polstra, Bill Shoemaker | **23** Janet Huber | **26** Barb Hess | **27** Devaney Mosier | **28** Carolin Frueh | **29** Lydia Shook

### **July Anniversaries**

**2** Helen & Bob Slagel | **8** Pequita & John Behrnt | **11** Jill & Mark Scharer | **16** Kelley & Tony Bailey | **22** Jo & Paul Roberts | **25** Stephanie Amador-Tirbbett & Kyle Tribbett | **30** Marian & Ellison Smith

### **July Baptisms**

**11** Camp Gordinier | **19** Cathy Barman, Henry Johnson | **20** Paul Deignan, Graham Kappock | **28** Teddy Sovinski | **30** Courtenay Wells

### **August Birthdays**

**1** Annie Schreiber | **3** Kristin Dell | **12** Jay Bridgewater, Kevin Lawson | **14** Brenda Howard-Harmon, Angela Mosier | **15** Aran Cushman, Linda Jeffries, Isabel Mascarenhas | **16** Greg McClure, Paige Ravellette, Trevor Wells | **18** George Dandrow | **19** Olynn McInerney, Marion Moss | **20** Peggy Smith | **21** Marrill Nielsen | **23** Carolyn Speer | **25** Whitney Walton, Anthony Yuill | **27** Amy Paget | **29** Carol Helgerman | **30** David Topp, Nolan Tribbett | **31** Kathy Johnson

### **August Anniversaries**

**4** Olynn & Bill McInerney | **10** Kristin & Dennis Dell | **13** Cindy Gerlach & Gary Mueller, Charlene & Ross Watson | **17** Deb & John Lindenlaub | **19** Susan Hockings & Joe Kappock | **20** Ashley & Cale Bigelow | **23** Nolie Parnell & Dan Hogan | **27** Rachel & Steve Shook | **28** Comfort & Camp Gordinier

### **August Baptisms**

Dean Hunter | **3** Solly Cates, Lyle Cates, Rachel Ravellette | **6** Jeffrey Ravellette | **7** Devaney Mosier, Kylie Mosier | **8** Sarah Bailey, Cotter Hogan | **12** Sarah Brush, Joshua Byrn, Braden Mosier, Frances Shook, Harry Shook | **16** Rob Sovinski | **20** Riley Hogan | **21** Randy Brist | **30** Tyler Dell | **31** Colleen Deignan

## ***Welcoming our new Curate: The Rev. Andrea Arsene***

I am extremely happy to announce that we have called the Rev. Andrea Arsene to serve as Curate at St. John's. Andrea comes to us from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific where she attended seminary and from the Diocese of Los Angeles. She will begin her ministry with us on Aug. 1. You can see her letter below.

A Curate is a clergy person, usually fresh out of seminary and newly ordained, who serves as an associate minister. Andrea comes to us as part of a new Diocesan program to help train and mentor new clergy in healthy congregations. The Diocese will cover half of Andrea's salary and benefits for the next two years. This is a wonderful gift to our parish and our ministry together. Andrea was ordained to the diaconate on June 13. It is expected that she will be ordained to the priesthood in December.



Given the ongoing pandemic, we will find creative ways to meet and connect with Andrea as she begins her ministry with us. Stay tuned for more ways to welcome her to our community and our parish.

### ***A Letter from our new Curate***

Dear Congregants of St. John's Episcopal Church,

It is with great joy that I look forward to joining you in ministry on Aug. 1 as your curate. I am drawn to St. John's for its radical welcome, sense of community, and mission that calls us to give of ourselves to embody God's love to the world.

I was raised on the East Coast and came west with my family after high school, embarking on my career as an RN. I was married for 10 years, and I rejoice in the daughter that union provided. This May I completed my M. Div. at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and was ordained a Deacon in June.

The numerous Christian faith sectors I was raised in has allowed me to appreciate the gifts and limitations of each. Yet, The Episcopal Church has provided the best way to serve God and others while exploring my questions of faith and commitment to lay and ordained ministry.

I am most appreciative of opportunities to serve with God's beloved people and am excited to get to know you, preferably while enjoying a good cup of tea with a dog nearby.

May grace always find you,  
The Reverend Andrea Arsene

### ***Additional Staff News***

Our Associate, Gretchen Freese, came to St. John's as a half-time priest and planned to serve until the end of July when her family would then move to Germany. Her family's plans have since changed, and they will be moving in December. So Gretchen has agreed to stay on at St. John's as a quarter-time priest until that time. When she and her family return next summer, she plans to return to St. John's and assist with our children's and youth ministry.

St. John's member Julie Peretin has been serving as the interim Director of Children's Formation since last fall. Julie will continue in this position through the summer (helping with our online VBS offering). Julie has been a wonderful member of our staff. Thank you, Julie, for the many ways you and your family continue to bless our community.

## ***A message from our seminarian, Carolin Frueh***

Friends, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Maybe some of you have wondered that you have not seen me participating in the online services lately. This is not because I left Lafayette for good, but only temporarily. I have started my sabbatical from Purdue and am currently in Texas with my fiancé before heading to Germany. I will be working with the DLR (the German Space Agency) near Munich on a satellite tracking project.

I will also be learning about the city-monastery movement that is forming in the Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches there, as well as reconnect with the Old Catholic Church of the Union of Utrecht (a denomination within the Anglican Community in Germany and adjacent countries) and attend services in the English/American Anglican/Episcopalian (English Speaking) parish in Munich. It also is a welcome time to be with my family there. While on sabbatical, I will be continuing classes at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific online as before, just from a different time zone.

I will be returning to Lafayette in the summer of 2021, hopefully with many new ideas and recharged to embark on the next chapters of my life and faith. Being away, I already miss the St. John's community and am sad that I am not part of the return to in-person worship with you all (that hopefully happens for you soon). Please stay in touch, I am keeping you in my prayers and hope to see you all well and healthy next year! – *Carolin Frueh, carolin.frueh@gmail.com*

*For an interesting discussion of Carolin's work at Purdue, see the recent article/video from the Purdue newsroom: [purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2020/Q2/using-sunlight-to-save-satellites-from-a-fate-of-space-junk.html](http://purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2020/Q2/using-sunlight-to-save-satellites-from-a-fate-of-space-junk.html).*

## ***Online VBS***

We will be doing VBS-at-home this summer! If you have Godly Play-age children, we will deliver you two packets of VBS materials, the first in early July, and the second in mid-July. This summer, we hope to help families engage in conversation and reflection together about how our faith shapes our work for just and inclusive communities. We have designed VBS to balance play, spirituality and reflective conversation about our Christian call to work for justice. We have created short, easily implemented activities that will be enjoyable for families throughout the long stay-at-home summer. Please reach out to Julie Peretin or Rebekah Sims if you have any questions – *Julie Peretin, [julie@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:julie@stjohns-laf.org) and Rebekah Sims, [resims@purdue.edu](mailto:resims@purdue.edu)*

## ***Stay Up to Date***

Stay up to date with information about how the COVID-19 outbreak affects St. John's ministries and the needs of our local community. Go to [stjohns-laf.org/rectorsblog](http://stjohns-laf.org/rectorsblog) to visit the St. John's blog, hear sermons and music, and get additional updates.

## ***Deaths***

Dotty Gist  
March 17, 2020

Faye Groves  
March 26, 2020

Mel Anderson  
April 15, 2020  
Husband of Marilee Anderson

Peggy Lawson  
June 16, 2020  
Wife of Paul M. Lawson  
Mother of Kevin Lawson

## ***St. John's Financial Report***

In May we received the Paycheck Protection Program loan proceeds of \$50,300, which were used to support payroll and utilities. We also received a grant from the Center for Congregations of \$4,765, which we used to purchase technology for online/virtual worship. These show in the non-operating income/grants section of the income statement. Excluding those transactions, we broke even for the month of May.

When we applied for the Paycheck Protection loan, our average monthly payroll expenses for 2019 were \$20,146, and we requested 2.5 months' payroll, or \$50,300. During the eight-week period, payroll totaled \$39,400. Adding utilities for May and June, we will have used about \$40,800 of the loan amount. With that total, we would be required to repay about \$9,500 of the \$50,300 loan. Congress recently passed the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act that extended the forgiveness period from eight weeks to 24 weeks. We may qualify for that extension.

Pledge income has been steady during the months of April and May at \$28,500 each month (compared to \$32,200 for March, \$32,100 for February and \$24,400 for January). YTD pledge income is 39 percent of the budget for the first 42 percent of the year. Other income was down due to spring events being canceled and only 6 percent of budgeted dividend income being taken. But our expenses have also been lower — 34 percent of the budgeted amount for 42 percent of the year. Because of the PPP loan, tech grant and continues pledges, the year-to-date balance is \$34,100 to the positive.

Many thanks to those of you who generously support St. John's and our ministries. — *Kathryn Nielsen, Chair of the Finance Committee, kathrynnielsen21@gmail.com*

## ***Giving to St. John's***

While we are not meeting for in-person worship, you are invited to fulfill your pledge or contribute in any of the following ways:

- The Bishop's office will process online gifts on behalf of congregations with no processing fees. [onrealm.org/indydio/-/give/covid19](https://onrealm.org/indydio/-/give/covid19)
- Mail contributions directly to St. John's, 600 Ferry St., Lafayette, IN 47901.
- Direct your bank to submit checks automatically (contact your bank directly for details).
- Contribute using PayPal at the St. John's website, [stjohns-laf.org](https://stjohns-laf.org) (a processing fee will apply).

We understand that the pandemic will likely have a lasting economic impact. If your financial situation changes, please make choices to support yourself and your family. We do ask that, if you do need to change your pledge, please let the church office know so we can plan accordingly. In addition, If you have other questions or concerns, contact the church office by email at [stjohns@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohns-laf.org) or by phone at (765) 742-4079.

**I'M STILL  
HERE  
BLACK  
DIGNITY IN  
A WORLD  
MADE FOR  
WHITENESS  
AUSTIN CHANNING  
BROWN**

**Resources for Ongoing Racial Justice Work**

*I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, by Austin Channing Brown

From the Amazon.com Review – Austin Channing Brown’s first encounter with a racialized America came at age 7, when she discovered her parents named her Austin to deceive future employers into thinking she was a white man. Growing up in majority-white schools and churches, Austin writes, “I had to learn what it means to love blackness,” a journey that led to a lifetime spent navigating America’s racial divide as a writer, speaker and expert helping organizations practice genuine inclusion.

In a time when nearly every institution (schools, churches, universities, businesses) claims to value diversity in its mission statement, Austin writes in breathtaking detail about her journey to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice. Her stories bear witness to the complexity of America’s social fabric — from Black Cleveland neighborhoods to private schools in the middle-class suburbs, from prison walls to the boardrooms at majority-white organizations.

For readers who have engaged with America’s legacy on race through the writing of Ta-Nehisi Coates and Michael Eric Dyson, *I’m Still Here* is an illuminating look at how white, middle-class Evangelicalism has participated in an era of rising racial hostility, inviting the reader to confront apathy, recognize God’s ongoing work in the world and discover how blackness — if we let it — can save us all.



## Scene on Radio Season 2: “Seeing White”

From the Scene on Radio website – Just what is going on with white people? Police shootings of unarmed African-Americans. Acts of domestic terrorism by white supremacists. The renewed embrace of raw, undisguised white-identity politics. Unending racial inequity in schools, housing, criminal justice, and hiring. Some of this feels new, but in truth it’s an old story.

Why? Where did the notion of “whiteness” come from? What does it mean? What is whiteness for?

Scene on Radio host and producer John Biewen took a deep dive into these questions, along with an array of leading scholars and regular guest Dr. Chenjerai Kumanyika, in this 14-part documentary series, released between February and August 2017. You can find episodes and additional information at [sceneonradio.org/seeing-white](http://sceneonradio.org/seeing-white).

*More resources to learn about racial justice can be found at [stjohns-laf.org/rectorsblog](http://stjohns-laf.org/rectorsblog).*

SCENE  
ON  
RADIO





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**Interim Associate Rector**

The Rev. Dr. Gretchen Freese

**Sunday Associate**

The Very Rev. Robert L'Homme

**Parish Administrator**

Teresa Lohrman

**Director of Music**

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Cindy Gerlach

Deadline for the September *Eagle* is  
**Monday, Aug. 10.** Submit items to  
 eagle@stjohns-laf.org.

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