

February 2021 The Story

**All are Welcome
No Exceptions!**

St. Thomas Episcopal Church accepts all people and we commit:

Celebrate the Eucharist regularly

Keep a personal and community discipline of prayer and study

Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by promoting justice, peace, and love.

Nurture God's people as we grow in Christ

Live with thanksgiving, wonder, and openness to God's love

St. Thomas Adult Forum to Discuss 'Love Is the Way'

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic and the insurrection on the Capitol, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church had been assessing divisiveness in the United States and proposing Christ-centered love as the solution. That's the approach of his book "Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times," which St. Thomas, Franklin, will reflect on in a three-part Adult Forum during Lent.

"And love – unselfish, sacrificial, unconditional, and liberating love – is the way, frankly the only way, to realize God's dream of the beloved community, on earth as it is in heaven," Bishop Michael B. Curry wrote in his 2020 book co-written with Sara Grace. "It's the only thing that can, and that ever will, make the world a better place. I learned that from the people who raised me, and so I learned it as they did, from the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, whose way is this kind of love."

St. Thomas's discussions will take place on Zoom, at 11:30 a.m. Saturday February 20th, March 6th and March 20th. They will take place during the virtual St. Thomas coffee hour hosted by Jan Skopecek, who will send Zoom invitations. Although participants may do so, it won't be necessary to read "Love Is the Way" for the discussions.

The book is organized around 12 questions about love that Bishop Curry has been asked by people he met in churches, at public events, and at airports. We will discuss three questions.

Our first session, on Feb. 20th, will be devoted to the question "What is love?" It will be discussed in connection with a familiar scripture often used at weddings: 1 Corinthians 13:4, which begins, "Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude." I will discuss the Presiding Bishop's reflections and my own and then will invite discussion.

The March 6th session will focus on this question: "I'm told to love my neighbor, but who is my neighbor?" In "Love Is the Way," Bishop Curry related that question to an experience he had in Baltimore. His church building caught fire, and a reporter asked Curry whether the church would relocate, in the presence of a neighborhood boy who belonged to the church. I plan to relate the question to the mission of St. Thomas, which includes the idea of generous welcome.

The March 20th session will center on the question "How can love overcome what divides us, and move us forward together?" Curry's chapter on that question discussed then-Presidential candidate Donald Trump's 2016 campaign stop in North Carolina, where Curry was a diocesan bishop. Our discussion can involve more recent developments. – Fr. Whitney Smith

Lucy Lukas wishes to thank everyone for the lovely cards, phone calls, and visits she has received recently. It brightens her spirits to hear from her St. Thomas Family. If you would like to send a card to Lucy, her address is as follows:

Lucy Lukas
1200 N. SR 135
Greenwood, IN 46142

thank
you!

Thank you for
your service to St.
Thomas Church
Cynthia Dozier
and Juanita
Wahlberg.

News from the Treasurer

Thank you for continuing your support of St. Thomas. As we end the year, I can provide an updated contribution statement if you would like to receive one.

If you wish to mail your contribution but do not want to send it to the church, you are welcome to mail it to KAREN SMITH's home address. I will be out of town through March 1st. Karen will be making the deposits.

Karen Smith
4530 Hickory Ridge Blvd.
Greenwood, IN 46143

If you would like to mail your check to the church, the address is:

St. Thomas Church
600 Paul Hand Blvd
Franklin, IN 46131

You may also use the diocesan website: [\(indydio.org\)](http://Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis | (indydio.org)) then click Donate Online (upper right corner)

Fund: Give to a Congregation

Memo: scroll to find St. Thomas—Franklin

An email is being sent to alert contributors when checks have been deposited. Please contact me if you mail a check and do not receive an email from us within 2 weeks of mailing the contribution. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!

Thank you – Marti Ramsey



Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday

As Lent approaches, Episcopal Relief and Development is inviting St. Thomas, Franklin, and congregations nationwide to observe Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday on the first Sunday in Lent, February 21st.

For more than 75 years, Episcopal Relief & Development has been inspired by the faith and compassion of its supporters and partners to work together for lasting change. Its mission is to seek and serve Christ in all persons and respect the dignity of every human being. Originally called the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, the organization was established in 1940 by The Episcopal Church. Its initial mission was to assist refugees fleeing Europe during World War II. Soon after the war, the agency's efforts expanded to include additional humanitarian assistance, focusing mostly on disaster relief.

At St. Thomas, an announcement will be made during our February 21st livestream service, and a Prayer for Episcopal Relief and Development will be said. On behalf of the parish, Fr. Whitney Smith will send a contribution to Episcopal Relief and Development from his discretionary fund. Anyone who would like to make an additional gift may do so. Please contact Fr. Whitney at whitinindy@hotmail.com or call him at (317) 383-7876.

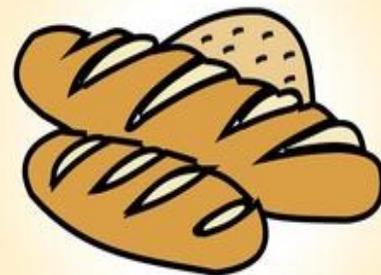


The poinsettias are ready for a new home. If you would like a poinsettia, please contact Karen Smith to arrange pick-up: 317-201-8128 or karens_99@hotmail.com

Panera Bread Sign-up

St. Thomas resumed our ministry with Panera Bread with a slight change. The end of day bread will be picked up at Panera Bread Sunday night and delivered to the Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County Monday morning. Please use the link below for more information and to sign up to help. Questions: contact Steve Wahlberg.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084BA9A62BA46-panera>



Welcome New Vestry to 3-year term!

- * *Rachel Allen (returning for second term)*
- * *Brandi Ashlock*
- * *Robin Kares (1 year term to replace Juanita Wahlberg who resigned)*
- * *Cheryl Faust*
- * *Steven Wahlberg (new Junior Warden)*

Convention Delegates to Diocesan Convention (Nov. 5-6)

- * *Teresa Voorhees*
- * *Brandi Ashlock*
- * *Joshua Craft-Rutan, alternate*

Thank you for attending my Zoom meetings for my Eagle Scout Project and sharing your ideas for my project. I am currently working on completing my workbook so I can present it to my Scouting District for approval. Many of you have asked how you can help. As I get to that phase of my project, I will be sending letters to everyone in the congregation explaining my project and how to help. If you have questions or would like to learn more about it, please email me at reid_smith05@icloud.com and include my mom at karens_99@hotmail.com per Scouting guidelines.

Thank you,
Reid Smith



February Celebrations

Birthdays

3 David Beck and Olivia Tullis
9 Marta Pincheira and Austin Smith
12 Justin Ring
21 Olivia Bachman and Ann Kieffer
23 George Alexander

Anniversaries

No anniversaries this month

ST. THOMAS VESTRY

The 25th Vestry of St. Thomas (2021--2023)

2021Robin Kares, Joshua Craft-Rutan, Jan Skopecek
2022Dave Buchholz, Marikay Kapke
2023Rachel Allen, Brandi Ashlock, Cheryl Faust, Steve Wahlberg

The Staff and Officers of St. Thomas

Rector.....Fr. Whitney Smith
Senior Warden Dave Buchholz
Junior WardenSteven Wahlberg
Clerk Karen Smith
TreasurerMarti Ramsey
Organist/Choir DirectorHeather Orvek
Assistant TreasurersRobin Kares, Mike Ramsey, Eric Smith

If you have an article for the next newsletter, please submit it to Father Whitney at whitindy@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month.