

St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



323 WICK AVE,
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503



PARISH PROFILE

WELCOME

Mission Statement

At St. John's Episcopal Church of Youngstown, we celebrate God and the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Rooted in scripture, practice and reason, we evolve as disciples, build compassionate relationships, and serve others with love. We strive to be a welcoming and caring space for everyone, reflecting the inherent dignity of all, and we nurture unity in the Body of Christ by fostering spiritual growth, hope and renewal as we answer Christ's call to embody His love and grace in our community.



<https://stjohnohio.org/>

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

<https://www.instagram.com/stjohnohio/>

323 Wick Ave

Youngstown, Ohio 44503

WHERE WE ARE....



At the heart of downtown Youngstown, St. John's Episcopal Church stands as a visible and enduring beacon of faith, service, and hope. Deeply woven into the life of the city, St. John's reflects Youngstown's resilient spirit through its commitment to outreach, hospitality, and community partnership. Through multiple ministries that address hunger, education, inclusion, health, and pastoral care, the church opens its doors daily to neighbors from all walks of life, offering not only tangible support but also dignity, welcome, and compassion.

Youngstown itself is a city shaped by perseverance and possibility. Home to Youngstown State University, the community benefits from the energy and innovation of a thriving public university that anchors the region culturally and economically. Located midway between Cleveland and Pittsburgh, Youngstown enjoys both accessibility to major metropolitan resources and the warmth of a close-knit, affordable city where relationships matter and collaboration thrives.

Surrounded by the natural beauty of Mill Creek Park—one of the nation's largest urban parks—Youngstown offers a quality of life rooted in both landscape and people. The city's "salt of the earth" residents are known for their strong work ethic, generosity, and determination to build a hopeful future together. In this setting, St. John's continues to serve as a cornerstone of downtown life, embodying the belief that faith in action can help make Youngstown the best it can be.

The Diocese of Ohio



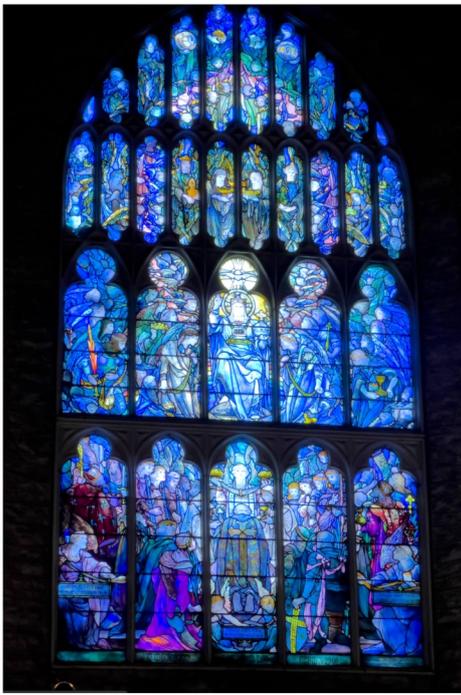
St. John's, Youngstown, is a part of the Diocese of Ohio. Geographically located in the northern half of the state, it brings together 80 parishes from 48 counties. Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland houses the diocesan staff and is about an hour drive from Youngstown.

We are led by our 12th Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly. Serving in the Diocese of Ohio means that you join with a visionary, engaged bishop who is inspiring us to be more faithful, healthy, effective, and sustainable followers of Jesus Christ in our unique contexts.

St. John's is actively involved at the Diocesan level. We regularly send large contingents of parishioners to Diocesan gatherings, both formal and informal. Our members have served on diocesan committees, showing our commitment to the larger Episcopal communion. We value the input, collaboration and wisdom that our diocesan leadership can offer, and we strive to contribute in kind.

We have recently met, with the guidance of Diocesan leadership, with representatives from our mission area. Our intent was to revive collaboration with one another and re-invest in our Diocesan involvement. This was a fruitful and hopeful beginning to what we hope will be a new vision in our region.



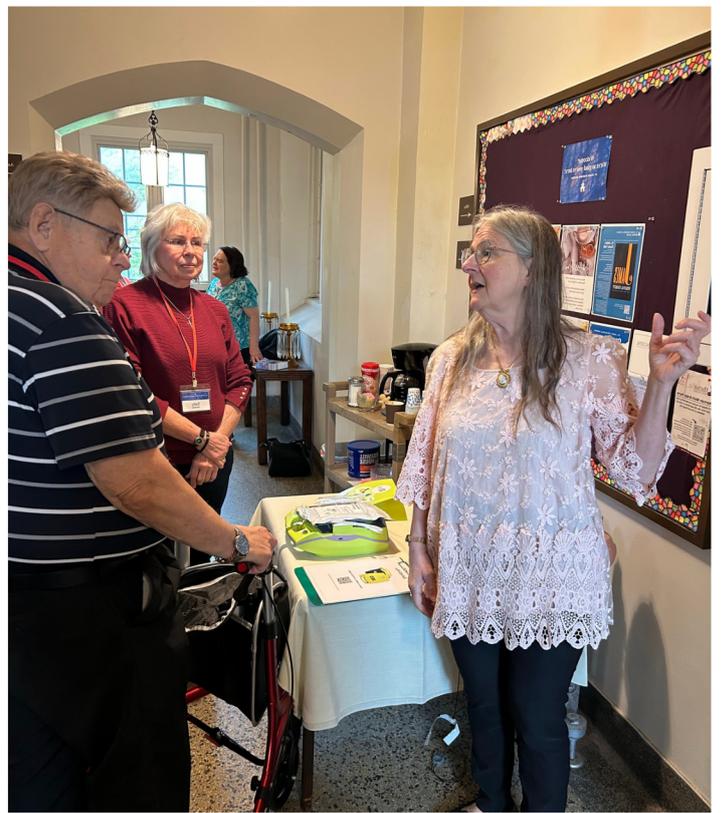


WHO WE ARE...

Founded in the 1850s, St. John's Episcopal Church has been a faithful presence in downtown Youngstown for more than a century and a half. From its early beginnings in a Sunday School to the consecration of its current Wick Avenue church in 1900, St. John's has cared deeply for beauty, tradition, and sacred story. The church's Arts and Crafts interior, Tiffany stained-glass windows, and thoughtfully maintained spaces reflect a commitment to honoring God through worship, architecture, and liturgy, while embracing varied expressions of prayer—from contemplative services to vibrant choral worship.

St. John's is a community rooted in formation, creativity, and inclusion. Longstanding programs such as Education for Ministry and the Adult Forum nurture lifelong spiritual growth, while family- and young-adult ministries foster belonging across generations. Situated on Youngstown's arts corridor, the parish actively engages the wider community through concerts, exhibitions, First Fridays, and the beloved Boar's Head Festival. We proudly affirm and welcome LGBTQ+ persons, host PFLAG, and partner with organizations such as Rae's Safe Haven, embodying our belief that all are welcome at God's table.

Service and collaboration are at the heart of St. John's mission. Through the Red Door Food Pantry and Café, school reading and book programs, interfaith and ecumenical partnerships, and Care Share Connect, we respond to local needs with compassion and care. In a season of transition and discernment, lay leadership has flourished, relationships have been strengthened, and honest conversation has given rise to renewed hope. As we look ahead, St. John's remains committed to faithful stewardship, shared ministry, and trusting God's unfolding vision for our future together.



Care for Each Other with Strong Lay Leadership

Care Share Connect (CSC) is a ministry of St. John's, born from an urgent and faithful response to need when a few retired nurses recognized the importance of being prepared to care for one another. What began as Nurse Connection has grown into an inclusive ministry welcoming all who feel called to serve. Grounded in the mission to care, share, and connect as we "heal in community," CSC supports parish life through safety and emergency preparedness, education and outreach, training in AED use and first aid, coordination of pastoral care ministries, collaboration with neighboring parishes, and engagement with Youngstown State University healthcare students.

This spirit of care and shared leadership extends throughout parish life. Each month, St. John's hosts neighborhood women for fellowship and connection, creating welcoming spaces that nurture wellness, storytelling, and mutual support. In recent years, the parish has engaged in deep self-reflection and honest conversation, strengthening a resilient network of lay leaders committed to discerning God's vision for the future. From seasons of uncertainty have emerged renewed hope, spiritual clarity, and optimism.

St. John's has also committed to nurturing emerging forms of young adult Christian community and building meaningful partnerships with Youngstown State University's international students through hospitality, shared meals, and intentional relationship-building. As St. John's looks ahead, the congregation seeks a priest who will honor and strengthen this lay-led momentum—guiding discernment, praying alongside the community through difficult questions, and helping the parish trust in God's unfolding plan.

Who We Are



Nurturing Faith Through Artistic Expression

Arts and creativity are at the heart of St. John's ministry and community life. The annual Boar's Head Festival, a cherished tradition for over fifty years, exemplifies this commitment, bringing together parishioners and performers from across the Valley to create a collaborative, immersive, and holy theatrical experience. Costume committees, directors, vocalists, instrumentalists, and actors—all contribute hours of dedication, skill, and collective memory to produce performances that inspire both participants and audiences alike.

Located on the vibrant arts corridor of Wick Avenue, St. John's has a long history of engaging with the local creative community. The church partners with institutions such as the Cliffe College of Creative Arts, the Butler Institute of American Art, the John J. McDonough Museum of Art, and the Arms Family Museum to foster creativity and community. Concerts in collaboration with WYSU-FM bring local, regional, and international musicians and nationally acclaimed lecturers to the parish, while participation in Youngstown's First Fridays connects faith, music, and visual expression to the broader community.

St. John's also maintains an on-site art gallery, featuring regular exhibitions of emerging and established artists, celebrating beauty, diversity, and the transformative power of artistic expression. Through these programs and partnerships, the parish demonstrates that the arts are not only a form of outreach but an integral part of worship, fellowship, and spiritual life—reflecting the church's deep belief that creativity nourishes faith, strengthens community, and enriches the wider world.

WHAT WE DO...



Red Door Food Pantry and Cafe

For several decades, St. John's has been faithfully serving the Youngstown Community through our monthly Red Door Food Pantry and our weekly Red Door Café Soup Kitchen. Our monthly Food Pantry partners with Second Harvest Food Bank to provide fresh produce as well as perishable and non-perishable food items to over 150 families. Our Food Pantry is run by a dedicated group of volunteers who are members of St. John's, members of other local churches, and members of the Youngstown community. Our Soup Kitchen partners with a different local organization each week to provide meals for 80-90 individuals each Sunday. Through these ministries, we have formed strong and loving relationships with the members of our Youngstown Community. read it.

Taft Mobile Pantry and Food Drive

Our reading and outreach program supports students at Taft Elementary School in meaningful ways. Once a month, about ten dedicated readers visit classrooms to read aloud from picture books—often new library titles—creating rewarding moments when children connect with a favorite story. As a parish, we donate brand-new children's books for an annual February giveaway, where students select two books each from tables organized by reading level in the school cafeteria. Our outreach also includes food assistance through a partnership with First Presbyterian Church on Wick Avenue: volunteers meet monthly at the United Way Volunteer Center in Boardman to prepare pantry goods for 60 families, funded by grants from the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio and matching support from St. John's and First Presbyterian, and delivered monthly to families' homes by United Way volunteers.



Welcome Diversity

We are proud to be a regional Episcopal church that fully welcomes and affirms LGBTQ+ members, living out the Church's belief that all are welcome. We host monthly Youngstown PFLAG meetings and partner with Rae's Safe Haven to support the LGBTQ+ community through advocacy, education, and community-building. This partnership has included hosting a community Thanksgiving meal, winter supply distribution, and a haircut giveaway for unhoused neighbors. Rae's Safe Haven offices are now located at St. John's, strengthening our shared commitment to inclusion, compassion, and meaningful outreach.

Ministries



Collaborate in Mission

Collaboration and partnership have long characterized church life at St. John's, both in community outreach and spiritual formation. In fact, inter-faith partnership marks St. John's history from its earliest days in the 1850s until now.

In recent years, collaboration within our Mission Area has deepened in exciting ways. The choirs of Christ Church, Warren, and St. John's now regularly unite for special services and celebrations, enriching worship with shared gifts of music and fellowship. Across the Mahoning Valley, St. John's, Christ Church, and St. James, Boardman, have begun holding joint services on High Holy Days and patron saints' days—celebrations that highlight our shared faith and strengthen our communal bonds.

Most notably, though, St. John's and St. James spent much of 2025 exploring and discerning together the possibilities of collaboration. While this did not conclude with a shared ministry partnership, our time together resulted in a much-strengthened relationship between the two faith communities, a sense of expanded family, and of a realization of shared purpose and potential. These positive outcomes will be manifest for a long time to come.

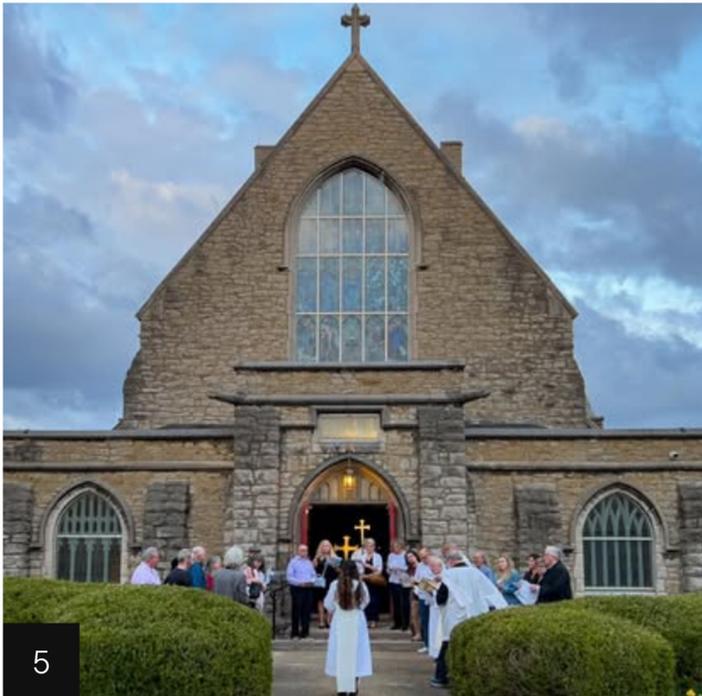
Heal Together

Like many faith communities, St. John's has recently experienced times of tension and differing perspectives—some arising from recent world events, others from disagreements with leadership or financial decisions. During these past two years of transition we recognized the need for understanding and renewal since the departure of our previous priest. In response to these tensions, the Vestry led a series of small group discussions, guided by faith and grounded in “The Way of Love: Building an Intentional Small Group Ministry” and “the 2023 Diocesan Council Civil Discourse Touchstones.”

This series of small-group conversations created space for honest listening, reflection, and mutual respect. Through them, parishioners began to mend past hurts and rediscover a renewed sense of unity and shared purpose. This spirit of collaboration and trust now continues to guide St. John's as the congregation embraces a new season of vitality, connection, and hope.

Our Next Priest

We are seeking a priest-in-charge who leads with listening, collaboration, and vision. This person will value the voices and gifts of parishioners, empowering lay leadership while guiding the congregation with spiritual depth and clarity. Grounded in scripture and pastoral care, they will balance tradition with fresh approaches to worship, embrace inclusive practices for people of all needs, backgrounds, and foster partnerships with neighboring churches. Through transparent communication, shared ministry, and creative stewardship, our priest-in-charge will nurture community, inspire growth, and help us live more fully into our mission.



1 Collaborative Leadership

Collaborates with neighboring parishes and participates in shared events. Empowers lay leaders and fosters shared ownership of ministry. Builds relationships and nurtures a connected, supportive pastoral care community.

2 Vision & Worship

Holds a clear vision for growth and progress. Leads engaging weekly services, open to shared ministries. Balances traditional practices with innovative, music-rich worship.

3 Spiritual & Scriptural Grounding

Rooted in scripture and spirituality, inspiring mission, growth, and personal faith. Fosters reconciling conversations and a loving, inclusive community. Encourages authentic faith formation and fellowship that celebrate diversity and creativity.

4 Inclusion & Youth Focus

Champions inclusion and active participation across all races, cultures, LGBTQ+ communities, and socio-economic backgrounds, affirming the dignity of every person. Promotes growth among families and individuals through diverse worship formats, meeting the needs of a changing congregation.

5 Administrative & Financial Stewardship

Drives creative, sustainable financial planning and budgeting. Brings innovative stewardship and fundraising strategies. Collaborates with leadership on governance and strategic planning.

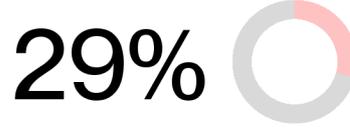
St. John's

In Numbers

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADULTS



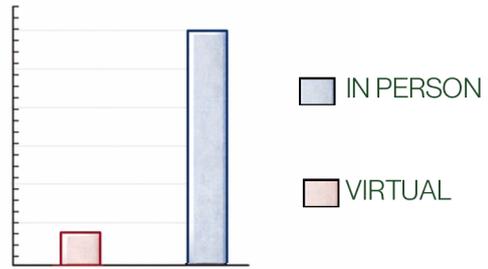
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHILD



ATTENDANCE



67
WEEKLY

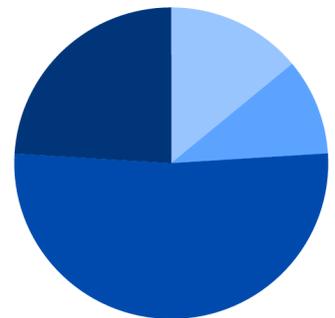
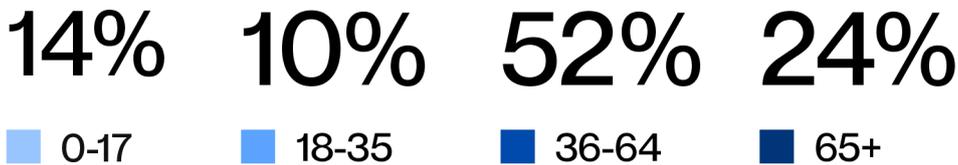


181
CHRISTMAS



170
EASTER

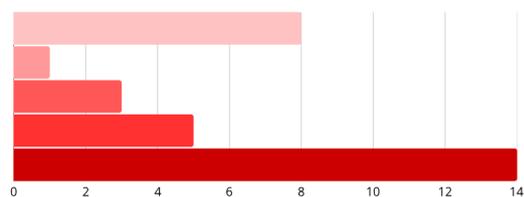
CONGREGATION DEMOGRAPHICS (AGE GROUP)



SACRAMENTS 23-25



BAPTISMS
MARRIAGES
CONFIRMATIONS
RECEIVED
BURIALS





We look forward to our next priest joining us to be part of this vibrant, caring, creative community!