

St. George's Episcopal Church, Milford



July 1, 2026 EBlast

A Complicated Independence Day

America turns 250 this week and many Americans, myself included, have complicated feelings about Independence Day this year. According to a major poll released this week, American's pride in their country, the military and their democracy has fallen markedly over the last decade. That same poll finds that only 53 percent of U.S. adults are "extremely" or "very" proud to be an American, the lowest reading in the trend dating back to 2001. I often find myself dismayed about the policies being created by those in power in Washington and feel they are in direct contradiction to my Christian values, which at least for me have always trumped (no pun intended) my political views. All this has been made even more complicated by the excessive politicization of official celebrations of the 250th anniversary. Displaying a flag or other patriotic symbols can feel like an endorsement of those currently in power. It's a bit hard to get excited this year.

But laid aside the normal gloom and doom, a different kind of story has also been popping up in my news feed these days. We are big sports fans in my household and so we have been following World Cup Soccer quite a lot in the last few weeks. And during this month-long tournament, being held across North America this year, hundreds of thousands of international fans from countries all across the world have been flocking to the United States, many for the first time and their impressions are hilarious. Of course, everything is bigger here. Costco and Buc-ees are utterly mind-boggling to the European population, as are our portion sizes. But what really stands out to many tourists is how friendly and welcoming everyone is here. Hearing only what the international news had to say about us, many tourists braced themselves for trouble, only to find exceptional welcome even in the densest busiest cities and the deepest reddest states. Americans will always smile at you, say hi to you, not only offer you directions but take you there themselves and strike up a 20-minute conversation about your life, family and visit with little to no prompting. And this is the America that I celebrate this weekend. The America that welcomes and cares, that loves and serves, that eats and celebrates and creates joy with anyone they can find. This is the America that has endured for 250 years and this is the America that will thrive for 250 more if we can remember who and whose we truly are.

Happy 4th,
Rev. Michelle

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sunday July 5

8:30 am - Morning Prayer Rite I in the Church
Officiant: Margaret Walbridge

9:30am - Patriotic Organ Concert

10:15 am - Morning Prayer Rite II in the Church (or Fellowship Hall)
Officiant: Mike Fanfair Sr.

Wednesday July 8

10:00am-1:00pm Summer Lunch at Crossroads

Sunday July 12

8:30am - Indoor Worship

10:15am - Outdoor Worship with Dragonslayerz Band

11:45am - BBQ Lunch

Member Updates

We saw Janine at church on Sunday and she is amazing as always, walking, driving and oxygen tank free. Please continue to pray for her ongoing recovery and restoration to full health. According to Steve, Dot's partial knee replacement surgery also went very well. Please continue to pray for her and her full recovery and relief from pain as well.

Summer Lunch at Crossroads Wed July 8

We will be participating in the summer lunch program at Crossroads on **Wednesday July 8**. We need to arrive at Crossroads at 10:00 am. If we have enough people to arrange a carpool, we will meet at the church at 9:00 am. We should be done by 1:00pm. Food for the main meal will be purchased by Crossroads but we can provide dessert items and a craft. Sign up sheet is available in the fellowship hall.

4th of July Patriotic Concert Sunday July 6 at 9:45am

Come a little early or stay a little late this Sunday to enjoy John's annual American Music Concert between the services. It will be a great and festive way to wrap up the Holiday week.

Outdoor Worship with Dragon Slayerz Band July 12

We will be worshipping outdoors again at the 10:15 service on July 12 and we will be welcoming back the DragonSlayerz rock band complete with a very special guest singer. We will have a picnic lunch to follow. Dress for the weather (in Michigan who knows what that will be).

Braver Angels Citizen Led Town Halls

The second meeting was a success and we are thankful for all who participated. The third meeting on **July 29, 2026**, a Citizen-Led Town Hall, will involve working together across political perspectives to find mutually agreeable actions that address the challenges we have uncovered. Come and help us start the conversation! Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors.

Coffee Hour in July and August

Folk do stuff with family and friends at weekends in the summertime hence attendance at St G ebbs and flows! Ensuring our Sunday Coffee Hours are hosted during July and August when there is no 'special event' thus becomes somewhat hit and miss. So let's stock St G. up with packaged treats, all individually wrapped eg: granola bars, little bags of cookies or chips, tiny muffins, trail mix, mini Kit Kats/Snickers etc. Items that do not need freezing, have long dates, are all individual - no packets which get left half eaten and open and no stuff in the freezer! A cupboard will be labeled up '**PACKAGED TREATS**' to store these tasty snacks. Then there will always be something to accompany a cup of tea/ coffee as we enjoy Sunday Fellowship together over the Summer. If you have any questions see Deb Sawyer.

This will only work if we all start shopping... over to us all heh! And we've made a good start!

LOK Outing to St Sabbas - CANCELED

Our LOK plans to attend the monastery in July are scrapped. After multiple attempts by Sandy Scott to contact them, there has been no response. Sandy will refund everyone's money of course!

The Bishop is Coming Labor Day Weekend

The Rt Reverend Bishop Bonnie Perry will be making her triannual visit to St George's on Sunday September 6th. Due to her great love of dogs (She employs her own dog Tally as Canine to the Ordinary and he regularly assists her in worship), her visit will coincide with our final outdoor worship of the year and our annual pet blessing. More details to come, but mark your calendars and invite your friends and family for what promises to be a spirit filled Sunday.

Changes to Our Staff

The posting for our new Director of Music position is now live. You can find it here on indeed: https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=d117ccd7b4f3e5fe&from=shareddesktop_copy If you happen to know anyone who may be interested, please pass it on. In the meantime, please keep our search committee and John & D'Anna in your prayers. If you have any questions or ideas please feel free to reach out to any of our search committee members, Rev. Michelle, Mike Fanfair Sr, Ruth Jeffrey, Deb Sawyer, Dot Vangel & MaryLou Johnstone.

Ongoing Outreach Activities

Below is a list of things we are currently collecting for our ongoing outreach ministries. Check back often to see what we are up to

Recyclable Textiles - Oakland County Foster Closet - in pink bags, first classroom - through end of May
Children's items and Luggage - Oakland County Foster Closet - end of hallway - through end of May

Dress and other nice clothing - Grace Centers of Hope Resale Shop - Middle of Hallway - Ongoing

Small Toiletries - FedUp - Hallway Closest to Office - Ongoing

Non-perishable food - Community Sharing - Green bin in Narthex - Ongoing

Used Grocery Bags - Crochet for a Cause - Bins outside by plastic box or in back classroom - Ongoing

Ongoing Ministries in Action:

-Braver Angels

The next meeting will be the third of three town hall meetings on **Wednesday July 29** in the Fellowship Hall. See you then.

-Crochet for a Cause

Making mats for those in need out of plastic grocery bags. 1st 3rd & 5th Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. We have a great time! **Next Meetings are July 15 & August 5 (no 5th Wednesday this time).**

- Cookie Ministry - Supporting the AA groups that meet at our church

All four weeks of cookie donations each month continue to be covered by the Darcys, Mike Fanfair Sr., Vestry and Linda Gillespie. Thank you for your ongoing support! Should one of these volunteers need a break, they will let Dot know and she will specifically reach out for additional help, if needed.

-ECW (Episcopal Church Women)

ECW meetings are cancelled for June & July reconvening in August when ECW will continue to meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday. The **next Meeting is Tuesday August 11 at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.**

St. George's ECW is a small group of women committed to supporting the many activities of this church. All women members of the church are members of ECW and are encouraged to attend the meetings. Do come along and join us.

- Healing Prayer

Provides laying on of hands and anointing for healing after worship at 8:30 & during communion at 10:15 service. The next Healing Prayers will be on **July 12 & 26**. Healing Prayer can be offered at all other services by request.

- LOK - Ladies of the Knight

2026 Tentative Schedule. Keeping check throughout the year for updates and more info.

June 25 at 1pm - Laura Frost & Deb Shomoch - Detroit River Cruise - see above for more info

June 26 at 7pm - Deb Lesnew & Beck Sheridan - Recycled Rockettes

July 18 - Ann Gatland - Summer Party

July 28 - Sandy Scott - St Sabba's Orthodox Monastery - CANCELED - see info above

August 25-26 - Joyce Spletzer - Stratford Trip

September - Caroline Liebau - Mariners Church

October 4 - Deb Lesnew - Dio Dinner Theatre - see above for more info

November - Dot Vangel - Ford Rouge Tour

December 5 - Joyce Spletzer - Annual Christmas Party

- Mens' Group

The Men's Group normally meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. All Men are invited to attend.

The **next meeting** is on **Wednesday July 15 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

Please see Mike F. Sr's upcoming email for more information.

Keeping Your Faith Strong

-Those in Our Prayers

It is time for our periodic review of our prayer list, those who have been on the list for a long time will automatically come off, if you would like someone added back on, please let Rev. Michelle know or add it to the prayer request sheet in the Narthex.

Please pray for our members, community members and friends in search of health, healing, wholeness and solace: *Annie F., Barry, Carol R., Caroline, Cheryl, Doug E., Dot V., Eric, Fred K., Helen, Janine C., Jeanne, Jim, Joan B., Joe, John E., Judi V., the Kane Family, Katie M., Karen S., Kim, Leon & Sheila S., Lisa D., Lisa S., MaryLou, Mary S, Matt W., Michael B., Mike W., Michelle M., Michelle R., Nancy B., Olivia S., Rebecca, Rick, the Sera Family, Sharon A., Sue H., Theresa A., Tom C.*

Loving God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: accept our prayers, and to those who seek healing, grant the power of your grace, that the weak may be strengthened, sickness turned to health, the dying made whole, and sorrow turned into joy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen. (Book of Occasional Services pg217)

- Online Daily Office Schedule

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Fridays, 4 p.m. Evening Prayer

Sundays, 7 p.m. Compline

Do you join our Sunday worship online? A reliable and quick way to find our YouTube services (live or recorded) is from our website's "Watch" page, accessed from the top of the home page by clicking the word "Watch." [Here's a direct link.](#) Want to participate in our Daily Office online? Those are on Facebook. [Here's the link.](#)

-Sermon Blog

Ever hear something in worship and think, I wish I could look at that again or send it to a friend? Well now you can. Now St George's has a Sermon Blog. Weekly sermons and reflections will be posted here from now on. Rev. Michelle's sermons will appear on Sunday morning, Morning Prayer reflections will usually be up within a couple of days. Feel free to share! [St George's Sermon Blog](#)

When to contact the Priest:

Please be in touch. I can only pray, help or connect you with resources if I know what is happening. Examples of when to contact the Priest: Birth, Death, Illness, Hospitalization, Difficulty in the Family, You would like to receive sacraments or a Pastoral visit, You have an idea or ministry you would like to discuss. I am usually in the office Wed and either Tues or Thurs 9:30-3. If you see my car in the lot, feel free to pop in. If I don't answer the phone make sure to leave a message or send a text and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

How to contact Rev. Michelle: **Phone/Text:** (734) 646-4064 or **Email:** priest@stgmilford.com

-Forward Day by Day Devotions

The May-July Booklets are available now to pick up in the Narthex. Let us know if you need one mailed/delivered to your house. The cost is \$2.00 for each booklet. Please reimburse us as you are able in the donation box nearby. I recommend a read! 🐝

Community Events



Highland Activity Center Summer Drive

July 9, 2026
9am -3pm

Highland Activity Center
209 N. John St.
Highland, MI 48357

For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).