St. George's Episcopal Church, Milford
November 12, 2026 EBlast



A Personal Take on Gratitude

By Jeremiah Sierra of the Epsicopal Church Foundation

On Sunday, I went to an English-language, Anglican church in Rio de Janeiro, where I am visiting my wife's family. It was a relatively small congregation - about 50 people - and the Brazilian priest spoke English, only occasionally stumbling over words.

In his sermon he quoted a rabbi, whose name and exact words I cannot recall, but the gist of it was this: even good things are bad for us if we do not give thanks for them. Food to eat, shelter, friends, even these things can corrode our soul if we are not thankful.

This message struck a chord in me, perhaps because I am on vacation in Brazil and have many things to be grateful for. I have more than I need. For this reason, perhaps, it is especially important for me to remember that what I have is a gift. Remembering this from time to time helps me to hold a little less tightly to what I have. If everything is a gift then it's a little easier to give it away.

As my wife pointed out to me, there is a danger in telling other people to be grateful for what they have. It doesn't acknowledge the parts of their lives that are difficult, the ways in which they've worked hard, the obstacles they've overcome, the disadvantages they've been born with, the suffering, seen and unseen, that they endure. No one wants to be told to be grateful for what they've had when they're struggling to make ends meet, for example, or when they're fighting cancer, especially not by a privileged, healthy person like me.

Still, my personal take on giving thanks for everything I've been given is that I'm reminded each time that I don't necessarily deserve everything I have. I have earned very little of it. This is true for all of us—our circumstances, our families, many aspects of our lives are not chosen or earned. We simply received them when we were born, whether we wanted them or not, for better or worse.

Remembering this gives me a little more empathy for other people who do not have the privileges I have. It keeps me from acting out of fear of losing what I have, and, I hope, leads me to to be more generous toward those who have hard lives or work two jobs to feed their families or were born into poverty.

I believe that gratitude can be good for all of us, but I won't presume to tell you to be grateful for what you have. I will simply tell you that, for me, it's a tactic for keeping things in perspective. It's a way to remember that everything I have is a gift.

See you Sunday

Rev. Michelle

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday November 14
9:00am - Indoor Clean-Out
1:00pm-4:00pm Braver Angels Workshop at Highland Township Library
Sunday November 15
8:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite I in the Church
Celebrant: Rev. Michelle Werner
10:15am - Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Church
Celebrant: Rev. Michelle Werner
Monday November 16
7:00pm - Vestry Meeting
Wednesday November 18
1:00pm - Crochet for Cause
6:30pm - Mens Group
Sunday November 22
12:00pm - LOK 2027 Planning Meeting
Wednesday December 2
1:00pm - Crochet for Cause
6:00pm - Braver Angles Meeting (tentative)
Saturday December 5
2:00pm - LOK Christmas Party
Sunday December 6
11:30pm - Church Decorating
Monday December 7
7:00pm - Vestry Meeting
Sunday December 20
11:30am - Benthic Brass Christmas Concert and Lunch

Indoor Church Organizing and Clean-up - Saturday November 14

Do you love to purge, clean and organize? Join us on Saturday November 14 at 9:00am for our indoor clean-up day. In order to lay the new flooring, we need to reorganize all the classrooms and throw away all the old stuff we no longer need. We are hoping to reorganize our classrooms and common space to make everything more attractive, functional and welcoming.

Incarcerated Youth Ministries Cookie Drive

Calling all bakers. Would you help us bring Christmas joy to children who are incarcerated? For 30 years IYM has been providing ministry to young people who are often written off. This year St George's will be helping them to provide Christmas treats and stockings to the young people and staff at 4 Michigan facilities. They are looking for **nut free homemade cookies & the like**. A touch of home via homemade is more important than ever this year. ALSO, if anyone has access to travel size shampoo, conditioners and non alcoholic mouth wash they would be pleased to have them for the stockings. Please return cookies and items to the church by **Sunday Nov 29** and Caroline will deliver them to the folks who run this ministry who are longtime friends of hers.

Braver Angels Families and Politics: A Workshop for Everyone

Join us **Saturday November 14th, 1pm-4pm, at the Highland Township Library**. This workshop teaches participants how to preserve family bonds while staying true to their values and political beliefs. Although the focus is on family relationships, you can use these strategies with any loved

one. You'll have some fun in this workshop – it won't be all serious. After all, we all come from quirky families. You will learn about the family dynamics of political differences, apply them to your family, and learn and practice effective communication skills with difficult family members . To register, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/families-and-politicsregistration-2002922389785

Fall Stewardship Campaign - Plenty Good Room

Our Fall Stewardship campaign is running in October and November. This year we will be focusing on stories of welcome, abundance and transformation. Stay tuned for temple talks & EBlast articles from members telling their best stories from St G. If you have a story to tell, see Rev. Michelle. Also, check your mailboxes in October for Stewardship packets and pledge cards and information about how to support our ministry in 2027 and beyond. **Please return your pledge cards by this Sunday November 15.**

Ladies of the Knight 2027 Planning Meeting

We will plan our LOK activities for next year on **Sunday November 22 at 12:00 at the church**. Come with your best ideas and help us plan for the upcoming year. Pizza and Salad will be provided.

The LOK Christmas Potluck Gathering

Same great fun, shiny new digs! The annual Ladies of the Knight Christmas Party is **Saturday December 5 at 2pm**. This year it is going to be at Sandy Scott's beautiful new home. The address is 8500 Jeanne Marie Drive, White Lake. All finger foods: appetizers, drinks and desserts. Please RSVP either by signing up at Church, sending a text to Sandy, or responding in the Facebook group.

Choir Rehearsals

The Choir is back! **The Choir rehearses Thursdays at 7pm in the Sanctuary.** We hope to get some new folks to join us this year. If you haven't been in choir for a while, if you've never been in a choir, if you are a talented musician or less so, you are welcome here. This is Jiabao's particular speciality and passion so come check it out and make a joyful noise with us.

Coffee Hour Returns

We can use the Bunn coffee maker ensuring that it is switched off after use. There is also a coffee maker on loan. We will provide some snacks, bottled water, coffee and good fellowship after the 10:15 service. We are also starting to restock our packaged treats supply so feel free to bring some in. The fridge has returned fully cleansed and is ready for Coffee Hour refrigerated items. The Coffee Hour Rota for November is posted. Please sign up to Host. Remember to keep it simple! Any questions about future coffee hours, ask Deb Sawyer.

Printing of Service Bulletins

Service Bulletins will be printed on **Wednesdays/Thursdays** in November except for **24th** which is a **Tuesday.**

If you have any announcements or info for any Service Bulletins or the eBlast please ensure it is emailed to Rev. Michelle & Deb Sawyer by at the latest Monday close of business of the respective week or earlier if possible. Our thanks In anticipation, Rev. Michelle & Deb Sawyer

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 - ongoing

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

November Meeting is tentatively moving to **Wednesday December 2nd**. Monthly meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month working on depolarization.

-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 just delivered 15 mats to Corner Laundry & Shower located in St. Peters Episcopal Church in Corktown. **Next Meetings are November 18 & December 2nd.**

- 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 reconvened this month and will continue to meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday. The **next Meeting** is **Tuesday January 10** 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 **November 15 & December 6.** 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.
December 5 - Sandy Scott - Annual Christmas Party 2pm

- 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 November 18** at **6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.**
Please see Mike F. Sr's upcoming email for more information.

- Sunshine Committee

Please look for a Zingerman's delivery box that is serving as our greeting cards depository. If you have any extra greeting cards at home, especially birthday cards or would like to purchase some new ones to help us restock our supply, it would be greatly appreciated! We also need help going through our current inventory. Some envelopes got glued onto the greeting card. Cards and envelopes that are still intact need to be redone by inserting the envelope into the card and not around the outside of the card. Can you help?

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., Austin O., Barry, Bobby H., Carol R., Caroline, Cheryl P., Diane C. & Family, Diane S. & Family, Dot V., Eric, Fred K. & Family, Gerry M., Gina, Gina G., Helen, Janine C., Jeanne, Jenna & Don, Jim, Joan B., Joe, Judi V., Julie Y., Kate K., Kate W., Katie M., Karen S., Kim, Larry, Lee, Leon & Sheila S., Lisa D., Lisa S., Marianne V, Mary I., Mary S., Mary V., Matt W., Michelle M., Nancy B., Olivia S., Rebecca, Rick, Sharon A., Sue G., Sue H., Theresa A., Wally, Zack* and for any whom we now name aloud or hold in the silence of our hearts.

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 Nov - Jan large copy and pocket sized booklets are available for you 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