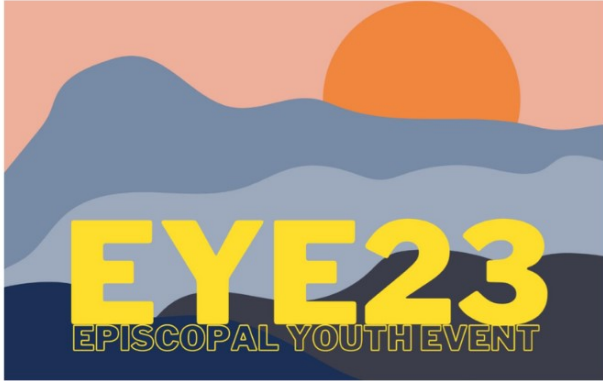




SPRING 2023

# Roots & Shoots

NURTURING FAITH FORMATION IN FAMILIES



We are thrilled to announce that the **Episcopal Youth Event** will take place **July 4-8, 2023** at the University of Maryland. All Episcopal youth in grades 9-12 during the 2022-23 academic year and their adult mentors are invited to attend. All of the information for this year's *A New Age of Faith* themed event can be found here: [www.episcopalmarylandyouth.weebly.com](http://www.episcopalmarylandyouth.weebly.com).

Click on the "EYE" tab and watch the videos to get an idea of what it's like. This event happens only once every three years. Since three years ago it was the summer of 2020, EYE hasn't actually happened in six years. Hence, that web video is from the 2017 Maryland Delegation.

For almost all teenagers this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and it is not one to miss!

As always, money will never be the reason a youth connected to St. Francis doesn't go. If your high schooler wants to go and you need financial assistance to make it happen, then Sara will gladly help you! Just write Sara: [revsara@stfrancismd.org](mailto:revsara@stfrancismd.org).

## ST. PATRICK'S PARTY

You're Invited to a St. Patrick's Party after worship on **March 19 around 11:00 AM**, suitable for families with children of all ages. Spread the word.

Don't miss this festive and fun, holiday-themed fellowship time with our parish.

In the meantime, keep calm and shamrock on!



For everything there is a season and a time for every matter on earth.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Photo Credit: "Spring Tulips at Sherwood Gardens" by Anisha Cornish, 2022

## Youth Confirmation Class 2023-24

Calling all current 8th-11th graders and their parents/guardians! Next school year, a confirmation class will be offered for high school students. Confirmation is a unique Rite, and the decision to be confirmed is no small thing (which is why we will have a year-long process to help you, called Youth Confirmation Class). Regardless of how you feel about it, mark your calendar for **Sunday, March 26 at 7:00 PM** for a **Google Meet** to discuss what confirmation is and to begin thinking about if you'll want to participate in Youth Confirmation Class next year. In this meeting, Sara will share their confirmation story and how, after that, they still managed to end up a priest - even if you don't have any interest in Confirmation, this is a story you won't want to miss! RSVP to Sara by 6:59 PM on March 26 if you're going to come to this virtual meeting and they'll send you the Google Meet link.

Is *youth confirmation class* right for me? **YES!**

NEED MORE INFO? CONTACT [REVSARA@STFRANCISMD.ORG](mailto:REVSARA@STFRANCISMD.ORG)

# Lent and Easter 2023

## Lent-at-Home Bags

Sara and Molly have assembled Lent-at-Home bags that are available in the entryway of the Worship Entrance during Lent. They are designed to be ONE bag per family unit. The materials in these bags are from Illustrated Ministry, an overall phenomenal resource for Christian life. The Lenten theme this year is "This is My Body" and it's that theme of embodiment that you'll see come through in all of our Lenten offerings at St. Francis this year.

## Change for Change

This year's Easter egg hunt will look a little different from the standard one, wherein plastic eggs are filled with candy for kids to find and enjoy. This year, we're going to try something that Sara learned in seminary. All of those plastic eggs will be filled with coins (that's where you come in!) and children will get to donate those coins to one of three local organizations (that the youth group picked out - more information on those later) and receive a goodie bag to take home. The purpose of this model of Easter egg hunt is to embody the theology that is offered to us in Christ's resurrection, which is the promise of new life and new hope. By offering the found coins to a local organization that helps our community, children will learn they are part of a community that is offering new life and new hope to its neighbors. You can help us do this by collecting and bringing in all your coins this Lent! A container for donated coins will be available at church through Palm Sunday.

## The Future of Children's Chapel

The feedback Sara has gotten thus far is that Children's Chapel - having some age appropriate formation for children during the sermon and part of the service on Sunday mornings - has been very positive. For this ministry to continue (and for others like it to develop), we need adult volunteers who are willing to assist with (or even potentially lead!) formation activities for children. For adults to be eligible to be that volunteer, they need to be trained in the Safe Church, Safe Communities curriculum with Sara. If you are interested in being an adult volunteer with children at St. Francis, please sign up for one of those trainings by contacting Sara to access the Sign Up Genius, which will be available in early/mid-March.



Contact the Rev Sara Yoe  
revsara@stfrancismd.org

**ST. FRANCIS**

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March - May 2023

# What's Happening?

## Holy Week Worship Schedule

**4/2** Palm Sunday Worship Service @ 10:00 AM and Palm Procession Outdoors

**4/6-4/7** Maundy Thursday Car Wash at Padonia Elementary School and Youth Lock-In at St. Francis @ TBD

**4/6** Maundy Thursday service @ 7:00 PM with Footwashing

**4/9** Easter Worship Service @ 10:00 AM followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

## Children

### • 3/22, 4/26, & 5/24 Kids Club at @ 6:00 PM during Welcome Table Wednesdays

Every week, there will be a kids table at WTW with themed coloring pages, word searches, etc. And, one Wednesday per month, Sara will host and supervise a craft activity to celebrate the season!

### • 4/9 Easter Sunday Egg Hunt around 11:00 AM after worship

### • Sundays Children's Chapel during 10:00 AM Worship

Read more information in the left column under Sara's note.

## Youth

### • March 8 Meet from 6:00-8:00 PM at Padonia International Elementary School's "Community Cottage Open House" (RSVP to Sara by end-Monday, March 6.)

### • March 19 @ 6:00-8:00 PM youth group at St. Francis (or a youth home, pending kitchen inspection passage)

### • March 29 @ 5:00-7:00 PM volunteer at Welcome Table Wednesdays

### • April 6-7 Maundy Thursday Carwash and Lock-In

Overnight Lock-In at St. Francis after our neighborhood car wash at Padonia International Elementary School. More details TBA.

### • April 16 @ 6:00-8:00 PM youth group at St. Francis

### • April 21-23 Diocesan Middle School Retreat \*

New Beginnings is an annual retreat weekend at Camp Wright in Stevensville, MD, dedicated to youth working through the transitions of middle school with peer minister talks, skits, and small group discussions. Cost is \$75. Register now!



Visit [www.episcopalmarylandyouth.weebly.com](http://www.episcopalmarylandyouth.weebly.com).

Choose "Events" and scroll down to "New Beginnings #10".

### • May 10 @ 6:00-8:00 PM youth group at St. Francis

### • May 21 @ 6:00-8:00 PM youth group at St. Francis

### • May 31 @ 5:00-7:00 PM volunteer at Welcome Table Wednesdays

\*Scholarships available

## Family

### • 3/19 St. Patrick's Party for All Ages @ 11:00 AM

Come and enjoy holiday-themed fellowship time after worship.

### • 3/12, 4/2, & 5/7 Priest on the Playground after 10:00 AM Worship

Parents! This is your chance to meet with Sara for "office hours" of sorts. Drop in, ask questions about events coming up, discuss concerns for you or your child(ren), get connected to each other, and more!

### • 5/28 Pentecost Party after 10:00 AM worship