

NEWSLETTER

The Crucifer

Freedom through Connection is so much more than our annual theme.

From the very beginning, Jesus let it be known that his *mission* was to set people free, and his *means* was connection.

The first thing Jesus did, when it came time for him to begin his earthly ministry, was to begin going from town to town in the region of Galilee. *Why?* In his own words to his disciples, he was “fishing for people,” gathering them, connecting them.

While in one of those small Galilean towns, he explained why more explicitly, using the words of Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for I have been anointed to bring good news to the poor, *freedom* to the captives, sight to the blind (more freedom), *freedom* to the oppressed, to announce the year of the Lord’s favor.” The “year of the Lord’s favor” is a reference to the Year of Jubilee, from Leviticus. This was the year when all slaves were to be set free, all debts forgiven, all land returned to owners, and everyone would have a clean start. Freedom of all kinds, for all people. *That* was his mission.

Freedom was his mission, and the way he worked to accomplish it was to go from village to village connecting God’s people with God, with each other, and with themselves (their true identity). Even when he healed and forgave sins, he was enabling people to reconnect with their community who once had shunned away from them.

Freedom was his mission. **Connection** was his means. More specifically, now, *our* freedom is his mission. And, therefore, *our* connection is the true and lasting means of his church – connection to God, neighbor, and self.

Tremendously simple. Tremendously true. But allow me to flesh this out a little more.

Why would God want to bring more freedom to our lives? Well, the symptoms of his freedom tend to be inner peace, inner strength, fulfillment, courage, joy, hope, love, and the like. Is there *really* even a question here? God knows what we need, and God cares. In fact, if he does indeed care about us at all, then how could God *not* want to give us freedom?

And connection really is, in fact, his way of bring it to us. If you do not believe the teachings of our faith on this; or your own experience of how you are set free by



connection with God, neighbor, and self; then consider the science. The longest, most in-depth study of human happiness and health in the history of the world was started over 80 years ago at Harvard University and is still going today. It is truly a remarkable work of science that literally involves studying the lives of thousands of people for over eight decades.

And what did all of this effort, study, and science find? Well, simply put, it found that Jesus really knew what he was doing. It proved for the world that, overwhelmingly, the most important thing a human being needs to live a *blessed*, healthy, and happy life, the thing that is clearly the most accurate indicator of whether someone will have a “good” life is... (drum roll) ...connection! Relationship.

Because God loves us, he sent his son to set us free – free of the consequences of sin and of all things that *disconnect* us from himself, each other, and our true identities. And just as Jesus did when he began his earthly ministry, he continues to call his church to do forever.

Freedom through Connection—connection to God, neighbor, and self. It is not just our annual theme. It is God’s rescue mission, and it is our life together! **My hope and prayer** is that you will take a few minutes to discuss the ideas behind *Freedom through Connection* with those you love, and that you will decide to deliberately prioritize connection in your life this year. I also hope you will allow us to be a part of it!

In 2023, we will connect with God, self, and neighbor in renewed and awesome ways — weekly worship; group studies of bible & theology; prayer (i.e. our new Centering Prayer Group); mission opportunities like Guatemala; monthly churchwide fellowship events like the Progressive Dinner & the Kite Day at the Beach; monthly *musical* events; a new men’s fellowship group; an inaugural *Arts and Crafts Festival*; a 2024 trip to Israel, and all sorts of other connection opportunities.

Freedom through Connection! It is way more than our annual theme; it is our calling and joyful permission to join together to create a good, healthy, blessed living for ourselves and for as many others as we can. It is fishing season, and we are pumped about 2023 at Holy Cross! How about you?

Rob+

Sunday Worship

8:00am – In Person Worship & Live Stream
10:30am – In Person Worship & Live Stream

Sunday Classes

9:30 am - EYC Sunday School
9:30am - Nursery
9:35am - Contemporary Explore - Curtis Entrekin
9:35am - Women's Studies - Melodie Rowland
9:35am - Traditional Exploration - Tom Bossa

Wednesday Nights

5:30pm - Church Dinner
6:00pm - Nursery
6:15pm - Adult Class
6:15pm - Youth Group - EYC
6:15pm - Children's Ministry - Sea Stars



2023

1 SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 <i>Centering Prayer</i>	3	4
				12:00pm - Centering Prayer 6:00pm - ACA Group 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal		9:00am - 12:30pm: Library Open 10:00am - Prayer Shawl Ministry
5 <i>Cello Recital</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Progressive Dinner Brotherhood of St. Andrew</i>
WORSHIP & CLASSES: See Above 9:00am - Delicious Breakfast 9:15am - 12:15 pm: Library Open 11:45am ... Coffee & Treats 3:30pm - Volleyball 5:00pm - Cello Recital	4:00pm - Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club) 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - ACA Group	6:15pm - AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm Wednesday Dinners **Wednesday Night Supper & Classes **Details above* Confirmation	12:00pm - Centering Prayer 6:00pm - ACA Group 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal		8:00am - Brotherhood of St. Andrew 9:00am - Daughters of the King 9:00am - 12:30pm: Library Open 11:00am - We Care 5:30pm - Progressive Dinner
12 <i>Baptism of Julian Iversen</i>	13	14	15	16 <i>ECW Dinner</i>	17	18 <i>ECW Card Making</i>
CLASSES: See Above 9:00am - Delicious Breakfast 9:15am - 12:15 pm: Library Open 10:30am - Baptism of Julian Iversen 11:45am ... Coffee & Treats 3:30pm - Volleyball 5:30pm - Youth Superbowl Party	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - ACA Group	6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Compassionate Friends	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm Wednesday Dinners **Wednesday Night Supper & Classes **Details above* Confirmation	12:00pm - Centering Prayer 5:00pm - Handbells 5:30pm - ECW Dinner - Council on Aging 6:00pm - ACA Group 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal		8:00am Church Grounds Workday 9:00am - 12:30pm: Library Open 10:00am - ECW: Iris Fold Cardmaking
19 <i>Blood Drive</i>	20	21 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i>	22.... <i>Ash Wednesday.</i>	23	24	25
CLASSES: See Above 9:00am - Delicious Breakfast 8:30am - Blood Drive 9:15am - 12:15 pm: Library Open 11:45am ... Coffee & Treats 3:30pm - Volleyball	4:00pm - Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club) 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - ACA Group	5:30pm - Pancake Dinner 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Compassionate Friends	12:00pm - Imposition of Ashes 6:00pm - Imposition of Ashes (full service) No Church Dinner or classes 9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open	12:00pm - Centering Prayer 5:00pm - Handbells 6:00pm - Vestry Meeting 6:00pm - ACA Group 6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal		9:00am - 12:30pm: Library Open 11:00am - We Care
26	27	28				
WORSHIP & CLASSES: See Above 9:00am - Delicious Breakfast 9:15am - 12:15 pm: Library Open 11:45am ... Coffee & Treats 3:30pm - Volleyball	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - ACA Group	6:15pm - AA				Please Note: The calendar is subject to change at ANY TIME to fit the needs of the Church. For updates, please see our website, www.holycrosspensacola.org .

OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



MARDI GRAS

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Saturday, February 11th

Beginning in Lanier hall at 5:30pm.
A traveling dinner party with new and old friends! Don't miss it! Childcare available.

Sign up in the Narthex

Iris Fold Cardmaking

Saturday, February 18th
10:00am - 11:30am
in Lanier Hall



Hosted By
Holy Cross Episcopal Church Women

LADIES, Join us for some crafting fun and fellowship! Pat Schramm and Benita Cabrera will teach us the art of IRIS FOLD CARDMAKING! Bring a friend!!

Cost of materials is \$10.00

SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Dinner

February 21st
5:30pm
to
6:30pm



Donations for the Youth Group will be accepted.

Jesus is Lord
The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Inc.

Gentlemen of Holy Cross:

You are invited to the next meeting of
The Brotherhood of St Andrew on
Saturday, February 11th @ 8:00am

Along with breakfast and a Bible study, our guest speaker, Dr. Henry Roberts will share with us the work being done by Bright Bridge, a local ministry dedicated to feeding and housing the homeless. Bright Bridge volunteers serve meals to hundreds of people each day, and they need our help. Dr. Roberts will share with us ways that we can participate in the program.

Bright Bridge MINISTRIES

Please join us.
Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.



WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS 12-12:40P
IN THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Centering Prayer



Explore the power of contemplative practice
as we collectively seek God's presence.

12p Information and Guidance
12:20 Prayer Begins

Holy Cross Episcopal Church Women
invites you to

A Not for Women Only Dinner

When & Where: Thursday, February 16th @ 5:30pm in Lanier Hall
Menu Choices: Fried Chicken or Caesar Salad w/Chicken



Our guest speaker, Emily Echevarria, Marketing Communication Director for the Council on Aging will share the Council's available resources with us.

RSVP via the signup sheet in the narthex or email Lorrie Wilkinson at lorriewilk@cox.net. Be sure to include your food choice.

All donations collected will given to the Senior Chill Out




February 22nd

Service Times

12:00pm Imposition of Ashes
*6:00pm Imposition of Ashes
*(full service)

DONATE BLOOD

YOU HAVE GREATER POWERS THAN YOU KNOW.



Holy Cross Episcopal Church
Sunday, February 19, 2023
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM



February Birthdays

- 02 - Maria Bradley
- 03 - Kathy Steenland
- 05 - Rick Hardcastle
- 05 - Pam James
- 07 - Caiti Bollette
- 07 - Aileen White
- 07 - Gene Press
- 08 - Jerry Robbirds
- 10 - Ben Boyer
- 12 - Zach Dake
- 12 - Jerry Stoner
- 14 - Johnny Armstrong
- 14 - Israel Entrekim
- 14 - Jerry Holzworth
- 14 - Ed Hume
- 14 - Ann Jewett
- 18 - Michael Bellucci
- 19 - Rachel Holder
- 19 - Nate Winn
- 20 - Tom Bossa
- 20 - Frank Calhoun
- 20 - Manuel Kimmons
- 20 - Jemison Mims
- 21 - John Holder
- 25 - Isabelle Peterson
- 26 - Fr. Rob Dixon
- 27 - Ronda Hutchison
- 27 - Diane Rickman-Buckalew



February Anniversaries

- 06 - Michael & April Schantz
13 Years
- 08 - Steve & Camille Lukow
20 Years!
- 19 - Jeffrey & Amy Simpler
12 Years!

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7979 N. 9th Avenue
Pensacola, FL 32514
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US POSTAGE
PAID NO. 400
PENSACOLA, FL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.holycrosspensacola.org

www.facebook.com/HolyCrossEpiscopalPensacola

**Total Number of
People Served
YTD: 727**

Holy Cross Food Pantry 2023



	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
Age 0-18	230											
Repeat Recipients	169											
Age 60+	265											
Number in Household	727											

Axis Title