ST. MARGARET'S
ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CENTER

October – December 2026

Community • Service • Stillness

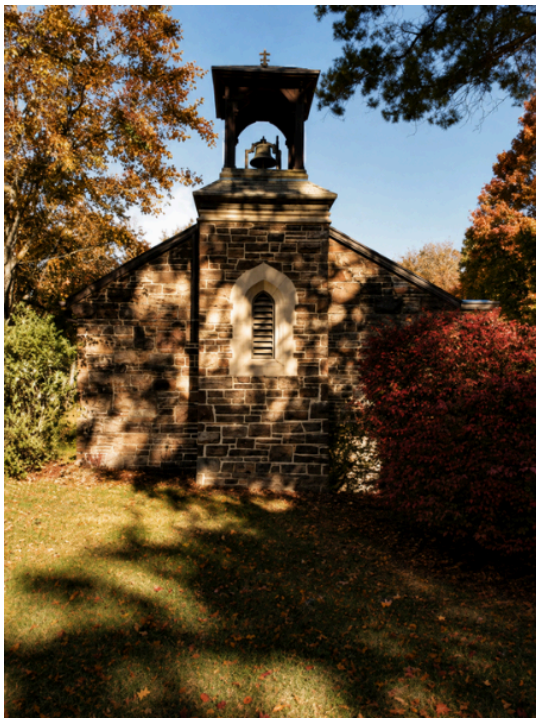


Inside: Worship and Fellowship • Community Service • Advent and Christmas • Emmaus House Support

October to December at a Glance

OCTOBER

- 5 Movie of the Month, 2 PM
- 12 Bag-Making Workshop, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
- 13 Book Club, 10 AM
- 17 Outdoor Work Day, 10 AM – 2 PM
- 21 Boscov's Friends Helping Friends



NOVEMBER

- 4 Preparing Our Hearts for Advent, 1:30 – 2:30 PM
- 9 Movie of the Month, 2 PM
- 10 Book Club, 10 AM
- 23 Decorate St. Margaret's for the holidays, 9:30 AM

DECEMBER

- 3 Christmas Concert, 1:30 PM
- 7 "Be Still and Know" Quiet Day, 9 AM – 2 PM
- 14 Movie of the Month, 2 PM
- 15 Book Club, 10 AM

Weekly Activities

- Tuesdays, 8 – 4 PM — Quiet Space Available for Clergy in the Library
- Tuesdays, 2 – 4 PM — It Takes A Village at the St. Margaret's Food Pantry
- Wednesdays, 11:45 AM — Holy Eucharist
- Wednesdays, 12:30 PM — Lunch; Call or email to make a reservation; $15

Monthly Activities

- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30 AM — Men's Group with Father Nick Smith
- 2nd Wednesdays, 10 AM — Friends of Emmaus House
- 3rd Mondays, 2 PM — Caregiving Support Group
- 3rd Fridays, Noon — Grief Support Group
- 4th Mondays, 6 PM — Grief Support Group for Loss by Suicide
- 4th Wednesdays, 1:30 PM — Conversations with Rev. Deacon Jean

- Monthly Dinners — Please make a reservation a week in advance; $19
  Dine-In at 5:30 PM, Take Out at 6 PM

September 15	Pork Roast & Mashed Potatoes
October 20	Gołąbki
November 17	Chicken Riggies

All Welcome!

Dear friends,

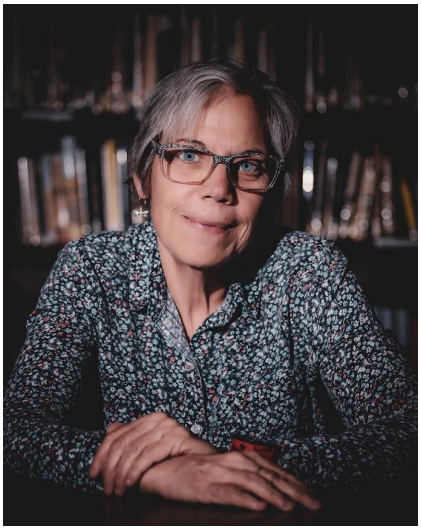
Did you blink? I must have, because I cannot believe we're already at the onset of autumn. I'm not really sure where our summer went, but we'll just have to trust that we experienced it and enjoyed it for what it was. Now, we move into our next season.

This is a season of change for us here at St. Margaret's. Father John is stepping down from the chaplaincy after serving us in that capacity with loving kindness. I'm hopeful that he'll now have a little extra time to devote to his love of ham radio and photography. I also hope that he'll join us for other programs—with a good book in one hand and a cup of hot coffee in the other.

Fr. John was so kind to step in when the Rev. Elizabeth became ill and later passed away. Together, I believe, we helped one another heal. Thank you, Fr. John, for pouring your love for God and his Church into us and for sharing your whole self with us—especially your humor. Oh, how I love your laugh!

So, what—or who—is next, you ask? Well, this is kind of exciting! Fr. Nick has been working behind the scenes for several months to gather clergy who will share their passion for and love of Christ with all of us. Psst…if **YOU** are a member of the clergy reading this, **YOU** are welcome, too! Please contact either Fr. Nick Smith or me. Thanks!

These clergy members will take turns presiding at our weekly services, with their schedules coordinated in advance. All you need to do is check our newsletter for upcoming events, plan to attend Holy Eucharist on Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m., and, of course, sign up for lunch if you're planning to come. Oh, and continue being the welcoming folks you always are!



Additional musicians and altar guild members are also welcome—we can't do this without you.

By the time this edition comes out, I'll already be working to compile the next one. Got an idea for a great program? Come see me! We'll have coffee, because everyone loves a caffeinated Judy!

As the season changes and the leaves begin to fall, come see us. There's a place for you here at St. Margaret's.

Wishing you peace,

Judy

For more information, to register, volunteer, reserve a space, or discuss donations
please call (315) 724-2324 or email info@stmargaretshouseny.org

Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM
St. Margaret's is closed November 26 – 27 and December 24 – January 1

Care, Conversation & Community

Support & Fellowship



Men's Group | 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30 AM
A time of fellowship and exploration with Father Nick Smith, beginning with the question, "What is saving your life today?"

Caregiving Support Group | 3rd Mondays at 2 PM
Facilitated by the Rev. Deacon Barbara Groves, this group offers a place to receive support and exchange ideas for caring for loved ones.

Grief Support Group | 3rd Fridays at Noon
A peer-facilitated gathering for anyone experiencing loss. New members welcome.

Conversations with Rev. Deacon Jean | 4th Wednesdays at 1:30 PM
Join the Rev. Deacon Jean Skinner for conversation about faith. Donations of a few cans of food for the pantry are always appreciated.

Grief Support Group for Loss by Suicide | 4th Mondays at 6 PM
Starting in September, this facilitated group's focus will be to provide support for anyone experiencing loss due to suicide. For questions, please call Sandy Gaetano (315) 733-2539.

Volunteer & Donation Opportunities



It Takes A Village | Tuesdays from 2 to 4 PM
Our social action initiative volunteers at the St. Margaret's Food Pantry at Grace Episcopal Church. Please contact us to volunteer for one or more Tuesdays.

Food Pantry Donations | Ongoing
We welcome toiletries, coffee, reusable bags, and shelf-stable foods such as cereal, pasta, rice, dressing, canned goods, and peanut butter. Grocery gift cards are also appreciated.



Friends of Emmaus House | 2nd Wednesdays at 10 AM
This group meets monthly to identify needs, plan outreach and fundraisers, and support the women and children staying at Emmaus House.

Helping Hands at St. Margaret's | Ongoing
Volunteers are needed for projects in the library and gardens, assistance with events, and the Altar Society for Wednesday Holy Eucharist.

Service & Community

Bag-Making Workshop with Deb Skinner

Monday, October 12 from 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM | Register by October 5

Join us for a joyful day of community sewing as we make bags for women at Emmaus House to carry personal-care products. Deb Skinner will lead this beginner-friendly project step by step. Sewers should bring a machine in good working order and basic sewing supplies; bag materials will be provided in a kit. Non-sewers may sign up to cut fabric or iron. Please register early so kits can be prepared. Bring lunch or money if the group orders out.



Outdoor Work Day

Saturday, October 17 from 10 AM – 2 PM | RSVP by October 12

Help prepare the grounds for the changing season. All experience levels are welcome, and tasks will be matched to volunteers and the weather. Dress for outdoor work. A pizza or sub lunch will be provided.



Boscov's Friends Helping Friends

Wednesday, October 21 | Passes available at St. Margaret's

Support St. Margaret's House and Emmaus House through Boscov's Friends Helping Friends. A $5 donation provides a 25% off shopping pass. Pick up passes at St. Margaret's and share them with family and friends. You can also stop by our table at Boscov's to say hi on the day!

Help Us Decorate for the Holidays

Monday, November 23 at 9:30 AM

Join us as we prepare St. Margaret's for Advent and Christmas. Help unpack and arrange decorations and enjoy some fellowship along the way. No decorating experience is needed!



Support Emmaus House

Monetary Donations: Give by mail or through **stmargaretshouseny.org**. Please make checks payable to "St. Margaret's" and write "Emmaus House" on the memo line of designated checks. Donations are tax-deductible.

Donations in Kind: Current needs include New Home Welcome Kits, hygiene products, clothing, household goods, towels, shower shoes, slippers, laundry baskets, underwear, and pajamas for all ages and genders. *Please call with questions about current needs.*

Holiday Donations: Items may be dropped off at St. Margaret's or Emmaus House three to four days before each holiday. Grocery-store gift cards appreciated.

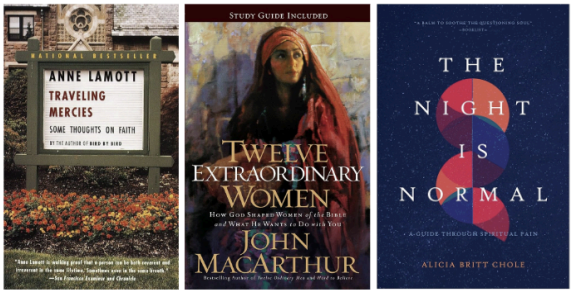
Thanksgiving: Turkeys, potatoes, stuffing, gravy, carrots, and other meal fixings

Christmas: Stocking stuffers for all ages, gift cards, wrapping paper, tape, and meal fixings

New Year's Eve & Day: Cookies, cakes, drinks, party supplies, and meal fixings

Learning & Fellowship

Book Club with Judy at 10 AM | Library



Tuesday, October 13 – *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* by Anne Lamott
Tuesday, November 10 – *Twelve Extraordinary Women* by John MacArthur
Tuesday, December 15 – *The Night Is Normal* by Alicia Britt Chole

Please register one week before each session. Feel free to bring a snack to share!

Movie of the Month

Mondays, October 5, November 9, and December 14 at 2 PM
Gather for an afternoon film and conversation. The movie selections will be announced before each showing.

Make Space to Retreat

Personal & Group Retreats • Day Use & Overnight Stays

Looking for a quiet place to step away, reflect, or gather with others? St. Margaret's **welcomes day visitors during regular weekday hours**, as well as individuals and groups for planned meetings, day retreats, or overnight stays. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the house and grounds, including the library, chapel, quiet sitting areas, patio, and path to the Wayside Cross.

For those who would like a longer time away, personal retreats are unguided and offer guests the opportunity to rest, reflect, and reconnect at their own pace. Overnight accommodations and space for group retreats are also available.

Come spend an hour, a day, or a few days with us. Contact us to learn more about visiting St. Margaret's or about meeting spaces, accommodations, availability, and scheduling.



Living Room	Library	Great Room	The Chapel	Dining Room
Capacity: 12 P	Capacity: 10 P at table; 25 P in room	Capacity: 50 P	Capacity: 60 P	Capacity: 40 P

For more information or to reserve a space: (315) 724-2324 • info@stmargaretshouseny.org
Business Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 AM–4 PM

Advent & Christmas at St. Margaret's

Preparing Our Hearts for Advent with the Rev. Janet Stengel

Wednesday, November 4 from 1:30 to 2:30 PM

Before the season becomes crowded with errands and expectations, take time to consider how we can focus on Advent rather than the "busyness" of the holidays. This gathering will offer reflection and practical ways to make room for prayer, attention, and hope.

"Be Still and Know That I Am God" – Advent Quiet Day with the Rev. Deacon Barbara Groves

Monday, December 7 from 9 AM – 2 PM

A quiet, spiritually oriented day to help us pause and recharge for the holidays. The day will offer time for prayer, reflection, reading, journaling, and quiet use of the house and grounds, along with gentle opportunities to gather. Come for the full day and give yourself room to rest in God's presence. The $20 fee includes lunch. Please register by November 30.

Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 3 at 1:30 PM

Join us for an afternoon of seasonal music, fellowship, and Christmas joy at St. Margaret's. Refreshments and time for conversation will follow. All are welcome.

✨ *Peace for the Season & Hope for the New Year* ✨

May this season bring you peace, belonging, and renewed hope.

With appreciation for all who make our community so special,
The Staff of St. Margaret's & Emmaus House



Scenes from a St. Margaret's Christmas Concert Past

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info@stmargaretshouseny.org