



August 10, 2023

Dear St. Thomas' families,

We are excited to announce a new offering this fall, *Learning Faith through Harry Potter*. There will be two classes each for "first years" (grades 1-5) and "fifth years" (grades 6-12). The first class will be on Sept. 24th at 10am for grades 1-5 (library) and at 9am for grades 6-12 (founder's room).

Harry Potter is not a Christian allegory like C.S. Lewis' *Narnia* series, but many of the themes resonate with our faith. For example, Harry, Ron, and Hermione's loyal friendship helps them overcome adversity. Their experience reminds us that our loving relationships with family, friends, and God enable us to do things we could not do on our own. God promises to be faithful to us always.

First year students will listen to parts of the first book, *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone*. Fifth years will watch excerpts of the movies. In the book (not in the movies), Harry wore a leather "pouch of hope" around his neck over his heart with things for which he felt grateful. Kids will personalize their own pouches in the first class on Sept. 24th, then will bring something back in the pouch from home to share in the second class on Oct. 29th.


We hope that through class meetings and overnight trip to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal, Nov. 10-11, we will get to know each other better and begin to look for signs of God's loving presence in the world.

More details about the trip and a list of things to bring will arrive in weeks to come. I have a set of books and DVDs, if you would like to borrow them. Please reach out to me anytime with questions or if you would like to chaperone.

Faithfully yours,

Mother Anne

The Rev. Anne Hartley
Curate, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Visiting Chaplain, Hogwarts

St. 
Thomas'
Episcopal Church