

*Late Fall, Advent, 2021*

# The Network



***St. James' Episcopal Church***

2584 Main Street, P.O. Box 206, Glastonbury, CT

## Service Schedule

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Rite II Holy Eucharist <i>in church and streaming live on our YouTube Channel</i>
	10:30	Morning Prayer (ZOOM)
<b>Wednesdays</b>	9:00 am	Morning Devotions <i>Facebook Live, ZOOM</i>

*COVID Infection rates may impact service times and locations. Please watch the weekly e-blast for the most updated information.*

## Service Schedule for *Christmas Eve, Christmas Day*

<i>Christmas Eve</i>	4:00 pm	Rite II Holy Eucharist <i>in the church</i>
	8:00 pm	Rite II Holy Eucharist <i>in the church</i>
<i>You will need to Sign-Up to reserve a seat for either Christmas Eve service. Watch the weekly e-blast for details.</i>		
<i>Christmas Day</i>	9:00 am	<i>Saturday, December 25 on ZOOM, YouTube</i>

## *St. James' Vision*

*We are a Christian community committed to our individual faith journeys through learning, sharing and listening to God and one another. We live this faith through hospitality and acceptance, challenging ourselves and one another to join God in God's mission in our neighborhoods and the world.*

# Rector's Ramblings

"Advent is just around the corner" was the phrase the Office Administrator at Trinity Branford used say to indicate how fast time was going by and we needed to start planning for something. It was funny when she said it in April but not so funny when she was reminding us of that in October and we hadn't started thinking about Advent yet. Time does fly and I don't know about you but this year seems to be speeding by even more quickly than most. What happened to October?

I do feel good about our planning for Advent this year. I wisely took part in a workshop this summer called Reimagining Advent offered by Virginia Theological Seminary (my alma mater). It was a combination of thinking about doing things outdoors, at home, on Zoom, and in person, taking into account all the possibilities December might present to us. And so, I feel we are in pretty good shape for Advent with some new and reimagined ways of living into Advent. If you read on in the Network, you will see our offerings and I hope you will engage with as many as you can. Try to make the season Advent special as it is often lost in the rush and hectic time of Christmas that begins earlier and earlier in our culture.

It is also that time of year when Churches turn to their annual Stewardship Campaigns and St. James' is no exception. This year our campaign focuses on Every Perfect Gift given to us from God - how we respond to these gifts and how we use them. We at St. James' Church have been blessed with an abundance of gifts- those of time, talent and treasure. The blessing of time, the time people give to the various ministries they feel called to – Carol's Closet, Becoming a Blessed Community, Choir, The Knitting Ministry, Glastonbury Links Together, Refugee Sponsorship, Vestry, Sunday School, Youth Groups, and so many others. The blessing of talent used to create all kinds of beautiful hats, shawls, blankets, scarves, mittens sent to people near and far. Talent used to create music with our voices. Talent used to create clever letters that inspire people to give of their treasure and to create new opportunities for learning, growing, and worshiping. We use our talents in countless ways to share in and grow the Kingdom of God here in Glastonbury.



And God's blessing of treasure, treasure that is given to us for our use. Treasure given to support the ministries God has invited us to join God in right here and now. We have been blessed with gifts that let us dream of how we can fulfill the mission and ministries unique to us, our time, and place. That is what the stewardship campaign that focuses on our treasure invites us into: imagining who God is calling us to be, what God is inviting us to join in next, and committing ourselves and our financial resources in a "yes" to God.

Time goes by so quickly and it is that time of year again, so please prayerfully consider your "yes" when you receive your stewardship letter. And, join us on November 21<sup>st</sup> when we bring our offerings before God and set them on the altar at St. James', an offering that will be pleasing in God's sight.

Peace,  
Denise+



Cora and Amelia Banker



*St. James' is assisting with*

***Resettlement of Refugees from Afghanistan***

St. James' **Faith in Action** team is very excited to be joining with several other faith communities and organizations from Glastonbury and nearby towns to form a *Co-Sponsorship group* to resettle a family who has been recently evacuated from Afghanistan. The apartment we have for them is located in Manchester, so we will be working on settling them there.

As you can imagine, this effort will require many volunteers. We will need to help them with everything from getting settled in their apartment to finding jobs, helping kids enroll in schools, help with finding English classes, getting to medical appointments, and so much more.

*Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS)* is the organization that we are working with. They provide all of the informational resources and training to help us prepare and get ready. Once we are a little further along, we will complete our application and once we are approved, will continue preparing until we are ready to take the family within 48 hours. At the point that we are ready, we will let IRIS know and we will then be assigned our family.

If you would like to help with this initiative, you will be required to attend the IRIS training. It is 3 evenings (2 hours each) on Zoom. The next training is in mid-November. St. James' has joined in with the folks from following communities to form a Co-Sponsorship group that we are temporarily calling the "Glastonbury/Manchester Group" (a better name is TBD):

(St. James' Episcopal Church-Glastonbury)  
SS Isidore & Maria Roman Catholic Church, Glastonbury  
Kol Haverim, Glastonbury  
Buckingham Congregational Church, Glastonbury  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron  
East Hartford Rotary Club  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Hartford  
Avery Street Christian Reform Church, Vernon  
Several non-affiliated individuals  
Several individuals from St. John's Episcopal Church- Vernon are likely joining under the St. James' umbrella.

If you have any questions, please reach out to either Lisa Gleason at [gleasonlisa3@gmail.com](mailto:gleasonlisa3@gmail.com) or Cheryl Turner at [jacquesapn@cox.net](mailto:jacquesapn@cox.net).



November 7<sup>th</sup> Sermon by Fred Faulkner

## “Help Feed The Hungry” Ministry

For many years, St. James’ parishioners have supported a two-part program supplying food to many of our less-fortunate neighbors in Glastonbury and Hartford. One aspect, in which all of us can participate directly, is the *collection of non-perishable food items*. When you come to church, you can deposit your contributions into the baskets in the foyer – on the left, just before you enter the sanctuary. Prior to the COVID disruptions, these donations were taken weekly to the Glastonbury Food Bank or the MANNA food pantry in Hartford on an alternating schedule. The Glastonbury operation has been suspended temporarily, but MANNA has continued in service. MANNA is a program of Hands On Hartford, which was founded 52 years ago by eight downtown-Hartford congregations to serve Hartford’s needy folk. **Hands on Hartford** provides many other services relating to food, housing and health. You can learn more at [handsonhartford.org](http://handsonhartford.org).

The other aspect of this ministry involves the Panera Bread bakery in Glastonbury. Each Sunday evening, the Glastonbury Panera bakery donates its surplus bread products (Panera refers to them as “Dough Nations<sup>®</sup>”), which are delivered to Hartford each Monday by our loyal volunteers (Blakeley and Rick Crevoiserat, Mike Berdan, Debbie and John O’Donnell, David Buddington). We would welcome another delivery volunteer, especially to give us more options during the summer. *Bread is picked up at Panera at 8:00 p.m. Sunday and delivered to MANNA on Monday.* For more information, **contact David Buddington at 860-633-1991.**



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Join us for a non-denominational in-person service featuring prayers and music of Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales. Christianity flourished throughout the British Isles for many centuries emphasizing a sense of God's nearness and the love of creation (nature) as God's gift. This Vesper service, steeped in tradition, invites one to enter into a place of quiet, prayer and reflection, and offers an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance.

**Music by Wild Notes** (pre-recorded performances)  
*Harp, concertina & accordion, fiddle, flute, recorder & whistle*

**We invite you and your family and friends to join us as  
we seek  
a sense of wholeness and peace in these challenging  
times.**



## Building a Beloved Community team at St. James'

*Dr. King's Beloved Community is a global vision in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth. In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood.*

<https://thekingcenter.org/about-tkc/the-king-philosophy/>

At St. James', the mission and vision of the Building a Beloved Community team is to practice God's way of love as we seek to transform the culture of racism, hatred, and violence so that all people are treated with justice, respect, compassion and kindness. We hope to create real change through reconciliation, justice and healing in our individual lives, faith community, and our relationships with all others, right here in Glastonbury and beyond.

The team is planning to offer the ***Sacred Ground*** series at St. James' beginning January 29 and meeting weekly through March 31 (Epiphany-Lent). ***Sacred Ground*** is a "film- and readings-based dialogue 10-part series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people."

[www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/)

Hiking with St. James, November 7







## ECCT Annual Convention

The 237th annual convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut took place on Saturday, **October 23<sup>rd</sup>** via Zoom. The Reverend Denise Cabana and St. James' lay delegates, Caryl Donovan and Becky Lee were in attendance as we gathered virtually at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. This was Bishop Douglas' last time to serve as Bishop Diocesan in convention as we prepare to elect a new bishop this spring. Highlights included the worship service, the annual Bishop's Address, beautiful musical and liturgical dance and a tour of the wonderful new space at the Cathedral. Joyfully, two Intentional Episcopal Communities were recognized. Legislatively, we voted and approved 7 resolutions. Recorded portions of the convention can be viewed on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) by entering a search for "Legislative, ECCT annual Convention, 2021." Thank you for the opportunity to serve as St. James' lay delegates.

Becky Lee, Caryl Donovan

The ***Glastonbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Service*** will be held on the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week, **November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00** at **Kol Haverim**. The service will be a hybrid service of both zoom and in-person. A collection will be taken to benefit *Glastonbury Links Together* efforts to support the Food Pantry. Please join us!

## Advent at St. James'

**Christmas Caroling and hot chocolate around fire pits.**

December 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30 on the Front Lawn of the Church

### Jesse Trees

Jesse Trees are a very old Christmas Tradition and first started in medieval times. They are used to help tell the story of the Bible from creation to the Christmas Story. The Tree of Jesse is a depiction in art of the ancestors of [Jesus Christ](#), shown in a branching tree that rises from [Jesse](#) of [Bethlehem](#), the father of [King David](#). It is the original use of the [family tree](#) as a graphic representation of a [genealogy](#).

For years, we have had a Jesse Tree in our Church. Each week during Advent, our Sunday School Children would learn about one of the Bible Stories leading up to the birth of Jesus and an ornament would be used to depict that story. The children would then come into church at The Peace and place their ornaments on the tree. After The Peace, one of the children would tell the Congregation what the ornament represented.

This year we are expanding our Jesse Tree experience. Because due to Covid not many of our children are in church on Sundays, we are going to have each family create an ornament that Mitch Chester will then pick up and bring to church for our church tree each week. We will also all have the opportunity to create our own Jesse Trees at home. **On Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** you can pick up a "tree" and all you need to create your weekly ornaments. Each week you can then decorate your tree. **If you are interested in creating your own Jesse Tree at home, please email either Denise [rector@stjamesgl.org](mailto:rector@stjamesgl.org) or Jodi at [parishadmin@stjamesgl.org](mailto:parishadmin@stjamesgl.org) by November 16<sup>th</sup> to sign up so we are sure to have enough supplies for all.**

Then, **the week of December 19<sup>th</sup>** we invite you to bring your Jesse Tree to church to be part of our Christmas decorations. You can also bring it Christmas Eve.



## *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis

In this book, Lewis reveals the gospel message of Christianity through the conflict between good and evil, the presence of sin, and the power of overcoming it.

**Beginning on November 29<sup>th</sup>**, and for 17 days during Advent (there are 17 Chapters), you can hear members of our St. James' community read a chapter of this story on both our YouTube Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa\\_CMV\\_a7oVHxZA1h75od8Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa_CMV_a7oVHxZA1h75od8Q) and Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/StJamesGlastonbury>

## Story Board Series

Come explore Advent through a series of children's stories designed to help you enter into each week's Gospel reading in a new way. The stories might be simple, but the messages are deep. Each week, a walk around either the St. James grounds or the grounds at the home of Elizabeth Wegner and Carl Benker will be set up with a story to walk and read and contemplate. The schedule is as follows and will also be in the Weekly eblast:

Sunday 11/28 – 12/4 – St. James' anytime

Sunday 12/5 – Wegner/Benker's 1:00-3:00 pm

55 Hickory Dr, South Glastonbury

Sunday 12/12 – 12/18 – St. James' anytime

Sunday 12/19 - Wegner/Benker's 1:00-3:00 pm

55 Hickory Dr, South Glastonbury

## Christmas Pageant

Keep an eye out for upcoming details in the weekly e-blast.

*Tyler Joseph Lukowski*

*We welcome the newly baptized...*



*and celebrate our sister Priscilla Maricle's life.*

*December 13, 1934 - November 1, 2021.*



# Contact Information

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## *The Episcopal Church in Connecticut*

[www.ctdiocese.org](http://www.ctdiocese.org)

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian T. Douglas, Diocesan Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

## *St. James' Clergy*

The Rev. Denise Cabana, *Rector*  
The Rev. Don Hamer, *Priest Associate*

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## *Vestry*

Debbie O'Donnell, Senior Warden  
Mitch Chester, Junior Warden  
Bob Dugger, Treasurer  
Cheryl Turner, Clerk

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Office Hours: *Mondays - Thursdays, 9:00 am -2:00 pm, (in the church, email, telephone)*

*Pastoral Emergency: Call the church office (860-633-8333) and dial 4 any time during the message. Your call will be routed to the clergyperson on call.*