

Easter, 2021

The Network



St. James' Episcopal Church

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

Service Schedule

Sundays 9:00 am Rite II Holy Eucharist

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

9:00 am Morning Devotions

The 9:00 a.m. services are on the Internet through Zoom and Facebook Live platforms. Check the Wednesday e-blast for the site link and password information.

We look forward to more 11:15 a.m. services, outside, in the coming weeks, as our weather warms.

On Pentecost, May 23, we will resume in-church worship, in addition to the internet broadcast of the service at 9:00 am. Wear red!

(We are only able to broadcast services from inside the church at 9:00 am).

After we resume in-church services on May 23rd, "communion to go" will continue to be distributed by the Reverend Don Hamer in the parking lot after the 9:00 am service (approximately 10:15) for those participating in the service from home.

June 13 Our service will celebrate the Reverend Denise Cabana's return from her Sabbatical.

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.

How will Church be different?

By Senior Warden Debbie O'Donnell, April 30, 2021

Our St. James' community is moving to a new type of worship, doing church differently, beginning on Pentecost, May 23. We will continue to broadcast the worship service over the internet OR we welcome you to worship IN the church at 9:00 a.m. Our plans reflect our commitment to accommodate everyone in our community. It has been a long road and some think we have been too cautious, but now we're ready to jump in, with reasonable precautions. Many of us are fully vaccinated now; it is a great relief and does help us to feel safer. We ask that, for now, you still sign-up to attend the in-church service on an email form that comes from the church office.

I have listed below how our inside worship will be different. Many in our congregation have done the research and the planning over many hours and months to make worshipping inside our church building safe and inclusive; we give them our thanks. For the foreseeable future, after May 23rd, there will be only one inside service, at 9:00 a.m. (The technology we're using is new, somewhat complicated, and we are still learning how to use it!)

What to expect when you come into St. James' Church for worship:

Sign-up. When you come into the doors through the atrium, we'll take your temperature and check you off on the sign-up sheet. Although many of us are fully immunized, it is still unknown if we can pass along the infection. If one of us finds we have been in contact with an individual who tests positive for Covid-19, please call the office so that we can "contact trace" and let people know if they may have been exposed. Since Glastonbury is not in a "red" infection zone now, this is a lesser concern. But, many of us travel to other locations for work or otherwise. Signing up ahead of time also helps our plans for seating.

The 3 Ws : Our school-aged children are well-trained in the 3 Ws: ***Wear*** a mask, ***Watch*** your distance, and ***Wash*** your hands. We will follow their lead!

Wear a mask and your Name Tag. Your name tag allows the Rev. Don Hamer to make a connection to you and your families and to help us recognize each other with masks.

Watch your distance. The CDC reports that 3 feet has replaced the 6 feet distance recommendation. Our ushers and committee members are making adjustments to our inside seating plans.

Wash your hands. We have all gotten into better habits in the last year, but we will also have hand sanitizer available.

No bathroom restrictions. When we held outside services in the fall and on April 18th, we asked that bathrooms only be accessed for emergencies. This is NO longer the case. Please limit the amount of kids or adults in the bathroom at any given time.

No paper in the pew pockets. Although the CDC has now reported that *surface* transmission of COVID-19 infection particles is extremely rare, we have installed 9 monitors on the Nave columns that will display the service (just as your computer screen does at home). The Re-Opening Committee was diligent in solving this problem; initially, it was 3 monitors, but 9 monitors became the more practical choice to better display readable text of our service. No paper bulletins will be distributed on Sunday morning.

New Technology. Monitors, Cameras, and new Wi-Fi. The 2 new cameras enable us to broadcast our service from the church in order to include those in our congregation who want to participate from home. The monitors, admittedly, are a lot to get used to. The Vestry, Worship Committee and the Re-Opening Committee have agreed that we need to try them out, adjust them as needed, and consider if they enhance our worship. We look forward to Wi-Fi that works *throughout* our building.

Wear warm clothes or dress in layers. The windows and doors will be open so that we can move fresh air through the church. Why? When our facilities were examined, we found that there was no mechanism to circulate fresh air. We currently move warm air and cooled air in the summer, circulating it up from the basement air. The CDC and the Episcopal Church of Connecticut (ECCT) recommend that fresh air is needed in any space in use to move any possible infection respiratory droplets and aerosols out of the space. St. James' has committed to a new project to renovate our ventilation/air filtration systems. The current systems are old and minimally effective. It is costly, but will lead to healthier inside air. We plan for the new work to be completed before the cooler weather returns in the fall.

Follow the arrows/ movement patterns. We'll dismiss only one side of the church at a time for communion and at dismissal.

Communion is different. There is no "Common Cup" for now and no one consumes the wine (the *Blood of Christ*) in any form. The *Body of Christ* will be distributed by the Celebrant who will drop the packaged wafer into the open hands of the communicant, being careful not to touch those receiving Communion. *You'll leave the pews from the side aisles as directed by your ushers, walk up to the railing, receive the communion wafer and return to your seat down the center aisle.*

Coffee hour is back! We will open the doors and windows to the Atrium and ask you to keep your masks on and watch your 3 feet distance, but it's okay to socialize! Please move your longer conversations outside. Coffee and snacks will be served to you.

Church School is "in person" on May 23. Look for more specifics from the teachers. They will either meet outside or in the Parish Hall. Our school-aged children have been back at school for many months and are well-trained!

St. James' keeps moving forward



April 18th Outside!



Youth Group
project



Dressed up for
Easter morning
at the Perrelli
home

Tech wizard John Korber



Becoming the Beloved Community

This past fall, the 236th ECCT Annual Convention passed a resolution titled “Acknowledging & Confronting Systemic Racism, White Supremacy, & Anti-Black Bias.” Parts of the resolution call on each Worshipping Community/Parish to work to create inclusive environments within our Parish.

With the support of the vestry, I am excited to invite you to participate in this work by joining an intentional core group that will explore, develop, and act on specific ways that the St. James’ community can join together in sacred conversations to confront and dismantle racism, white supremacy, and anti-Black bias.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this group or would like to learn more, please contact Becky Lee, balee@cox.net, 860-659-8641 or 860-558-9223.

“Problems and dilemmas don't go away by ignoring them and pretending they are not there. They get engaged by facing them squarely and honestly and then learning from them and then turning and moving in a new direction.

History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be undone; but faced with courage, need not be lived again. That’s what we are doing by engaging racism. That’s what we're doing by listening with new ears, speaking with new lips. I think, by having the courage to have sacred conversations about things we sometimes don’t want to talk about. But sometimes – as in the Bible – when the demon is named it loses its power and we gain mastery over it.

Sacred conversations may help the demon of racism to lose some of its power and to set the children of God free.”

-Presiding Bishop Curry on Sacred Conversations and Racism, 2016
Trinity Institute

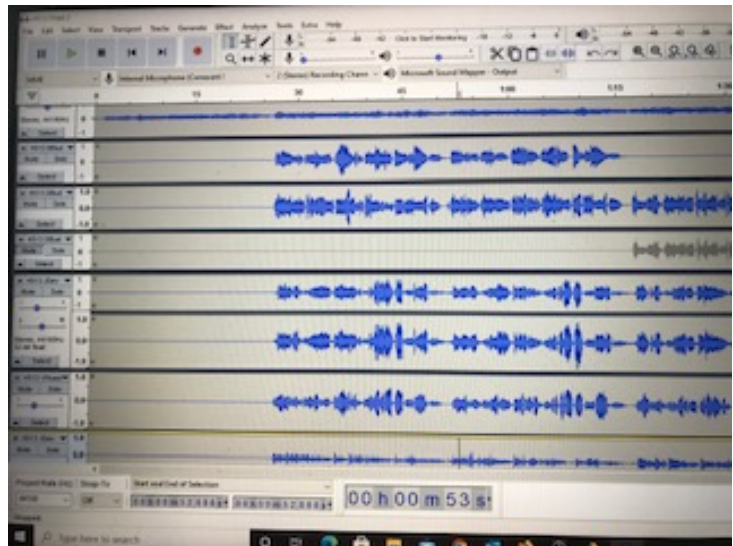
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mH0zyJDSn5U>

Music Notes

*Like the summer breezes
playing,
like the tall trees softly
swaying,
like the lips of silent praying
is the perfect peace of God.*

Michael A. Perry (1942-1996), from the hymn, Like a mighty river flowing

Music at St. James' continues during this time. During Lent a three-part Wednesday series, Compline and Celtic Vespers, offered prayer, hymns, and organ meditations. Musical selections are a regular part of our Sunday virtual service. I am grateful to the Adult Choir as they continue to record vocal tracks at home. To the right is hymn #513 in-progress showing some of the tracks that are merged to create the version you heard last weekend.



Re-opening of the church and relaxing of social distancing creates new possibilities for service music and choir rehearsals in the coming months. Singing together continues to present challenges, yet we will work through these to move us forward.

Jim Barry, Minister of Music





WALTER KELSO TURNS 100 YEARS YOUNG

One of our own Walter Kelso marked a major life milestone turning 100 on April 5th as he celebrated with friends, family and members of the community. The celebration began days prior with friends sending greeting cards, gifts and other tokens of remembrance to Walter, some from as far away as England. When asked how his birthday went, Walter replied "SPECTACULAR"! "My daughter and granddaughter visited from out-of-state, my son-in-law blew up 100 multi-colored balloons and decorated each room of the house, the East Hartford police and fire departments paraded past with 5 fire engines and 5 police cruisers sounding their sirens and horns, '100' was chalked on the road and everyone was joyful." Later that day Walter attended an outdoor deck party hosted by a dear friend.

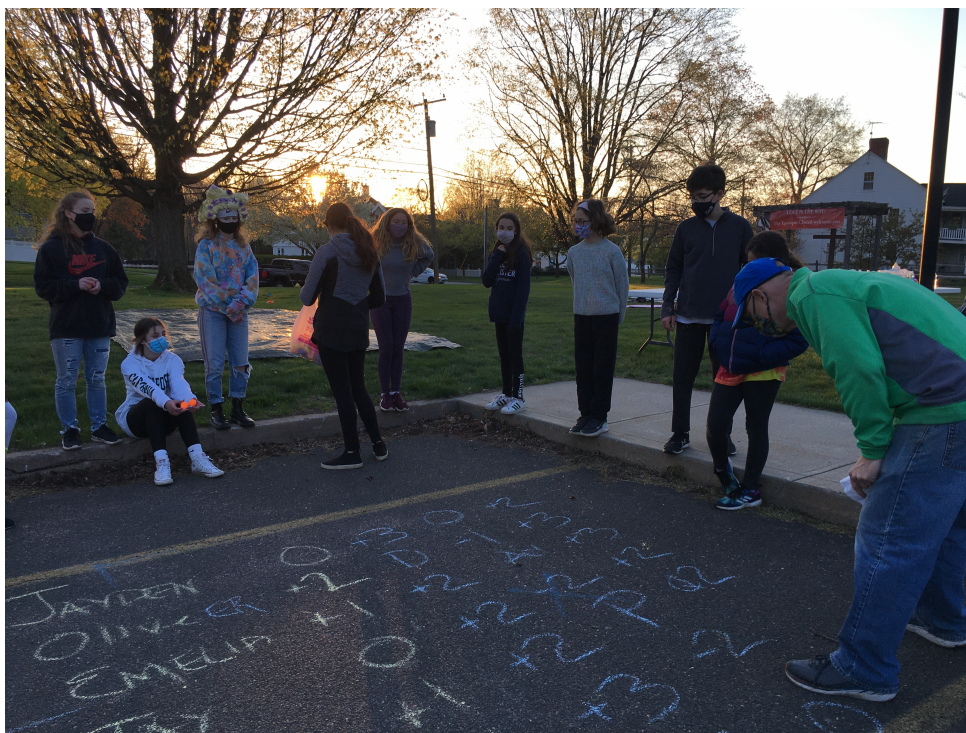
Anyone who knows Walter will tell you that he is quite the story teller with an appreciable sense of humor; and spending just a few minutes with him will give you a sense that you have known him all your life. Walter loves to reminisce about his childhood that he describes as happy, adventurous, and having grown up with the support of loving parents. He delivered newspapers to earn his own spending money that he is quite proud of to this day. Walter spent much time water skiing, boating and roller skating as a young man, always on the go.

During World War II, Walter joined the United States Merchant Marine and "saw the world" traveling through the Panama and Suez canals. Following the War, Walter took a job as a machinist working his way up to mechanical engineer with several manufacturing companies. Walter describes himself as a "self-taught" engineer and attended job-related classes at night school during a span of 18 years. Walter met the "love of his life" Mary at one of his jobs, they married and together raised a daughter. That marriage lasted 66 years. Walter retired from Pratt and Whitney after nearly 30 years of employment. He and Mary traveled across the country in an RV twice, enjoying the sights in nearly every state from North to South. They traveled to England and neighboring countries. Walter spent many hours busy on home improvement projects and describes his carpentry work as sturdy and over-built.

Now in later years, life is different for Walter but nonetheless just as fulfilling. He spends time with a dear friend going out to fine restaurants and appreciating sunsets by the Connecticut River, walks in the neighborhood, and stays current on news events by researching topics of interest on his I-Pad computer. Walter likes to read poetry and describes himself as "the last leaf on the tree", making reference to a poem written by Oliver Wendell Holmes by the same name.

A 100th birthday celebration would not be complete without asking the guest of honor for his secret to longevity. Walter replied that he has no secret to living to be 100, he enjoyed life to the fullest. If he had to do it all over again, he would "marry the same girl" because he had the best marriage ever. "I am an incredibly fortunate guy, God looked over me and found me my wife, God is in my heart and brings me serenity, God gives me peace."

Walter, we wish you good health, peace and God's grace as you continue to lovingly serve Him.



These groups work together to run 2 programs. One is the School Backpack Program that serves Buttonball, Hebron Ave., Hopewell, and Nayaug Elementary schools. GLT collects non-perishable, single serve breakfast, snack, and lunch items from its member organizations. The donations are then packed and delivered each Friday to 20 eligible students at these four schools. This food is sent home with them on Fridays to help ensure the children have enough food for the weekend.

The second program is the grocery gift card collection for the Glastonbury Food Bank. Saint James' (primarily Rev. Denise) has been responsible for coordinating the collection of the donations from each group within GLT. Typically, 200 \$25 gift cards totaling \$4,750, is donated to the Food Bank approximately every six weeks.

Please consider supporting these two important initiatives to help our neighbors in need.

- To donate food items for the backpack program, please contact Nancy Connell at rtconnell@cox.net or Lisa Gleason at gleasonlisa3@gmail.com.
- To donate cash for the gift card program, visit saintjamesglastonbury.org/donate and select "Glastonbury Links Together" from the list.

Youth Groups during Covid 19

The K-4 and Middle School groups have been meeting by Zoom on the first of each month.

Curriculum and crafts are dropped off at homes in advance.

The Youth Group (Refuge) meets monthly on Zoom with their

materials dropped off at their homes. The

recent middle and high schoolers

met in person for field games and some planting for

Earth Day,

referencing the Creation story to

remind all of our responsibility to

care for the earth that God

gave us. Thanks

to Clair Gadson,

Dan Aramini,

and Mitch

Chester

ATTENTIVENESS: GOD IN EACH MOMENT

A few years ago, when I was asked, “How does your spirituality impact your vocation?” I responded, “I think my vocation impacts my spirituality more than my spirituality impacts my vocation.” What I meant was that I often experience God more in the practice of ministry with God’s people than I do in, say, two hours of centering prayer by myself. Several weeks later, during a clergy retreat, we were asked to complete a “spiritual inventory” consisting of about 60 questions. The results of the inventory bore out my own self-assessment: That my spirituality is “extroverted” and is fed by interaction with others.

To some of you, this may come as no surprise. But it is not that simple. In non-COVID times, I make an annual spiritual retreat with the monks of the Society of St. John the Evangelist. Our day consists of Morning Prayer at 7:30 a.m., followed by breakfast. Eucharist at noon, followed by dinner. Evening Prayer at 6:00 p.m. followed by a light supper. Compline or Night Prayer at 8 p.m. In between worship and meals there is silence. Yes, silence. Many would think this would drive me crazy. But I love it. And I need it.

A healthy spiritual life requires a healthy balance of activity and silence; maybe call it the giving and receiving of grace. Our own personal practices may be weighted more in one direction than another, but we all require some combination of the two. The American theologian and mystic Thomas Merton wrote that *“every life can be dedicated to some extent to contemplation, and even the most active of lives can and should be balanced by a contemplative element ...”* He warned that *“Without contemplation, people would have nothing to give others but their own obsessions and prejudices.”*

In our overly-busy lives, it is so easy not to make space for time with God – which is all that “prayer” is. It doesn’t need a lot of solitude or seclusion, it doesn’t need a lot of planning, it doesn’t even need words. For when all is said and done, contemplation or prayer is simply *attentiveness* – being attentive to the presence of God—in your life, in the world and in the presence of others – in every moment of every day. Seventeenth century Carmelite Brother Lawrence discovered that he could talk to the God of pots and pans as he cooked and washed dishes in the monastery kitchen. What prayer companions might you find in the midst of your daily life?

Your Companion in Christ,

Don+

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The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

www.ctdiocese.org

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The Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

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Office Hours: Office hours will gradually resume their former times when the Rev. Denise returns from sabbatical. Watch the weekly e-blast.

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.