

*Fall, 2020*

# The Network



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

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

## Service Schedule

**Sundays** 9:00 am Morning Prayer

**Monday-Saturday** 9:00 am Morning Devotions

*All services are on the Internet through Zoom and Facebook Live platforms. Check the Wednesday e-blast for site and password information.*

**Sunday, September 13\*** Church on the Lawn/Drive-In *Family Service* **11:15**

**September 27** Church on the Lawn/Drive-In *Family Service* @ **11:15** am (+Baptism)

**October 11** Church on the Lawn/Drive-In *Family Service* @ **11:15** am (+Baptism)

*The last Sunday of each month will be a **Family Service**: if on Zoom, 10:30, if outside, they are at 11:15 am. Watch the Eblast for updates.*

*Celtic Vespers* Wednesday, **September 16** at 7:00 pm

### Sunday morning Bible Study

...meets every Sunday on Zoom at 10:00 am with Clint Dixon.

Look for internet details/Zoom address in the Wednesday e-blast.

### ***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.*



## *Summer Fun*

The Donovan girls  
enjoyed time on  
Drake Island  
beach.

Caroline and  
Catherine Chester  
enjoyed boating with  
their grandfather and  
cousin.





# Rector's Ramblings

So that “long strange trip” I spoke of in our last Network continues. We are almost 6 months into this time of social distancing, staying home, little contact with others, not worshipping at church, no Eucharist, cancelled vacations, uncertainty of school – in-person or not, and all the rest. Who would have thought it? And, it does not look like it is going to end too soon. Yet I am struck by the optimism, the smiles, the joy, and laughter I see all around me. It is so hopeful. I thank all of you who contribute to that.

I have spent a lot of time reading this summer, partially because it was too hot to do anything else, and during the 5 days we were without power there was just nothing else to do. I read some works of fiction, I will confess, but I spent most of my time reading books on racism. I read: Austin Channing Brown's *I'm Still Here Black Dignity in A World Made for Whiteness*, Lenny Duncan's *Dear Church*, Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*, Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped from the Beginning* as well as his book *How To Be An AntiRacist*, Assata Shakur's *Assata: An Autobiography*, and Ijeoma Oluo's *So You Want to talk about Race*. I read these books even though I have been involved in some sort of Racial Justice work since the 90's. I am very aware that as a white woman, I cannot understand what is like to live as a black person in the United States. I feel compelled to try to truly understand what it means when we talk about the things that make people uncomfortable, like “White Privilege” or White Supremacy. This process has been enlightening, heartbreaking, convicting, and helped define for me who I want to be as a person who calls herself a follower of Jesus. It has made me much more aware of the space I take up in this world, of the freedoms I have that I completely take for granted, not because I am an American, but because I am a white American.

*I know this Rambling makes some of you uncomfortable, or perhaps even upset and that's ok. I completely and utterly believe with my entire being that we as Christians have no choice but to do this work if we read, study, and inwardly digest the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We all need to be willing to listen, to HEAR and respect the experiences that our African American sisters and brothers have had and continue to have AND be willing to be part of the change. It is exactly who Jesus was and is. Jesus invites us to follow him. He doesn't coerce, beg or threaten, he invites. We have to choose.*

*I also invite you into this work. Join the book group if you can. If you can't do Thursday mornings and want to do a group, I am more than happy to do an evening. Read on your own, look into groups on line - [www.MyWorkToDo.com](http://www.MyWorkToDo.com), and others found on the ECCT website. Just start somewhere.*

Denise+



## Church School *this Fall*

from Clair Gadson, Youth Director (860-633-8333, x202)

Our tentative Church School Schedule is set to begin in October. Updates and Zoom links will be provided to parents when we are closer to our opening date.

### What to expect:

- ✓ Each month will consist of a Combination Virtual Church School, Independent Practice, and the Family Service.
- ✓ There will be a Youth Group for Middle and High Schoolers.
- ✓ Virtual Church School Sessions will be held on October 4 and November 1. All groups will be meeting at 10:30 with their Leaders and Friends.
- ✓ Parents will be notified when specific materials will be needed for activities, (e.g., construction paper, glue, scissors, markers, crayons colored pencils, notebook).

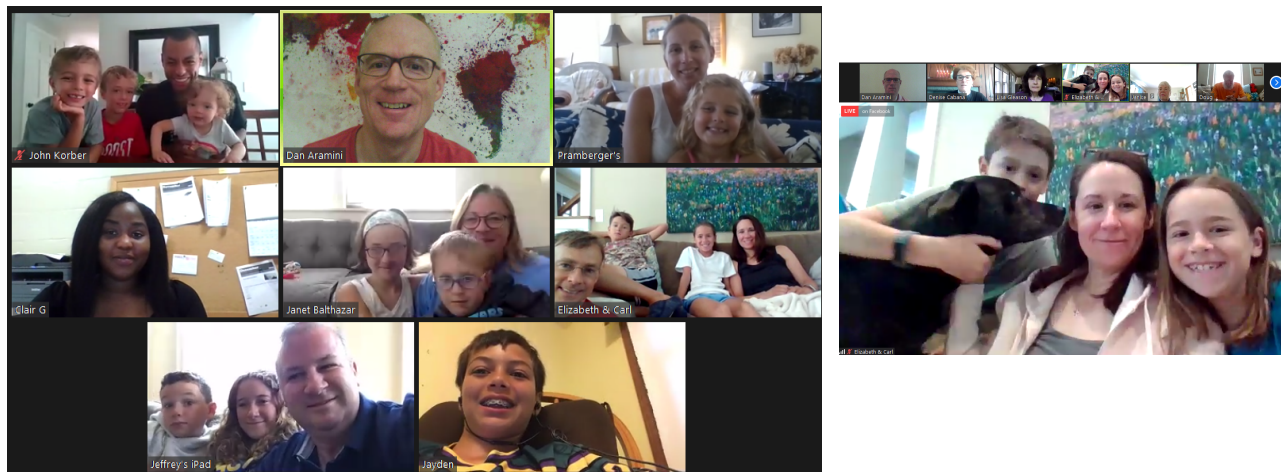
### Independent Practice:

- ✓ Church School lessons, activities, reading, and/or devotionals will be sent to parents to encourage independent practice and allow flexibility. These materials can be used on Sundays or any other convenient time for each family (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays).

Family Service: Once a month, (e.g., October 25).

### Youth Group:

- ✓ The first session will be held on Friday, October 30. Look for updates regarding the theme, meeting location, links, and time.





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## *Celtic Vespers*

Celtic Vespers will be offered on Wednesday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. This meditative service includes prayers, readings, and music of Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales. We have modified the service to be virtual and to last about 30 minutes.

*Instrumentalists are part of the group Wild Notes (Kasha Breau – harp; John Kalinowski - concertina & accordion; and Mickey Koth - fiddle, flute, recorder and whistle).*

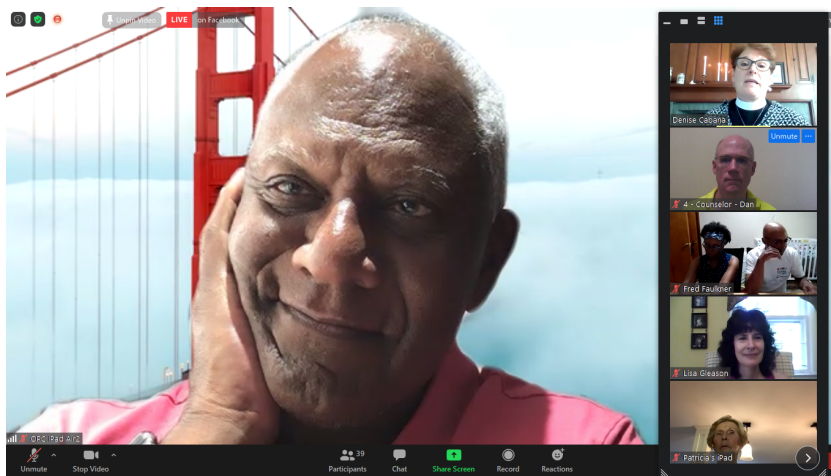
Christianity flourished throughout the British Isles for many centuries emphasizing a sense of God's nearness and the love of creation as God's gift. Nature, the wild and elemental were reminders of that gift. Many believe features of Celtic spirituality may be a way to inform and renew contemporary Christianity. Vespers or Evening Prayer is deemed "Celtic" more by the spirit of the liturgy than any formal form. Join us on the 16th, using the St. James' service Zoom link. We suggest you find a quiet place to enjoy the service and you might wish to have a candle(s) available to light.

## Sunday Morning Music

Music for Sunday mornings has changed considerably since March. Our dedicated choirs ceased rehearsing and Sunday singing. Services became virtual and after some adjustments pre-recorded music included. Offerings from St. Luke's are occasionally presented.

Every couple of weeks, John & Debbie O'Donnell meet with Jim Barry to record musical selections. John brings his recording equipment and both bring their respective violin and viola. Final decisions are made about hymn selections (including summer hymn requests) and how each hymn is to be performed, a collaborative venture. All this while practicing social distancing. After a couple takes, we chose the best track for each hymn, and Jim later inserts the track into the PowerPoint slide along with the words.

With continued social distancing and the high risk from singing, this recording practice will continue for some time. We are grateful to the O'Donnells for their time and talent.



Odis Coleman  
on Sunday  
Zoom

Erin Perelli and  
Jack on Sunday  
morning Zoom





## **Drive-in/ OUTDOOR SERVICES ARE HAPPENING!**

Our first drive-in/outdoor Service is happening on **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:15**. We have adjusted the time because of St. Paul's carillon's ringing for 7 minutes at 11:00. We are so looking forward to seeing each other and gathering, if not in our church building, at least on our church property. We know not everyone is comfortable doing this, and that is more than fine. **We will also be offering our 9:00 Zoom/Facebook Live service that Sunday morning.**

- ✓ Please respond to the email concerning this service if you plan on attending so we can plan accordingly.

Just as a reminder, here are the guidelines for outdoor services:

- ✓ The Main Street entrance will be blocked. **ONLY** enter from Grove Street.
- ✓ You must **bring your own chairs** or blankets for seating.
- ✓ All **social distancing** rules apply: you **must** wear a mask throughout the service, and distance yourself/family at least 6 feet from others. Spaces will be clearly marked.
- ✓ Please **arrive early (10:45 for those staying in cars and 11:00 for sitting in chairs)** to allow for safe movement as people get situated and follow the guidance of the ushers.
- ✓ Temperatures will be taken for all who choose to sit in chairs and you will be given a sticker to put on your mask.
- ✓ Please do not sit on the walkways to provide for safe movement for all, both during and after the service.
- ✓ Parents who attend with children are required to ensure their **children follow all guidelines.**
- ✓ Please place your donation/pledge in the plate at the front of the area before the service.
- ✓ Please do not congregate in groups after the service, and exit the area in an orderly way, keeping social distance at all times.
- ✓ Those in cars will be directed when to leave by the parking assistants.

## Book Group

The Thursday morning book group will begin meeting again at 10:00 on Thursday, September 10 on Zoom. We will read, *I'm Still Here; Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, by Austin Channing Brown. Everyone is welcome! The Zoom link will go out the Wednesday before each gathering. Please procure your own copy of the book.

## *Blessing of the Animals*

October 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:00 am

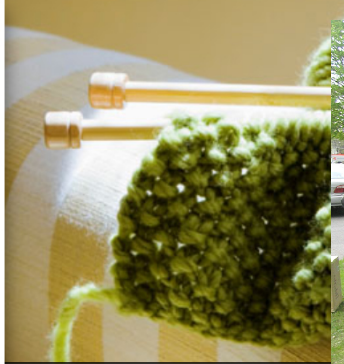
This year, the Blessing of the Animals will be a bit different than it has been in the past. We will be doing it in our cars, as we do the "Drive-in" Church service. There will be a little service that you can print or open on your device and then there will be a blessing at each car for the pets. St. Francis medals will be available to be picked up.



Brynn Pramberger's kitty posing for her cameo on Sunday Zoom.

*In Memoriam*

*St. James' Episcopal Church, Spring/Summer, 2020*



*In Memory of*

Mary H. Davis  
1932 - 2020



*In Memory of*

Lois Charlotte Shepperton  
1928 - 2020

**Horace W. B.  
"Don"  
Donegan II**

1939 - 2020





# 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

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Bob Dugger, Treasurer  
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Office Hours: *The church is closed at this time.*

*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.*