

Lent, 2022

The Network



St. James' Episcopal Church

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

Service Schedule

Sunday 10:00 am Rite II Holy Eucharist *in church and streaming
live on our YouTube Channel*

Wednesdays 9:00 am Morning Prayer *on ZOOM*

Ash Wednesday, March 2

10:00 a.m. in church

7:00 p.m. in church

(Ashes To Go 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, Panera Parking Lot)

Palm Sunday April 10 10:00 am *in church and on YouTube*

Tenebrae April 13 7:00 pm *in church and YouTube*

Good Friday April 15 7:00 pm *in church and You Tube*

Easter April 17 10:00 am *in church, YouTube, and overflow*

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

For those of you who were either in church or watched us on YouTube Live on Sunday, January 23rd, this Rector's Rambling will sound familiar, as it is taken from my State of the Parish address that day. I just think it is worth repeating (not because it is so good, but because it is so important). So, 2022 gives us a budget that presents us with a different future, one that is perhaps a little scary because it is unfamiliar, different. Even so, there is no reason to doubt that God will bless this community in the same gracious and abundant way that God has in the past.

Yes, Covid is still with us, and numbers are high, although getting better every day. People who are vaccinated and boosted are not getting very sick – they are recovering quickly and are staying alive.

We are gathering together once again in our beloved church. We might have a budget that is changing the way things have always been, but it does not mean that change cannot bring about wonderful and amazing things that we can't even envision yet because with God, all things are possible. This same community that just came through 2020 and 2021, not only still standing but growing (yes, we have new faces in our pews), can thrive with God's help in 2022.

In Luke's Gospel we have a wonderful story of Jesus, having been baptized by John and having heard the words of God saying, "You are my Son, with you I am well pleased" then goes out into the wilderness, a dark and scary time and place to figure out who he is, what his ministry is going to be all about. Then emboldened by the Holy Spirit (remember that fire we spoke of a several weeks ago, that passion that burns in us all, Jesus, is full of that) and he walks into his local synagogue, steps up to be the lay reader, opens to Isaiah, and proclaims his mission to a room full of people who know him, and he knows are probably not going to welcome him with open arms. And no sooner had he sat down and began to teach them when they were running him out of town. But he knew what he had to do, he knew what God was asking of him and he was ready to face whatever came.

Filled with the Spirit, listening to where God is leading you and courageously following, you can do anything. And that means all of you. There will be a place, a role, a ministry, a mission for all of you if you choose to accept it. Paul reminds us that the body of Christ, us, is made of parts, none too small or unimportant to be a part of making it all work. You have all you need to thrive as a faith community, living, loving, giving, building the beloved community of God right here in Glastonbury.

But you have to make the choice, you have to decide to be all in with making this happen. Because as St. Augustine tells us, "God without us will not, and we without God, cannot." God has shown us God is with us, ready to lead you into all good things. You have to decide - are you with God? And if you are, this will be an amazing place in 2022 and beyond.

Denise+



Alison and Cora Banker light the Advent Wreath

Coffee Hour?

Let's put our heads together and explore creative and safe ways we can enjoy "coffee hour" and fellowship at St. James'. Your enthusiasm, thoughts, and ideas are needed to move forward with plans. Please contact Becky Lee, balee@cox.net, 860-659-8641 to let me know that you would like to help envision ideas about coffee hour and fellowship opportunities. All voices are needed.

Lenten Program

We are offering a Lenten program in partnership with *St. Luke's Church*. We are blessed to have a new member of our church, Sheri LaCava Dursin, who is an author and retreat leader, offer to lead 3 evenings of reflections. Her book, *Hearing God's Whisper* is available on Amazon.

The program will be on **Tuesday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 pm** with two sessions at St. James' and one at St. Luke's.

March 8th – St. James' – God's work in Progress God has a plan for our lives that is unfolding each and every day. How can we open ourselves to God's plans and allow ourselves to be shaped by God, especially during times of change in our lives? Come spend an evening pondering the ways in which you are God's work in progress.

March 22nd – St. Luke's – Love Beyond Measure How often do we take time to really reflect on the amazing power of God's love? A love that is all-encompassing, gentle, merciful, and challenging. A love that forgives unconditionally. And most importantly, a love that does not test or measure. You are invited to grow in understanding of how deeply and individually you are loved by God.

April 5th – St. James' – Broken and Beautiful We all experience brokenness in our lives. What if we stopped looking at our cracks as barriers to God, but instead saw them as openings through which God's love and grace might enter our souls? This program invites you to lay down your burdens and surrender your flaws as we contemplate the broken and shared body of Christ.

From 6:00- 6:30 we will offer a simple soup supper with the program beginning at 6:30. For those of you would like to join us for the program only, you can arrive at 6:30.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the atrium or you can email me rector@stjamesgl.org or Jodi at parishadmin@stjamesgl.org to sign up. You will need to indicate if you are joining us for supper or just the program. **You must sign up for the first session by March 3rd.** All sessions will be available on Zoom, as well. The link will be provided in the e-blast the Wednesday before the session.

Afghan Refugees Resettlement Update

River East Resettlement Alliance (RERA) is an official co-sponsorship group! In January, an interfaith group of individuals from multiple towns, including several St. James' parishioners, were approved by Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) to serve as a co-sponsorship group who is allowed to resettle a refugee or immigrant family in the area. A lot of work went in to getting our application completed, submitted and approved but we are pleased to now be moving forward toward becoming "green-lighted", which means we will be ready to accept a family within 48 hours. We expect to let IRIS know we are ready on or around March 1st. Once we have notified IRIS, and they give us the "green light", our Afghan family could arrive in CT as soon as two days later! Currently we do not know anything about the family that will be assigned to RERA, but we are planning the best we can.

RERA is led by two co-leaders, and comprised of 14 committees made up of about 50 volunteers. All committees are full, although more childcare volunteers (babysitters) are needed and welcome! We have rented a 3-bedroom apartment in Manchester, where the family will be housed. It is very conveniently located, and is fairly spacious. The Apartment Set-up committee has done an amazing job in getting it cleaned up, furnished and ready for occupancy.

I look forward to filling this space in the next Network with details about our family and the experience of getting them settled. In the meantime, if you would like more information please contact me at gleasonlisa3@gmail.com and I will be happy to share! Also, watch the weekly eblast for updates.

Lisa Gleason



The Cub Scouts now meet twice a month at St. James'. They helped clean up our church yard leaves this fall. Thank you!

The Christmas Pageant



22 Adults and Children from St. James' were sheep, shepherds, angels, main characters, wise persons, and narrators in the Pageant at the Beacon Woods Stables.

Spring Fling Tag Sale

Saturday, May 14th

The *Faith in Action* committee is pleased to announce the "Spring Fling" fundraiser. *Proceeds will support the General Fund and Faith in Action ministries.*

"Early Bird" Sale (with an entrance fee) from 8 to 9 a.m.

Main Sale: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Donations Requested

We will begin collecting:

- **Jewelry** in mid-March, then
- **Treasures** (e.g. antiques, collectibles, silver, etc.) in late March and early April
- **Other donations** (housewares, home décor, toys and books, etc.) after Easter (April 17), along with remaining jewelry and treasures.

Donated items must be 1) clean/washed, 2) gently used, and 3) in working condition with no missing parts. The full donation collection schedule will be available in the next few weeks, together with a list of items we cannot accept.

Contribute Your Time and Talents

We will need everyone's support to make St. James' Spring Fling Tag Sale fundraiser a success. There are many opportunities to help.

We will have a **Crafts Booth**. We are asking all crafters and artists to express their creativity and talents by creating items for this sale.

Volunteer opportunities in the coming weeks

- We need volunteers to accept, price and box donations or solicit donations from businesses.

Volunteer during the week prior to the sale, May 8 – May 13

- Volunteers are needed to set up tables, move boxes and miscellany from storage to the Parish Hall and Atrium, unpack the boxes and organize items on the tables.

Volunteer to help during the sale, Saturday, May 14

- We will need "customer service" throughout the day, as well as cashiers.

For more information or questions, please call Valerie Huestis at (860) 645-8293.

Saturday Morning Preparations for Carol's Closet



We lost our beautiful tree on Main Street next to the driveway to disease in January.

Building a Beloved Community Work:

- The first ***Sacred Ground Circle*** is off to a great start! We've completed 4 sessions of 10. There are sixteen of us who are learning and discussing our own experiences and understanding of slavery, racial injustice, and dehumanizing practices in our culture with two facilitators and excellent resources.
- The Building a Beloved Community team is looking for persons interested in working together to discover and document the historical involvement of St. James' parish and the Glastonbury community in racism.
- At the 2020 Diocesan Convention, **Resolution 7**, "Acknowledging and Confronting Systemic Racism, White Supremacy, and Anti-Black Bias" was passed. Part of Resolution 7 directs that "each Parish...take steps to discover and document historic complicity in racism in their parish and communities..." If you are interested in committing to this holy work, the Glastonbury Historical Society, the Connecticut historical society, and the archivist for ECCT has already made good strides in this research. Becky Lee can provide further details (balee@cox.net, 860-659-8641). Some of us will also be looking through the St. James' archives carefully curated by Ray Davis.



The Rev. Denise Cabana, Rabbi Dr. Kari Tuling, the Rev. Cheryl Hoffman, (St. Mark's Lutheran), and the Rev. Larissa Forsythe, (South Church-Congregational)

Easter Egg Hunt

The St. James' Easter Egg Hunt returns this spring. Younger children should gather in the foyer after the Easter service. Once ready, there will be plenty of dashing and searching and collecting, and even some tasty treats. It's fun to hunt and fun to watch!



The Thursday morning **Book Group** will be starting a new book on Thursday, March 10 at 10:00 am. The group welcomes anyone and is on Zoom. The new book is, *After You Believe*, by N.T. Wright.

- Due to the time constraints for getting *The Network* distributed before Ash Wednesday, an 1) accounting of **Joining Jesus** funds spent thus far, and 2) a copy of the aspirations list for the **Joining Jesus** funds from 2019 were not ready. Please watch for this information to be available soon.

Contact Information

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Website ♦ www.stjamesglastonbury.org

Facebook ♦ www.facebook.com/StJamesGlastonbury

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

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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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.