

Summer, 2020

The Network



Aida Mishriky and Krislyn Donadio

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 Prayer

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

Our Cover Photo Story

Aída Mishríky writes: When the Covid-19 pandemic started, I realized I should find something to do to keep myself mentally and physically healthy. I strongly felt the need to do something meaningful and helpful to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all of the healthcare workers and others who risk their own lives and go to work every day while we stay safely at home. I reached out to dear Denise for help and if there was anything I could do to help at church or elsewhere, while being shut in at home.

Denise, very kindly, mentioned that two parishioners, Diane Obernesser and Caryl Donovan were sewing masks. Upon hearing that, it was like turning the light on in a dark room, and I thought, 'this is something I also can do from home'. My granddaughter, Hannah, who works in the ER at Middlesex Hospital, had mentioned that there was a shortage of masks and a great demand for them. So, I immediately started to sew masks.

As I finished a batch or two, Denise would come to my house to pick them up for distribution. I also gave masks to Hannah and all my immediate family, relatives, friends, neighbors and to whomever wanted a mask. People kept calling for masks and I kept on sewing them until I ran out of fabric and elastic. As the word went out, donations of fabrics, elastic ribbons and thread were given in abundance from Denise, Diane Obernesser, Geri Ross, Krislyn Donadio, neighbors, and friends. I am overwhelmed by their generosity and I thank everyone, profoundly, for their support. They are the heroes of this project because of their support.

To date, 150 masks were given out and I have fabric for a lot more. I strongly believe that once again, my Lord Jesus intervened in my life and that this project is truly a God sent gift. My days were filled with excitement and joy, a heartwarming project that was rewarding beyond words. I never felt lonely or isolated, instead I felt peace, contentment, and a sense of accomplishment.

Thank you and may the Lord bless you, Aida

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.



Brynn Pramberger's 6th Birthday
during the Quarantine

Jayden, Mason, Nathan, and
Aubrey Korber

(Look out for their jokes elsewhere
in this volume)



Goodbye to Jane and Don Jefferson

The Adult Choir is a dedicated group, devoting many hours to rehearsals and services each season. One of members, Don Jefferson, has been a member for about thirty years. At the end of May, Don and Jane are moving to New Hampshire to be closer to family.

Don, a member of the bass section, has been a faithful singer in our choir. He learns music quickly, and provides the low notes that no one else can reach. His rendition of the first stanza of *Were you there when they crucified my Lord* at Good Friday services has been a tradition for many years, and all are moved each time his rich voice fills the church without accompaniment. Don will be missed by all in the choir.

In addition to choir duties, Don has served as Senior Warden, and been an active member of the church in many ways during his time at St. James'. Equally active, though not in the choir, Jane has been a wonderful supporter of the music program, an active member of Altar Guild and the ECW. At one choir potluck, her sweet potato casserole was a great hit, and the recipe requests were immediately forthcoming.

We wish the Jeffersons all the best in their new home, and at this writing a drive-by farewell is planned for the end of the month to say goodbye, our gesture of thanks during this time. (New address: 75 Longwood Dr., Grantham, NH 03753)



Congratulations to the
New Graduate, Chris!

Chris Gleason is a new graduate from **Arizona State University** with a *Bachelor of Arts* degree in Sports Journalism and a minor in History.

Mitch Chester, Cheryl Jacques-Turner, Jeff Brown, and Blakeley Crevoiserat help Nick Monserrat with mulching the side beds of St. James'.



Rector's Ramblings

"What a long strange trip it's been." (Grateful Dead) I think we all feel that no one has ever experienced anything like what we have been through the last several months - at least no one who is still living. Folks back in 1918 had a very similar experience when the "Spanish Flu" pandemic hit. But certainly not in anyone's recent memory has there been an experience like this – isolation, masks, shut downs and stay-at-home orders, people out of work, shortages in the grocery stores, lines to enter a grocery store, wearing gloves inside, churches and schools closed – a strange trip, indeed.

And yet, this time has been filled with God's grace, blessings, healing, and love. It is amazing what we ARE able to do. Unlike the folks back in 1918, we can talk on the phone, send emails, and actually SEE each other thanks to technology such as Zoom and Facebook Live. Some of the very things we complained about not too long ago have become our lifelines.

Then there are the random acts of kindness we see every day. The uplifting messages sent out to strangers, the "thank you" signs on lawns, in windows and on doors, sidewalk art by children with messages of love and hope, encouragement to hang in there. People are getting food for neighbors or even strangers who can't get out. Phone calls are being made to check in on people we hardly knew before. Families are reconnecting – playing board games, riding bikes together, going for walks, playing in their yards. People being creative as they seek to spend time with folks who are isolated – playing music outside windows, holding up signs, talking on phones. People are just thinking more about others and how they can help.

And, our earth is healing. As we humans are out and about less, pollution is down, animals are flourishing, the hole in the ozone layer is closing. God is at work everywhere.

This issue of our newsletter is intended to connect us, to keep some normalcy in our lives to and show some of the joys that have taken place during this time we have been apart. It seeks to show some of the ways we have celebrated the good in life in spite of the ways we are constricted; to show that life is good, God is ever present, love is strong, and there is always light in the darkness.

We will be together again though it might look different. We will grieve what we lost, and we will adapt and move on, because we are people who live in hope and trust that God is always doing something new. We are disciples of the one who came to give us life so that we could live it abundantly.

Denise+

Youth Director, Clair Gadson,

asked families to join in on card making of 'Thank You's and encouragement to some of the medical professionals and other members of the church. Some of our children and youth leaders have been sending pictures and encouragement cards to those in our community.



From the Korber boys.....Q...What is an astronaut's favorite key on a computer? A: the space bar.

Q...What do cows like to read? A: cattle-logs



Faith in Action

Faith in Action projects continue!

Carol's Closet has not skipped a beat! We set up our distribution in the parking lot, putting one bag per guest in the back seat or trunk of their cars as they drove through in a line. Many thanks to C'sc volunteers for March, April and May: Barbara Buddington, Jeannette Brown, Blakeley Crevoiserat, Lisa Gleason, Rich Connell, Rich James, Debbie O'Donnell, Doug Scott, Cheryl Turner, and the Rev. Denise. We are running low on supplies due to "supply chain" issues, so there is a collection on Saturday, May 30th from 9:00-11:00. Needed items are listed in the weekly e-blast.

May 16, 2020 Distribution



Our Garden is
Planted!

Blakeley C., Barbara B.,
and Debbie O'D.
finished planting and
mulching on May 26 in
Lot 23b behind the Gl.
Police Station. All
successful vegetables
will go to FoodShare.

Sunday morning Bible Study

...will resume on Zoom at 10:00 am with Clint Dixon, beginning on May 31st. Watch for internet details in the Wednesday e-blast and after the 9:00 service.

ALL are welcome!

"Check In" Time with the Rev. Denise

If you would like some time to check-in, chat, vent, pray, or whatever with Denise, she is setting up "Office Time" on Zoom, each Tuesday, starting at 1:00 pm. If you would like to have time, all you have to do is email or call Denise to schedule it and she will send you the time and the link. These will be individual times, set up in half hour blocks. Beginning: May 26, 2020.

Social Hour on Zoom

Looking for something to do that is safe and fun? Join us every other Wednesday evening at 7:00 beginning on June 3rd for a Social Hour on Zoom. (Unfortunately, Facebook Live is not interactive.) We will begin with guided conversation and depending on how many of us join, we will be in small groups that will change up each time. If you have been on Zoom before and would like to be for this purpose and need help, please contact Denise either by email or phone. Check the weekly e-blast for Zoom links.

Wednesday evening Book Group?

Please let Cheryl Turner know if you are interested in resuming the Wednesday evening Book Group on Zoom. (It would have to be coordinated with the Wednesday Social Hour at 7:00 pm -every other Wednesday.)

Summer Hymn Requests

Although we will not be singing together for a long time, we can still include music. We invite you to submit a hymn request for our Sunday virtual services. Traditionally, during the summer months we use standard hymns not needing support from the choir. In addition, the summer readings during Ordinary time have limited match-ups allowing more general hymns to be selected. Your suggestions are welcome, and please submit them to Jim Barry at dirmusic@stjamesgl.org. If you know the first line of the hymn and/or the hymn number, let him know. If you're not sure, contact him to assist you in determining your choice. We will do the best we can to accommodate all requests, and those hymns that fall under our streaming copyright license.

More Faith in Action...

Our Knitting Ministry keeps knitting!

On April 27, Janet Donston delivered **Prayer Shawls** to Hartford Hospital to hospital chaplin, Christine Stopka.

The Bread Ministry

*is back in business! Once Panera opened up again in April, the 4 families who take turns picking up Panera's "Dough-Nations" on Sunday evenings was back to a schedule. The bread and pastry donations are driven to **Hands on Hartford/Manna** in the Parkville section of Hartford for their food bank on Monday mornings.*

Many thanks to the Buddingtons, Berdans, Crevoiserats, and O'Donnells.



Since March 12th, **music** has migrated to the Sunday virtual services. I have been creating the PowerPoint presentations so that attendees can follow the service, and securing streaming copyright permission. At first, music was provided by YouTube clips. Later, we incorporated recorded music by musicians from St. Luke's and St. James'. The latter has included some choir members in three sessions so far. Our numbers vary, responding to the changing social distancing requirements.

The choir was the last group to meet at St. James'. As we begin the process of re-opening the church, the choir may be one of the last groups to gather again. Making music requires breathing techniques that put singers at greater risk. Our sense of choir community is not just social – we gather closely together to meld our individual voices into one sound.

Music at St. James' continues...for now, during our virtual services. As our worship opens up in phases, we will offer music to support our liturgies, and in a way that responds to best practices of social distancing. Please enjoy our virtual service music, adding your voice whenever possible, as we continue to lift our praises to God. *-Jim Barry*

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The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

www.ctdiocese.org

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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 clergy person on call.