

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each and every month at our vestry meetings we take some time to do a short bible study/ reflection. For the past two months the idea of "hope" has been central to the conversation. During the season of Advent, Tim led a discussion focusing on "The Hope of Advent." Hope has always played a huge part in the Christian lexicon; we are a people of hope. The Incarnation and Resurrection are the two central events in Christian history and the foundation of Christian theology and spirituality. Both of these are the source of Christian Hope.

Today, as we reflect on 2020 and look forward to a new day in 2021, we lean into the reality of the hope that things will get back to "normal" sooner then later. I look forward to a day when we can once again gather together in worship and fellowship. I look forward to a time when I can gather friends and family together at the dinner table. I look forward to a day when I will watch the news and the COVID death count is not the lead story — or better yet, a story at all. There are many small things I look forward to doing again but these three, I think, are at the top of my list.

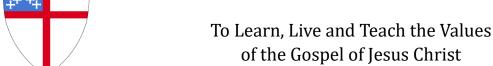
The only way I am able to look forward to these things, while I still grieve the losses, is I have both faith and hope in the future, and the guidance God provides us through the darkest of days and into the light. We have a ways to go and, in the meantime, we need to be safe. But I have to say it is nice to see a future before us where light and life are the themes of the day, not death and darkness.

To me this feels like the beginning of a resurrective moment, and it is only possible through the hard work and brilliant minds of many doctors and scientists. This is where the incarnation comes in. We are, each and every one of us, illuminated by the spark of the Spirit of God and come to the table with what we have to offer. And I thank God for those who are able to guide us into this new day.

Again, I look forward with tremendous gratitude to the day that we will once again gather together; and implore all of you to please continue to be safe and careful until that day comes. We have already lost so much and so many.

So, until then in Hope,





Jan/Feb 2021

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Highlights in Jan/Feb

- Sundays in Jan/Feb Livestream Service @9:30am.
- Confirmation Classes continue.
 See schedule on page 2.
- Celtic Worship First Sunday of the Month January 3 and February 7 via Zoom @ 4:30pm.

We continue to offer livestream worship on our YouTube channel every Sunday at 9:30am. Morning Prayer via Zoom is also held at 8 o'clock every Wednesday. A link will be provided in the weekly email, newsletter, and bulletin. KFC for children at 10:30am also continues every Sunday. Just sign up for weekly emails by going to the St. James's website: www.stjameswh.org/resources/newsletter-subscribe.

From the Assistant Rector

Confirmation 2020/2021

EAR all,
Happy Epiphany and New Year to everyone!

I have been enjoying the season of Advent. We have started weekly Morning Prayer every Wednesday at 8am on Zoom! We have a good and faithful contingent that "comes out" for Morning Prayer each week. All are most welcome to join! The link can be found on the website under the category "Discipleship" – click the header "Morning Prayer Via Zoom." This will continue in the New Year beginning Wednesday, January 6.

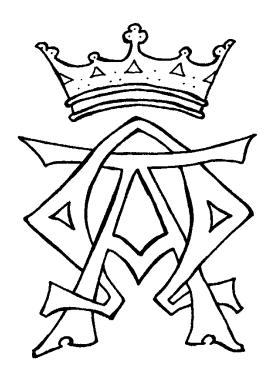
Our 3-part Advent series has been a great joy. Entitled "The Hope of Advent," the series has looked at the appointed Advent readings to explore our hope in God and Christ during these challenging times. We have talked about apocalyptic literature, wilderness narratives and more!

We had our seventh Confirmation class on December 13. I have been deeply impressed by the perceptive and thoughtful questions the students are asking – about God, about Jesus, about themselves. They are dealing with the stresses of Covid with honesty and compassion.

I also really enjoyed getting to meet so many of you at the Tree Sale! This was the first time I conversed with many of you in person and it was very encouraging to me. I look forward to the time where I will be able to talk with more of you like this.

Please reach out to me anytime.

In Christ,



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Confirmation 2021

Classes held indoors in the Parish Hall or via Zoom from 3:00-4:30pm.

Class Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

Class #8

Sunday, January 10

Class #9

Sunday, January 24

Class #10

Sunday, February 7

Class #11

Sunday, February 27

Class #12

Sunday, March 7

Class #13

Sunday, March 21



Bring a Friend to Church 2

From the Organist & Choirmaster

EAR Parishioners,

As we come to the end of an extraordinary year, it is time to reflect on the past 12 months and highlight how we have been fortunate in the face of crisis.

This period of history will be known as a pivot point. So much of what we did and said - our interactions with others - changed for a time. There were and are moments of shock, surprise, exasperation, sadness, hope, and feelings of overload. The boredom we feel at any given moment is contrasted with a sense that time has leaped forward, dragging us behind it and into a new era. Seismic societal changes made before we could catch our breath.

Many of these changes are good. No, they are great. The internet was already a mind-boggling asset to humanity, but this year it became truly necessary as we harnessed its power to broadcast pre-recorded services and livestream Sunday morning right into your home. Never could the founding members of our parish imagine such possibility.

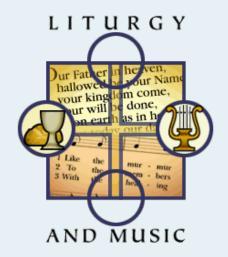
The music program experienced another shock to the system: no singing until further notice. Perhaps this was the most challenging adjustment. Our choir has been adjourned since March and temporarily replaced with a handbell program. No one could have imagined that one either. But it has truly been great. Rehearsals are fun and we cherish the opportunity to spend some time together each week, making music as a group.

As I write this, the very first public vaccinations are taking place and there is great hope for our future. The new year will bring a slow but steady return to normalcy. We will have the freedom to do what we like and see our friends wherever and whenever we want. And we will begin to gather indoors for church, singing hymns and anthems that lift our spirits and inspire us for the week ahead. It will be a renaissance of ordinary life. But we will not lose the lessons and gifts of this strange time; we will only be stronger for having lived through it.

I wish all of you a happy Christmas and New Year. Take care of yourselves and others as we enter the home stretch.

//Ma





Important Dates

Wednesdays in January and February Handbell Choir rehearsals from 5:15 to 9pm

Jubilate Deo!

O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Psalm 100:1

St. James's Center for Family Ministries



Nurturing your children's spiritual life from birth through high school

KFC (Kids for Christ) Sundays at 10:30am

KFC (Kids for Christ) is meeting on the Zoom platform at 10:30 in the morning on Sundays during this time of physical separation. A few days before, a KFC Announcement goes out with a link to the Zoom format and more information. If you are not receiving this announcement, please email me and I will get you added to the list. My email: education@stjameswh.org.



Bring a Friend to Church 4

HEN I write my newsletters, I always start by looking at the newsletters of years past. Last year in the January/February 2020 newsletter, I talked about how important it is to come to church and Sunday school, even when it is cold and dark outside. "Make church a priority," I said. As we head into 2021, I am incredibly thankful that so many of you do make church a priority for your children and families. In fact, one silver lining in the Covid Pandemic is that Sunday school doesn't require getting dressed and out of the house in the morning. All you have to do is join a Zoom link and that is that. For many children of the parish, joining our KFC-to -go has been a fun and educational experience. For that I am extremely grateful.

For something new in 2021, I am planning to look at the Lord's Prayer with our youngest members. What are we saying in the Lord's Prayer? Why is it important? How can I pray it myself? I am still researching exactly how I am going to do this via Zoom, but I am sure I will find a way to achieve it without much problem. There are so many resources online now. Pray for me as I continue to figure this out.

As I often say in my newsletter, I feel incredibly fortunate to get to do the work of being the Director of Family Ministries at St. James's. I love getting to know the children and I love getting to watch them grow into spiritual young people. I see my job as the Director of Family Ministries as twofold: First, I see my job as helping the children of this parish develop their spiritual lives. This involves helping them to have some useful tools in their spiritual toolbox. Included in these toolboxes are things like the Lord's Prayer, knowing how to say a prayer of thanksgiving and forgiveness.

The second part of my job is the education part. I try to teach the children the basic stories of The Bible, so that when they see these themes in literature, they will recognize them. That is where you parents and grandparents come in. For instance, if you are reading that wonderful tale of The Velveteen Rabbit with your child, use that as an opportunity to discuss what it means to be really loved by your Creator. If you are watching a film with a biblical reference in it, explore it! While watching Spiderman with a bunch of middle school students, one student shared that when Spiderman was tempted by the Green Lantern it was just like when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness! Helping your children to make these connections with The Bible and modern stories will help them to see the relevance of The Bible in their lives and help them to be better students.

So, in these weeks of thinking about New Year's resolutions, I would like to suggest one to consider: As parents, let's try to help our children to build up those "Spiritual Toolboxes." Let's work with them to grow to be spiritually mature young people who have a basic knowledge of Bible stories. How can that be done? One way is to come to church and Sunday school with your children. For now, that is done virtually. Hopefully, before too long, we will be able to gather in person. Until then, join us on Sunday morning for the Livestreaming service at 9:30 a.m. and KFC-to-go at 10:30. Then, talk with your kids about what they learned. Make church a priority for you and your children. You will be glad you did.

Your sister in Christ,





HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we begin a new calendar year, let us always remember who we should follow in this world.

Directions:

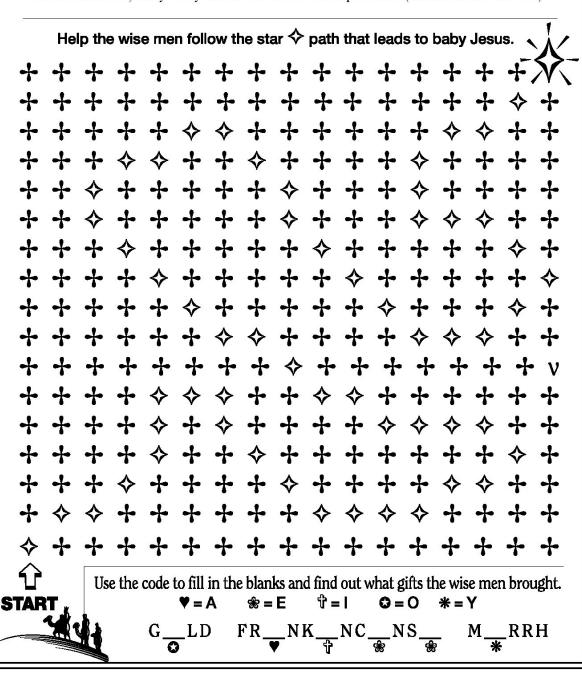
- 1. Start at the circled letter "I." Follow the direction of the arrow and circle every other letter until you have gone around the world one time.
- 2. Start at the circled letter "I" again, and write down the circled letters on the blank lines below.
- 3. Beginning at the *W, write the letters or numbers that are not circled until you have gone around the world again. Read the message.

around the world again. Read the message.
WILLOWHENVS EIR (I) WAAMLTAATO
around the world again, read the message. "The state of the state of
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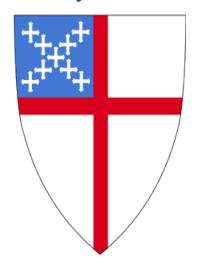


The Star that Led to the King

The wise men from the East saw a bright star. They followed it to the place where the child who would be King of the Jews was born. When they went inside, they saw baby Jesus with His mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped Him. (*Read Matthew 2:1-11*.)



Vestry Corner



Treasurer's Report / January—November 2020

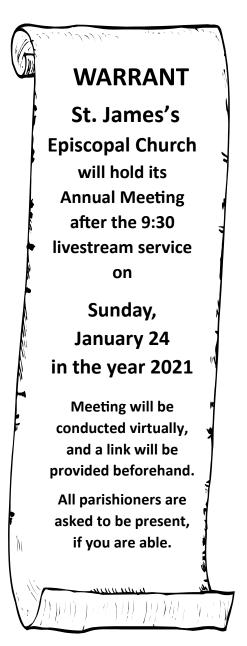
Current Position: The Church's total Income for the eleven months ending November 30, 2020 was \$59,238 less than the budgeted amount and expenses were \$32,495 under budget. As a result, the Church's net financial position at the end of November, 2020 was a negative variance to budget of \$26,743

Income & Expense Summary:

Category	YTD	YTD	YTD	Total	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	
Income (+)	\$667,827	\$727,065	\$59,238	\$809,304	
			Under Budget		
Expense (-)	\$703,282	\$735,777	\$32,495	\$809,300	
			Under Budget		
Net	\$35,455	\$8,712	\$26,743	+4	
			Negative		
			Variance to		
			Budget		

Income: For the eleven months period, Regular Contributions (Current and Prior Year Pledges, Seasonal and Unspecified Offerings) in total were \$34,145 less than budget. The breakdown of this amount shows that Current Year pledges were behind budget by \$19,560 and Prior Year Pledges, Seasonal and Unspecified Offerings totaled \$14,585 less than budget. Income from outside groups using the Parish Facilities was \$13,249 under budget. Special Contributions were \$3,015 less than budget.

Expense: Major contributors to the January – November expense results were the following: Property: Property expenses for the period were \$11,499 under budget. Maintenance supplies, lawn care and snow removal were \$7,157 under budget. General maintenance expenses were \$1,623 over budget and utilities were \$6,304 under budget. Personnel: Personnel expenses were \$509 under budget for the eleven month period. All ten of the remaining expense categories were under budget by the aggregate amount of \$20,487. However, \$8,000 of this amount is budgeted for the expense of the annual audit for which the Church has not yet been billed.



Mission

St. James's Cares

Jesus said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep" - John 21:17.

ITH 1 in every 6 households currently suffering from food insecurity – for children the statistics are

insecurity – for children the statistics are far worse – we at St. James's feel called to do our part to address this suffering. It is impossible to feed folks spiritually without considering their physical

hunger as well.



"St. James's Cares" feeding program has now expanded to provide 28 full dinners (protein, starch, vegetables, salad, and dessert) for 4 each week to families struggling in the North End of Hartford through our partnership with our friends at The Hartford Catholic Worker. That means with your financial support we are providing dinners to 112 people (primarily children) every Monday. We will keep this going as long as we can – with no end in sight.

Angel Tree 2020 Update Thank You!

HANKS to the overwhelming generosity of the St. James's family, we made a joyous delivery of over 240 toys and gift certificates to the Hartford Seminary's Spiritual Center. Once



again, they are working with a network of social service providers to deliver toys to area children of all ages, who would otherwise have gone without.

In spite of COVID complications, we saw record-breaking participation this year. Here's just a small glimpse of the totals: 31 dolls, 26 sets of blocks, 29 activity sets, 24 pre-school toys, 18 board games, 12 puzzles, 14 trucks, and 34 stuffed animals, including 8 adorable Baby Yoda's:-)

THANK YOU to everyone who shopped our Amazon Wish List, dropped off a toy at the church, or sent in a monetary donation. Each of you has helped to bring some happiness to a family in need.

Food Pantry Ongoing Needs

he WH Food Pantry is currently in need of many items. For more information on how you can help support the members of our community who have been most affected by the pandemic, visit their website at: https://www.westhartfordct.gov/gov/departments/social_services/food_pantry.asp. Your may also continue to drop of food items at the cloister entrance to the church.

Around the Parish

Moving Forward Update

We continue to make plans for indoor worship together when it is safe to do so. This reminder update is meant to give you an idea of what is



happening now, and what might happen next.

ORK continues to bring the St. James's community together in whatever ways are possible both now and into the future. Our driving goal is to provide for the spiritual life of all parishioners. We are now livestreaming worship services every Sunday at 9:30am, and Priscilla Hooper is leading a children's virtual service via Zoom at 10:30am. Morning Prayer is also available each Wednesday at 8am with the Rev. Tim O'Leary. Links are made available in weekly emails or by going to the website. Click the Discipleship tab then Morning Prayer via Zoom. This schedule will continue until we have the ability to resume CDCregulated in-person services when that becomes safe. Once we do resume in-person services, we will continue to live stream services. This means anyone who cannot physically attend church for any reason will always be able to participate.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

Every Week at 8:00

OIN us for Morning Prayer at 8 o'clock every Wednesday morning on Zoom! Here is the link:

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84540556178? pwd=VERYN29XWjJvYTh0UDNOZ3RpdlkvUT09

Meeting ID: 845 4055 6178

Passcode: 693330

You will find the page for Morning Prayer on the website by clicking the Discipleship tab then Morning Prayer via Zoom. It will also be included in the weekly emails. Please let Tim know ahead of time if you would like to be a reader for any service. (tim.st.james.assistant@gmail.com).

Priscilla's Read-Alouds!

ERE is a continuation of the children's book Read-Alouds we have been doing since the spring. Enjoy! A complete listing can be found on the website.

Ben Draws Trouble by Matt Davies https://.be/kd6yvrM9ITAyoutu

Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun by Maria Dismondy https://youtu.be/P8fYSBLpUOg

This Little Light of Mine https://youtu.be/o0T3IiZjjDI

We Gather Together: Celebrating the Harvest Season

by Wendy Pfeffer

https://youtu.be/0hkV9-1aAfl

Those Shoes by Maribeth Jones https://youtu.be/pk3XXLw8ZIA

The Night Tree by Eve Bunting https://youtu.be/Q4g95idwtfU

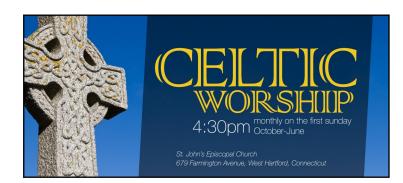
The Night of Las Posadas https://youtu.be/Nj_K_hYXmFE

Seamen's Church Institute Save Your Christmas Cards!

ACKAGES with knitting and other items continue to be delivered to the seamen despite the ongoing pandemic! So, we ask that you please continue to save your Christmas cards this year as they are always a lovely addition to each package. You may drop your cards off at the church anytime during parish office hours. Thank you!

Men's Discussion Group Second and Fourth Saturdays

LL men of the parish and guests are invited to a discussion group on Saturdays, January 9 and 23; February 13 and 27 beginning at 8:00am. Various religious topics are presented for discussion. The group is currently meeting in an online format. If you would like to join the group in a virtual discussion, contact Bob Hoffman at nanbob57@comcast.net.



ELTIC worship will be held on **Sundays**, **January 3 and February 7** at 4:30 pm using Zoom, an interactive video and telephone conferencing tool.

You can use a desktop computer, a laptop computer, or a mobile device to join the video and audio of our service at this link:

Join the Zoom January Meeting-

By web: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84846353479?

Password: pwd=ZGdWUVgxNmROcVMxM1Z4dzBqT0w5dz09

Phone: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 848 4635 3479

Passcode: 729936

Link for February's meeting will be posted in the bulletin.

Registry and Readings Baptisms

Samuel Moran Conca

Son of Cornell & Emily Conca *November 23, 2020*

Parish Birthdays Children and Youth

JANUARY

Wilder Dempsey, 4 Charlotte Willson, 6 Lucy Adams, 9 Ollie Tewksbury, 10 Andie Mascolo, 23 Kate Healy, 25 Harry Keating, 26 Ben Dollar, 27 Josephine Mozingo, 27



FEBRUARY

Francesca Galante, 1 Margaret Busse, 3 Ali Colburn, 3 Lauren Howland, 4 James O'Sullivan, 4 Bryson Tagliavini, 4 Billy Teed, 4 Carol Conca, 5 Virginia Collin, 7 Danielle DiGiacomo, 16 Kallie Guerraz, 16 Harriet Busse, 19 Makenzie Gallagher, 20 Nate Meyer, 21 Elizabeth O'Sullivan, 22 Jessalyn Kirsch, 23 Gwendolyn Wills, 23 Aida Messinger, 25 Olivia Shuey, 26

Parish Prayer List

Those in our parish family

Jeffrey, Greg, Elsa, Michael, Margaret, Walter, Frank, Elly, Chuck, David, Sue, Will, Ed, Tom, Nancy, Chris & Louise.

Those in our extended parish family

Maria, Kevin, Mary Ann, Jenifer, Nancy, Jeff, Carol, Christina, Jean, Jeff, Karen, David, Patricia, Quinn, Joanie, Teresa, Alvin, Karen, Audra, Parker & Cynthia, Ann, Kara, Patricia, Carrie, John & Rita, Barbara & Family, Tavern, Mohan, Larry, Barbara, Hudson, Dave, Charlene, Pierre, Guy, Stephen, Clark, Sydney, Clare, Leo, Ann, Cathleen, Denise, Javier, Susan & Gordon, Kristine & Noel, Janet.

Those Serving in the Military:

Andrew Clark, Andrew Huntsman, Ed Vera, and Justin Hagemann.

Sunday Lectionary

Second Sunday after Christmas, January 3

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 or Luke 2:41-52 or Matthew 2:1-12; Psalm 84 or 84:1-8

The Baptism of Our Lord, January 10

Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11; Psalm 29

Second Sunday after the Epiphany, January 17

1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20); 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51; Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

Third Sunday after the Epiphany, January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20; Psalm 62:6-14

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28; Psalm 111

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 7

Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39; Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

Last Sunday after the Epiphany, February 14

2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9; Psalm 50:1-6

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Joel 2:1-2,12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6,16-21 Psalm 103 or 103:8-14

First Sunday of Lent, February 21

Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15; Psalm 25:1-9

Second Sunday of Lent, February 28

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38; Psalm 22:22-30

January/February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	2 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	3 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	4 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	1/5 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	2/6
3/7 9:30 AM Livestream Service 10:30 AM KFC (Kids for Christ)—Via Zoom	4/8 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 11:30 AM Serve for Loaves and Fishes 6:30 PM EFM—PR	5/9 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	6/10 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 8:00 AM Morning Prayer via Zoom 5:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal/ Trebles—PH 7:00 PM Adult HB Choir Rehearsal— PH	7/11 7:00 AM AA Group -	8/12 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	9/13 8:00 AM Men's Discussion Group - Virtual Meeting
10/14 9:30 AM Livestream Service 10:30 AM KFC (Kids for Christ)—Via Zoom	11/15 President's Day— Parish Office Closed 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 11:30 AM Serve for Loaves and Fishes 6:30 PM EFM—PR	12/16 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 PM Samaritans Group—PR 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	13/17 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 8:00 AM Morning Prayer via Zoom 5:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal/ Trebles—PH 7:00 PM Adult HB Choir Rehearsal—PH	14/18 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM FOODSHARE	15/19 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	16/20
17/21 LENT I 9:30 AM Livestream Service 10:30 AM KFC (Kids for Christ)—Via Zoom	18/22 Martin Luther King Day—Parish Office Closed 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 6:30 PM EFM—PR	19/23 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	20/24 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 8:00 AM Morning Prayer via Zoom 5:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal/ Trebles—PH 7:00 PM Adult HB Choir Rehearsal—PH	21/25 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM FOODSHARE	22/26 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	23/27 8:00 AM Men's Discussion Group - Virtual Meeting (tentative)
24/31/28 LENT II 9:30 AM Livestream Service 10:30 AM KFC (Kids for Christ)—Via Zoom	25 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 6:30 PM EFM—PR	26 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	27 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 8:00 AM Morning Prayer via Zoom 5:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal/ Trebles—PH 7:00 PM Adult HB Choir Rehearsal—PH	28 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	29	30

St. James's Episcopal Church

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E-mail: info@stjameswh.org Website: www.stjameswh.org

Address Service Requested



The Clergy

The Reverend Robert C. Hooper, III Rector The Reverend Tim R. O'Leary **Assistant Rector** The Reverend Canon Douglas T. Cooke **Priest Associate** The Reverend Barry W. Miller **Priest Associate** The Reverend Nancy Miller **Priest Associate** The Reverend Canon John L.C. Mitman **Priest Associate** The Reverend Dr. Borden W. Painter **Priest Associate** The Reverend Elsa P. Walberg **Priest Associate** The Reverend Terry M. Wysong **Priest Associate**

The Staff

Cheryl C. Batter Administrator **Financial Secretary Heidi Cotter**

Leon Fraser Sexton

Director of Family Ministries Priscilla Hooper Vaughn Mauren **Organist & Choirmaster**

Volunteer Staff

David Thomas Facilities Manager Michael Sherrill Assistant Treasurer

The Vestry

Claire Burnett Senior Warden David Dynowski Junior Warden

Kerri Raissian Clerk **Harry Meyer Treasurer**

Term Ending 2021

Bruce Adams, Amy Messinger Thomas Rouse, Judith Stahl

Term Ending 2022

Jane Good, Greg Jacobs

Chris Keesling

Term Ending 2023

Jerrod Bowman, Ruth Mitman Tyler Smith, Loretta Waldman

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