



the OPEN DOOR

news from St. James's

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

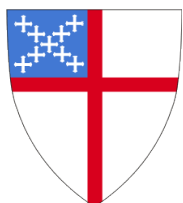
As I write this letter, I am sitting at my desk staring out the window at the beautiful colors of the leaves on the trees. I love fall – the crisp cool air, the leaves, the shortening of the days and, of course, my birthday. Fall reminds me that life is ever-changing and evolving, while at the same time so many things are staying the same.

For many of us, and for the Church, these past few years have marked significant change; some good and some not so good. The years of the pandemic accelerated this change in many ways. While many parishes in our denomination and others struggled to stay open due to financial and other concerns, with many not making it, St. James's found new ways of being and moving forward in our little corner of God's vineyard.

Through the faithful generosity of so many of you, both with your creative and your financial resources, we stayed strong and committed to God's call. While we may not see as many on Sunday morning as we used to, we continue to see growing numbers of children and youth in our programing. Sunday mornings are filled with magnificent music and thoughtful preaching, while our outreach and mission efforts have not only stayed strong but have increased. Of all the things I love about this community, I really do love the fact that when a need arises the good people of St. James's rise to meet it.

As we look to the future of this community and its relationship with the wider world, we feel better equipped than ever to go forward with confidence and Grace. As the needs of the world seem to be ever-increasing and those willing to step forward into the breach shrink, the good and faithful people of St. James's are ready and willing to hear and respond to Jesus' clarion call to engage.

This would not be a November newsletter without a stewardship pitch. So here you go: All that we do and all that we have is the product of God's Grace. These are the lives that we have been so blessed with. We do not own this Grace but are caretakers of it. We are called to share what we have and who we are so that we and others may live more fully into God's Grace and abundance.



To Learn, Live, and Teach the Values
of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Nov/Dec 2023

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Highlights in Nov/Dec

- **Friday, Nov 3** The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Silent Movie with Jason Roberts, 7pm
- **Sunday, Nov 5** All Saints' Sunday, one service at 9:30 followed by Stewardship Brunch
- **Sundays, Nov 12, 19** Coffee Hour Forums, 11am
- **Sundays, Nov 12, 19 & 26** Cookie Sale (pickup Dec 17)
- **Sunday, Nov 19** Chapel Organ Dedication, 4pm
- **Thursday, Nov 23** Thanksgiving Eucharist, 10am
- **Sunday, Nov 26** Christmas Bags Mission Project, 11am
- **Thursday, Nov 30** WH Holiday Stroll, 3Ms to sing at 5:30pm
- **Sat, Dec 2—Sun, Dec 10** Christmas Tree Sale (see inside for details)
- **Sundays, Dec 3, 10** Advent Coffee Hour Forums, 11am
- **Sunday, Dec 17** St. James's Christmas Concert, 4pm
- **Sunday, Dec 24** Christmas Eve Services (see inside for details)
- **Monday, Dec 25** Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist with Carols, 10am

From the Assistant Rector

DEAR beloved community,

After spending part of my morning in the St. James's greenhouse and helping prepare our outdoor garden beds for winter, I'm reminded of how I have always found late autumn to be a sacred time of year. And not just because of how the technicolor leaves and water-colored skies remind us of God's love in creation. It creates liminal days where we are invited to pause, reflect, and open ourselves up to being changed.

As the prayerful ballad "October" by the band U2 observes, it is a season when "the trees are stripped bare/Of all they wear" and "kingdoms rise/And kingdoms fall/But you go on." Although this time of year may stir melancholy – a "sigh" for another year about to pass – I hope you find time as we move into November and Advent to reflect on how we are called to go through a similar cycle of change on our spiritual journeys.

As the work in the greenhouse shows, change isn't just about things falling away. It is about something new emerging from the soil of our lives, often in counter-cultural ways. The weather outside may say the days of cultivation and blossoming have passed; but as Resurrection people, we are called to cultivate hope and find a way.

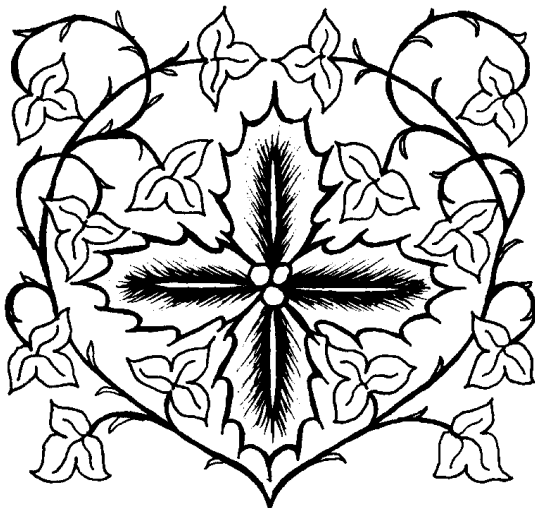
Members of our garden ministry have worked since March to plant and harvest vegetables for people struggling to feed their families in the metropolitan area. They have sent hundreds of pounds of carrots, collards, green beans, beets, tomatoes, and other crops to the Hartford Catholic Worker. Faithfully – with joy, imagination, and hope – they continue their work.

The greenhouse was raised and set up by a crew of St. James's volunteers in September. It will allow us to continue to grow a variety of vegetables for needy families well into the winter months. Chuck Russo has led the effort to engineer the drip irrigation system from two rain barrels. The first seeds planted in the beds inside the greenhouse have already begun to sprout up. Just think: As we sing Christmas hymns in the church on Christmas Eve, there's a good chance tomatoes will be on the vine just outside the church walls – just as if were the middle of summer.

In Philippians, Paul calls us, as followers of Jesus, to live with a defiant joy in the darkest and coldest seasons. "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ," he writes in Philippians 1:6. Projects like the greenhouse remind us that we are not finished. God is still making me. God is still making you. God's not done with us. We are still being invited into and embraced by a relationship with each other, our neighbors, and the divine.

That's the thing about this journey together: When we accept the invitation – when we come to the Lord's table, or when we do all the things we do as a community of love grounded in the Gospel -- we should come expecting to be changed. We should come, knowing that our lives may never be the same again.

Volunteering for the Good News Garden may not be your jam. But I pray that you find the time, in this season of change, to look around and see where God is calling you to try on something new in the vineyard of St. James's. There are so many opportunities to not only create change but be changed in spirit for the good of the world.



With hope and gratitude,

Joe†

St. James's Center for Family Ministries



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

KFC (Kids for Christ) Sundays at 9:30am

*KFC (Kids for Christ) meets in
the parish hall on Sundays.
If you have questions, please
email Priscilla at:
education@stjameswh.org.*

Mondays Music & More

*A fun program for children
ages 3 to third grade every
Monday from 4 to 5:15pm
during the program year.
Music with the Rev. Alan
Murchie and art with
Priscilla Hooper.*



A FEW years ago, I wrote a newsletter article that started out telling about a beautiful walk that Bob and I took at Hammonasett State Park. As we walked, listening to the sounds of birds and insects, I was brought back to a time long ago when I was in high school visiting my grandparents.

On that particular morning at about 5:30, my grandfather, who I called Gedaw, woke me up saying, "Little Pris (my grandmother was Big Pris,) You gotta get up! Hurry up you're missing the bullfrogs!" Even though I was a sleep-deprived teenager, I quickly got out of bed, threw on some jeans, and joined my grandfather in the still very dark backyard.

As we sat there together and drank our coffee in silence, we didn't hear a sound. There was not one bullfrog to be heard. I still can't tell you exactly what a bullfrog sounds like, because we never heard one. Not one.

Gedaw, of course, apologized profusely. He had heard the bullfrogs and got so excited that he wanted to share them with me. He said they must have gotten stage fright when I joined him in the yard. He said he was so sorry that he woke me up for a whole lot of nothing. But that is where he was wrong.

To this day, that morning with Gedaw is one of my most precious memories of childhood. For one, we sat out in that Louisiana country yard, in the old lawn chairs together in silence. Just being together sipping coffee. Second, Gedaw was sharing his love of all of nature with me. It felt like such a precious time together. Time that was basically stolen from the night. Just for us. It felt sacred.

My Gedaw died on November 24, 1994. He was almost 87. He met two of his four great-grandchildren, Robby and Henry. He was a wonderful loving father, husband, brother and from stories I have been told, son. He was a man of faith, and I loved him dearly.

Since I wrote this story in 2019, much has happened—obviously. Maybe not so obvious to everyone reading this newsletter is that two years ago in grandparents to our precious, Camilla Banks Hooper, aka, Mille. Her middle name was my mom's maiden name or Gedaw's last name. I am 100% sure that mom and Gedaw are keeping an eye on her. I am also sure that she inherited some of her feisty behavior from Bob's mom. As we welcome our second granddaughter in the next few weeks, it will be such a blessing to see what traits from her ancestors she will inherit. One thing I know for sure is that her first name, Channing, is her Dad's, Grandfather's, and Great-grandfather's middle name. That is quite a legacy.

Today, I look at my own grown children and I see glimpses of my grandparents and parents. Robby is such a combination of Bob and Bob's mom—with a dash of my grandfather thrown in. Henry is a lot like Gedaw and talks back like me. Maddy is a lot like Bob's dad. To me, this is what it means to be a part of the communion of saints. We all sort of rub off on each other—and there is that genetic thing, too.

Back to that walk at Hammonasett. As Bob and I continued on our walk that day, and I shared that story with him for about the hundredth time, it also felt like precious time. As we walked along looking at the beautiful sea grass, listening to the sound of the waves, remembering my precious Gedaw, it felt like part of him was there walking with me. Even though he never physically made it to beautiful Connecticut, part of him did make it here. In Robby, and Henry and Madison and of course, in me.

So, as we approach the holidays and all that means, I hope and pray that you can take some time to thank God for the beauty that is just being alive. Bob and I are looking forward to doing just that in the next few weeks—spending more precious time with Millie and welcoming Channing to this family. I am sure that I will see a part of my grandparents, Bob's parents and my own, live on in Millie and Channing. What an incredible blessing to be a part of this great story.

Your sister in Christ,

From the Associate for Education & Music

St. James's Christmas Concert: Sunday, December 17 at 4:00

Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #4, Traditional Carols, and much more!



PLEASE mark your calendars for **Sunday afternoon, December 17, at 4:00**, when our parish choirs and instrumentalists will come together for a festive, joyous program of Christmas music that begins with a sparkling, virtuosic work for two pianos and ends with voices raised as one in Mendelssohn's glorious "Hark! the herald angels sing." Along the way, the choir will sing favorite seasonal motets and carols; violinist John Kramer will offer the luminous Pastorale from Corelli's Christmas Concerto; and our young choristers will join us for a set of Christmas spirituals.

As they did last year so memorably, Ann Uphoff and Jonathan Lewis will read beloved Christmas poems, stories and meditations as choirs and instrumentalists process from space to space within the sanctuary. The program begins at 4:00 and ends at 5:15; tickets will be available on Sundays and in the parish office starting in November and will cost \$10. Admission for children ages 12 and under is free of charge.

Brandenburg Concerto #4 by J. S. Bach

Bach's six dazzling concerti written for the Margrave of Brandenburg are holiday favorites; their swirling melodies, toe-tapping rhythms and, most of all, light-filled textures capture the spirit of the season like few other works. Bach wrote them as a gesture of hope after the death of his first wife and in a time of new horizons in his musical life. Interestingly, they were never performed in Brandenburg, most likely for a simple reason: they are fiendishly difficult! Concerto #4, which we will perform in an arrangement for two pianos, features two recorders in lilting, colorful melodies set against cascades of notes from a solo violinist, all accompanied by a continuo group of strings and harpsichord. Bach learned concerto style from Vivaldi and others through a technique that might seem odd to us: He essentially "rewrote" Vivaldi's orchestral music as keyboard works. The arrangement we'll play to open the Christmas Concert embodies the same spirit, taking passages from the violins and flutes and reimagining them for two pianists side by side.

Christmas Concerto by Arcangelo Corelli

Corelli was a breakthrough composer in the Baroque Era who wrote brilliantly for the violin. He composed sonatas and concertos that inspired Bach and others in later generations. The concerto we will offer was composed, in the composer's words, "for the feast of the birth of Jesus." We will play its final movement, a pastorale that vividly and beautifully paints the Nativity as a gentle yet ecstatic dance. Two violins in dialogue with the orchestra (or, for us, organ) evoke the mystery, the awe, wonder, peace and joy of Christ's birth.

Carols by Mendelssohn, Victoria, Vaughan Williams, and more

The heartbeat of our concert is carols: framed by two settings of Ave Maria, we tell the story of the angels, shepherds, friendly beasts, and all those who surrounded Mary and the infant Jesus in carols from the Middle Ages through the present, echoing the words of the poet: Now let us all sing praises, all gathered in this place, and with true love and charity each other now embrace. O tidings of joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!

Alan

EDUCATION



AND MUSIC

Important Dates

Friday, November 3

"Hunchback of Notre Dame"

Silent Movie with Organ

Accompaniment by

Jason Roberts, 7pm

Sunday, November 19

St. James's Chapel Organ

Dedication, 4pm

Sundays, December 3 & 10

Advent Coffee Hour Forums

"Mary in Art & Music" 11am

Sunday, December 17

St. James's Christmas Concert
with the St. James's Choir, 4pm

Jubilate Deo!

O be joyful in the
Lord all ye lands;
serve the Lord with
gladness and come
before his presence
with a song. *Psalms 100:1*

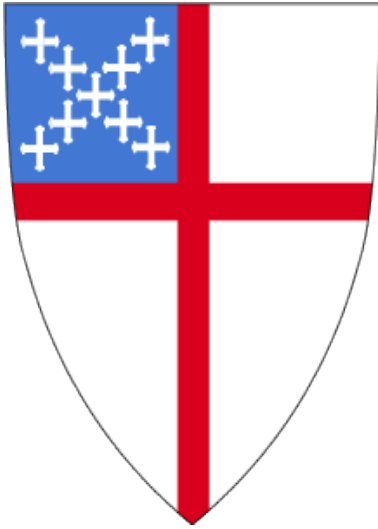
St. James's Chapel Organ: Dedication Recital
Sunday, November 19 at 4:00

OUR beautiful new chapel organ at St. James's is an enormous blessing: a liturgical instrument and a concert instrument, the two-manual digital instrument is also a winter refuge, providing a practice instrument when the sanctuary is cold. We are grateful indeed! On Sunday, November 19 at 4 PM, Alan Murchie will play a recital dedicating the instrument; a reception in the Parish Hall will follow. The concert is both an expression of joy and of thanksgiving: the organ is a gift from parishioner Ron Coons, an organist himself who for many years played summer services for us here at St. James's. The recital will include a few of Ron's favorite works, alongside one or two surprises. Admission is free, but seating is limited: Please contact Alan by email to hold your spot. You can email Alan at acmurchie@gmail.com.

Coffee Hour Forum: Mary in Art and Music
Sundays December 3 and 10 at 11:00

ADVENT is in a sense Mary's season: through Isaiah's prophecies, it points in each of its weeks toward her own prophetic utterance in her Magnificat and toward her fearless acceptance of her own prophetic commission. We will spend two Sundays in Advent this year reflecting on Mary in visual and musical image, in settings of the Ave Maria, in the enormous wealth of paintings that have sought to offer a glimpse of just who she was. Scripture provides a portrait of her that artists have supplemented and that composers from monks in the Middle Ages to Mendelssohn, Puccini and more have evoked in motet, carol, cantata, and solo song. Join us!

ST. JAMES'S
Christmas
CONCERT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
4:00PM
BRANDENBURG CONCERTO #4 BY J. S. BACH
CHRISTMAS CONCERTO BY ARCANGELO CORELLI
CAROLS BY MENDELSSOHN, VICTORIA,
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS & MORE...
1018 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford Center
Tickets: \$10
860-521-9620



Treasurer's Report: January—September 2023

Summary of Current Position: Through September, we are trailing where we had planned to be by \$17,878. The September result is an improvement from the \$23,800 shortfall as of the end of August. The deficit position through September is driven by a combination of income being \$5,945 greater than projected and expenses exceeding their budgeted amount by roughly \$23,826.

Income & Expense Summary:

Category	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
Income (+)	\$674,770	668,822	7,849 Above plan
Expense (-)	730,965	707,139	23,826 Above plan
<i>Net</i>	(56,195)	(48,317)	17,878 Negative variance to budget

Income: Year-to-date (YTD) actual income is \$5,948 above budget (or 0.9% above budget), an improvement from last month's results which were 1.3% below budget. The following components impacted the income position through the end of September: Regular Contributions (Current-Year Pledges, Prior-Year Pledges, Seasonal Offerings and Unspecified Offerings) ended the month \$3,590 above the \$454,077 budget, or 0.8% above budget. Current-Year Pledges, the largest item in this category, are \$10,549 below budget but that is offset by higher than projected Prior Year Pledges and Unspecified Offerings collections. Contribution statements were sent out on October 8 and will hopefully help close the gap in the Current-Year Pledges. Facilities Income: Actual YTD income of \$61,585 is \$5,717 greater than the budgeted amount of \$55,868 due to increased use of the building by outside organizations.

Expense: YTD expenses are \$23,826, or 3.4%, above budget. Last month, expenses were 2.5% above budget. A few key expense categories in terms of their contribution to the overall variance through the end of September are: Administration: Currently \$8,900 above budget. The largest single item impacting this variance is the \$6,100 in costs associated with the ERC that weren't in the budget. Property: Currently \$6,500 above its \$94,500 budget, a deterioration from the \$3,500 overage as of August. Gas (\$3,700 over budget), Electric (\$1,650 over budget), and Maintenance Supplies (\$1,900 over budget) are the primary reasons for the variance. Music: \$3,900 higher than its YTD budget due to choir pay and instrument maintenance. The choir pay difference of \$2,990 is expected to decrease as the budget had greater choir pay expenses during the last four months of the year. As of the end of August, the choir pay variance was \$4,200.

Vestry Nominations 2024

THE Vestry Nominating Committee welcomes suggestions, from members of the parish, of persons who they believe would be fine members of our vestry and officers (Senior and Junior Warden, Treasurer and Clerk).

Vestry members must be:

1. committed to Jesus Christ;
2. regular in attendance at public worship;
3. participants in the life and ministry of the congregation;
4. solid financial supporters of our ministries;
5. be willing to commit to regular attendance at monthly meetings (the 3rd Tuesday), annual vestry retreats, and to serve as liaison with committees or programs within the parish.

The members of this year's Nominating Committee are: Adam Fisher, Jessica Henning, Jonathan Lewis, and Debra Morton. The Nominating Committee will publish its nominations in the January 2024 issue of *The Open Door*.

In accordance with the by-laws of the church, any member may submit a petition to include any other member for inclusion on the ballot as a candidate for the vestry or as an officer. The petition must be signed by the nominating member, not less than three additional members of the parish and agreed to by the signature by the nominated member. All petitions are to be submitted to the Clerk no later than two weeks prior to the annual meeting to be held on **January 28, 2024**. Nominations not submitted as set forth will not be allowed from the floor at the annual meeting.

**ANNOUNCING ST.JAMES'S
2023**

Online Fundraising Auction

**ONLINE BIDDING OPEN FROM
NOVEMBER 1 (NOON)
TO
NOVEMBER 19 (NOON)**

**GO TO STJWH.ORG/AUCTION2023
OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW**

Support St. James's ministries by bidding on more than a dozen auction items, including:

- VIP seats for Christmas Eve and Easter services
- VIP parking spaces for Christmas Eve and Easter
- VIP tickets to the 2023 Christmas concert and the Hartford Symphony
- Expert help with your Christmas wrapping or floral centerpiece
- Unique items perfect for giving (or keeping!) including a hand-painted icon, an artisan charcuterie board, and two bundles of St. James's swag
- ...and more!

All bidding is online on our dedicated auction web site (QR code and URL at right). If you need technical help with bidding:

- Come to the 11/5 Stewardship Brunch or coffee hour on 11/12 or 11/19 for in-person help OR
- E-mail Ellen Dollar at 5dollars@comcast.net



stjwh.org/auction2023

Mission

Christmas Gifts...

For Parkville Children

ONCE again, St. James's will be assisting Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford, by purchasing Christmas gifts for the children of their Food Pantry. By the end of October, we will receive lists with the names and ages of the children plus a 'Wish List' of gifts from each child. Members of St. James's purchase a couple of gifts for each child and return them unwrapped to the church. They will then be delivered to Grace Church for distribution. Last year, parishioners from St. James's contributed over 500 Christmas gifts to the children of Parkville! This is a wonderful outreach ministry that is easy to do and means so much to so many. There's still time, so please contact Ruth Mitman if you can help. She will get the children's names to you. Phone: 860-561-1594 or

Email: mitmangroup@comcast.net.

Christmas Bags

Collection of men's socks and toiletries continues through November

HELP MAKE a difference this Christmas season for the men at area shelters. St. James's Outreach has been collecting warm socks and toiletries for these men in the Hartford area since 1989. During the months of October and November we will collect men's socks and toiletries for this mission project. Join us on **Christ the King Sunday, November 26** after the 9:30 service to help fill the bags with toiletries and other goodies. This mission project is greatly appreciated as your Christmas bags are often the only holiday gift these men will receive.

Here is a list of what we need:

Men's heavy boot socks (no dress socks), travel-size shaving cream (3 oz), travel-size shampoo (3 oz), travel-size deodorant, small combs, chapstick, travel-size toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, and bars of soap. Items can be found at good prices at Target, The Dollar Store, or online at Amazon. Your purchases can be either delivered (if you purchase online) or brought to the church. We could also use some candy canes to add an additional holiday touch to the socks.

Remember, it's never too early to begin thinking about Christmas—it will be here before we know it! Please begin ordering or bringing your donations to the church as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Online Fundraising Auction

Begins November 1

BIDDING starts on November 1 for the first-ever St. James's Online Fundraising Auction! Support our ministries by bidding on more than a dozen auction items, including VIP seating and parking for Christmas Eve and Easter services, expert help with your Christmas wrapping or holiday centerpiece, a hand-painted icon and artisan charcuterie board made by our very own clergy, tickets to the Hartford Symphony and St. James's Christmas concert, unique St. James's swag great for giving or keeping...and more! The auction is open from Wednesday, November 1 at noon to Sunday, November 19 at noon. Go to stjwh.org/auction2023. Payment from winning bidders (check or cash preferred) is due by December 1. Questions? In-person help will be available at the 11/5 Stewardship Brunch, and at coffee hour on 11/12 and 11/19, or email Ellen Dollar at 5dollars@comcast.net. Let the bidding begin!

Hartford Catholic Worker Food Pantry

ST. JAMES'S is currently asking for bi-weekly donations for the following items for the Hartford Catholic Worker: **tuna fish, mayo, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, bags or boxes of pasta, and canned hearty stews.** Donations can be left at the cloister door Monday through Friday 9:00a-4p. If you are dropping off after hours, please place donations in the rubber bin in front of the cloister door! Monetary donations are also accepted to help purchase these items. Just note "HCW Food Pantry" in memo line.

A Baby Shower for Jesus

Throughout the month of
December we will be collecting
diapers (sizes 3-6) and baby
wipes to be distributed through
The Hartford Catholic Worker

Please leave diapers in the cloister



ST. JAMES'S WEST HARTFORD

Christmas Cookie Sale!

Support St James's by purchasing a Christmas Cookie Tin. Each tin container is filled with 24+ assorted holiday cookie favorites made by a team of St. James's bakers, are artfully packaged, and make wonderful gifts! The tins cost \$30 and can be pre-ordered on Sundays, Nov. 12, 19 and 26 in the Parish Hall after both services. Cookie pickup will be on Sunday, Dec. 17 after both services. Pre-ordering and payment at the time of order (cash, check or credit card) is required. Questions? Please contact Heidi Rose at rosefamily@gmail.com.



It'll Be a Breeze!

BREEZE has come to St. James's! Breeze is an intuitive online parish directory that will allow each of us to update our contact information and pictures, see and sign up for church events, and so much more – all from your smartphone or computer.

Last month, you should've received an email from Breeze with the personalized credentials you need to access your and/or your family's account. Your account has already been pre-populated with information from church records.

For the St. James's community to effectively use Breeze, it's really important that you ensure the information in your My Profile section (your phone number, email address, etc.) is accurate and up to date. Separately, but just as important, under the Tags section, tag yourselves to those groups that you participate in (e.g., Choir, Ushers).

Earlier this week, you likely received an email from St. James's with some FAQs to help you get started with Breeze. These FAQs answer common questions about how to use its features, how to get help if you need it, what to do if you can't find last month's email from Breeze and who to contact in the parish if you have additional questions. There will also be an in-person help session this **Sunday, November 5**, following on the 9:30 service!

We hope you start using Breeze right away as a parish communication tool and directory. Its benefits will become apparent once our church community is fully onboarded and using it regularly. This will include an event feature to facilitate signing up for various happenings around the parish, which we plan to make available in early 2024.

Coffee Hour Forums

Sundays at 11am

November 12 & 19

"Preventing Gun Violence"

Join Kerri Raissian, Associate Professor of Public Policy at the University of Connecticut and St. James's parishioner, for a two-part forum on November 12 and 19 on how we can work to end our nation's gun violence epidemic as followers of Jesus. Raissian is one of the nation's preeminent researchers of gun-related death and injury. She will share her research and lead a discussion in ways that people of faith can help reduce gun violence beyond "thoughts and prayers." Each session will be held during coffee hour following the 9:30 service.

December 3 & 10

"Mary in Art & Music"

The Rev. Alan Murchie will present an Advent two-part forum on Mary in Art & Music. We will spend two Sundays in Advent reflecting on Mary in visual and musical image. More information on page 5.

Two Ways to Volunteer for Coffee Hour

Sundays at 11am

NOW there are two ways you can help out with coffee hour! The first is to sign up for the Brew Crew, the team that oversees brewing the coffee, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. The other is to contribute homemade or store-bought baked goods or other food items, such as grapes, clementines, or juice. Good dates are going fast, so sign up at www.stjwh.org/coffee and reserve your spot TODAY. Hosts will receive instructions ahead of their assigned shift. If you've already signed up, Thank You! Contact Loretta Waldman at lwaldmanster@gmail.com with questions.

Men's Discussion Group

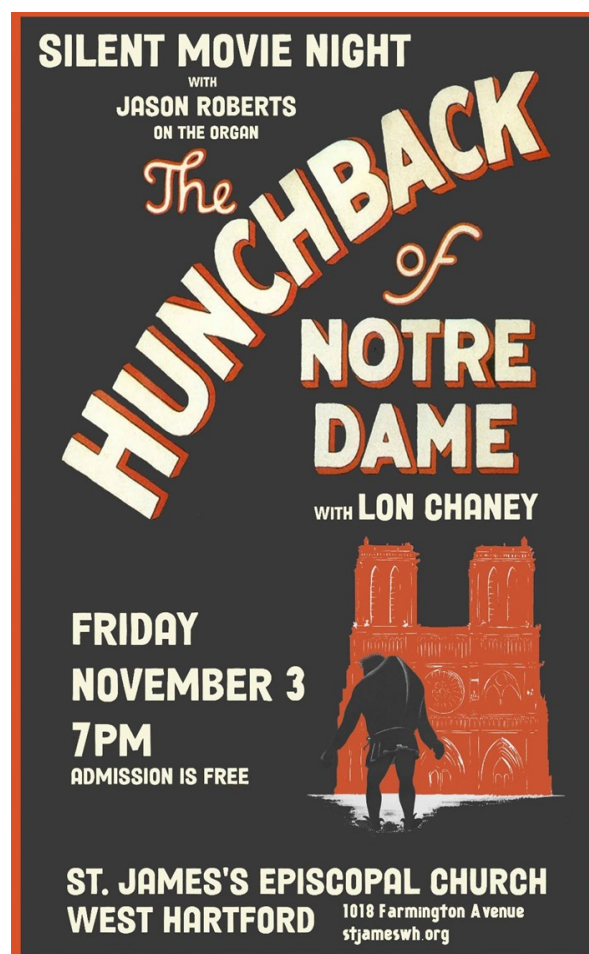
Second and Fourth Saturdays

A group of men from Saint James's Church and a few from other churches meet twice monthly on the second and fourth Saturdays for an hour and a bit more beginning at 8:00 AM in the parish room for discussion of religious subjects. Typically, the discussion is led by one of the group members about a book selected by the group. The next meetings will be held **Saturdays, November 11 and 25; December 9 and 23**. Light refreshments are served. Daniel Dollar chairs the group. Interested? Contact him at danielmdollar@gmail.com for further information.

All Saints' Sunday & Stewardship Brunch

November 5 Beginning at 9:30

WE will celebrate the Feast of All Saints' on **Sunday, November 5** with one service at 9:30am followed by the annual Stewardship Brunch in the parish hall. There will be no 8:00 service this day. Please bring a breakfast item or casserole to share with the group, if you are able. Bring your pledge cards with you! Let us come together and celebrate the generosity that is St. James's. All are encouraged to attend. **Note:** Daylight Saving Time ends on November 5. Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 4.



Annual Fall Cleanup

Saturday, November 11

THIS year's outdoor fall cleanup will take place on **Saturday, November 11** at 10am. We could use your help! Bring a rake or blower and a pair of gloves. We will also be doing some painting as well so dress appropriately. Refreshments will be served. Any amount of time you can give is greatly appreciated. **Rain Date: Saturday, November 18.**

Christmas at St. James's



CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

5:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Pageant

9:30 PM Music Prelude

10:00 PM Choral Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Carols

*"For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given" (Is 9:6).*

Please join us as we celebrate
the Nativity of
Our Lord Jesus Christ.



Healing Prayer

First Wednesday Evening of the Month

ON Wednesdays, **November 1 and December 6**, at 7 p.m., join us for the monthly Healing Prayer service in the main church. The service for those who are sick or in need of healing will be based on the contemplative and poetic "Iona Healing" liturgy from the Iona community in Scotland. We will offer prayers for healing of body, mind, spirit, relationships, grief, and all parts of creation. All are welcome! If you are unable to attend, send the names of people you would like mentioned in prayer to the Rev. Joe Rose at assistant@stjameswh.org.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Thursday, November 23 at 10am

WE will celebrate Thanksgiving Day with Holy Eucharist at 10am in the chapel on **November 23**. Let us gather on this day in celebration and thanksgiving for all of God's many blessings.

West Hartford Holiday Stroll

Thursday, November 30

THE West Hartford Holiday Stroll will be held on **Thursday, November 30 beginning at 5pm**. The St. James's 3Ms will be singing some favorite Christmas Carols at St. James's in the church at 5:30pm. Stop in and hear them sing as you stroll the center!

Poinsettia Plant Sale

Sunday, December 10

DOUG Compton will have poinsettias this year for purchase on **Sunday, December 10** after both services. There will be 4", 6", and 8" pots. They sell out quickly so plan ahead. Proceeds benefit the St. James's Feeding Ministry.

Fourth Friday Family Night

December 22 at 5:15pm

Family night will meet on **Friday, December 22** at 5:15pm at St. James's in the parish hall (no meeting in November). We will enjoy a pizza dinner and activity for the kids. Kerri will bring the pizza, and the cost will be approximately \$10-15 per family to cover the pizza. You should bring your own drinks, and please feel free to bring a side dish/dessert of your choice. If you'd like to attend, please email Kerri, kerriraissian@gmail.com to be added to the Evite list. Friends and family are also welcome, just please indicate them on the Evite RSVP so we can order enough pizza.



Christmas Flowers

GIVE Christmas flowers in honor or in memory of loved ones! Just fill out and submit a flower envelope with your name request along with your donation. Flower envelopes will be located at the end of the pews in the church and chapel, and will be available beginning **Sunday, November 26**. Please return your envelopes to the parish office no later than **Monday, December 18**. A list of those loved ones so honored or remembered will be included in the Christmas bulletins.

Greening of the Church

CALLING all men and women to help with St. James's annual greening of the church. Come and share in the preparations of the sanctuary for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. Please join Mary Ann Haar in the church on **Saturday, December 23 at 9am**. Your help is very much appreciated!

Holiday Parish Office Closings

THE parish office will be closed **Thursday and Friday, Nov 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving**, and closed **Christmas week, Dec 25-29, and New Year's Day, January 1**. Parish office will reopen Tuesday, January 2.

Wednesday Morning Eucharist

Every Week at 7:00am in the Chapel

HOLY Eucharist is celebrated every Wednesday morning in the chapel at 7:00. We hope to see you there!

Registry and Readings

Baptisms

Alexander Troy Bullard—September 17, 2023

Son of Andrew Bullard & Angelica Wilson

Ava June Reynolds—September 17, 2023

Daughter of Andrew Reynolds & Karin Zadzilko

Transfers Out

Carol Whelan—October 23, 2023

To St. James Episcopal Church, Farmington, CT

Parish Birthdays

NOVEMBER

Jack Keough, 1
John Kramer, 2
Quinn Ciccone, 9
Emily Jacovino, 9
Evelyn Normand, 9
Chloe Lovin, 10
Jude Reynolds, 10
Violet Long, 11
Lara Swales, 11
Thaddeus Normand, 12
Brayden Tyler, 14
Meadow Tweedie, 20
Trey Keating, 24



DECEMBER

Wrenly Ernest-Jones, 3
Lewis Baier, 4
Laurel Raissian, 4
Ethan Sheldon, 8
Joshua Campbell, 10
Alistair Tweedie, 13
Zoe Pinckney, 14
Jacob Ciccone, 18
James DeLibero, 18
Rowan Guerraz, 21
Andrew Stafford, 23
Emily Lemanski, 25
Ethan McCue, 29

Parish Prayer List

Those in our parish family

Jeffrey, Greg, Elsa, Michael, Elly,
Chuck, Sue, Will, Tom & Chris.

Those in our extended parish family

Jenifer, Nancy, Jeff, Carol, Christina, Jean, Jeff, Karen,
David, Quinn, Joanie, Teresa, Audra, Ann, Patricia, Carrie,
John & Rita, Tavern, Mohan, Larry, Barbara, Hudson,
Guy, Stephen, Clark, Sydney, Clare, Leo, Denise, Javier,
Susan & Gordon, Kristine & Noel, Janet, Annelise, Sue &
Claudia, Larry, Gretchen, Denise, Jocelyn, Forrest.

Those Serving in the Military

Andrew Clark

Deaths

Robert Freeburger

October 14, 2023

Sunday Lectionary

All Saints' Sunday, November 5

Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 12

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, November 19

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Christ the King, November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

First Sunday of Advent, December 3

Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28; Psalm 126 or Canticle 15 (or 3)

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38; Canticle 3 or 15; or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Christmas Eve & Day, December 24 & 25

Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14(15-20); Psalm 96

Women Of St. James's

November/December



Tuesday, November 14

The Rev. Canon John Mitman

"An Engaging, Informative, and Touching Talk About
I Know Not What (yet!)"

Harvest Buffet Luncheon—Please bring a dish to share

Tuesday, November 28

"Holiday Cards for Elderly"

Bag Lunch—please bring a bag lunch; dessert provided

Tuesday, December 12

The Rev. Joe Rose & Heidi Rose

"Finding God in Christmas Traditions"

Holiday Buffet—please bring a dish to share

December 26 and January 2

Holiday Hiatus—No meetings

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 All Saints' Day 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 5:30 PM Chorister Rehearsal 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Healing Service—Chapel	2 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group—DR	3 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 PM Silent Movie with Jason Roberts	4 7:00 PM AA Group—DR
5 All Saints' Sunday No 8:00 Service 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/Livestream—Church 9:30 KFC (Kids for Christ) - PH 11:00 AM 200 Identical Sandwiches 11:00 AM Stewardship Brunch—PH 5:00 PM Confirmation & Sacred Ground Classes	6 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 4:00 PM Monday Music & More	7 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	8 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 5:30 PM Chorister Rehearsal 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group—DR	10 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	11 8:00 AM Men's Disc Group-PR 10:00 AM Fall Cleanup 7:00 PM AA Group—DR
12 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 8:35 AM Prepare for Loaves and Fishes 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/ Livestream—Church 9:30 KFC (Kids for Christ) - PH 11:00 AM 200 Identical Sandwiches 11:00 AM Coffee Hour Forum—PH 4:00 PM CONCORA—Church 7:30 PM Solisti Orchestra—Church	13 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 11:30 AM Serve for Loaves and Fishes 4:00 PM Monday Music & More	14 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 PM Vestry—PR 12:00 PM Women of St. James's—DR	15 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—McAuley 5:30 PM Chorister Rehearsal 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group -DR 10:00 AM FOODSHARE	17 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	18 10:00 AM (Fall Cleanup Rain Date) 7:00 PM AA Group—DR
19 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 8:35 AM Prepare for South Park Inn 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/ Baptism & Livestream—Church 9:30 KFC (Kids for Christ) - PH 11:00 AM 200 Identical Sandwiches 11:00 AM Coffee Hour Forum—PH 4:00 PM Chapel Organ Dedication w/ Reception to follow in parish hall 5:00 PM Sacred Ground Class	20 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 4:00 PM Monday Music & More	21 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 PM Vestry—PR	22 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 5:30 PM Chorister Rehearsal 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	23 Thanksgiving Parish Office Closed 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group—DR 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel	24 POC 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	25 8:00 AM Men's Disc Group-PR 7:00 PM AA—DR
26 Christ the King 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/ Livestream—Church 9:30 KFC (Kids for Christ) - PH 11:00 AM Christmas Bags & Coffee Hour—PH	27 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 4:00 PM Monday Music & More	28 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 12:00 PM Women of St. James's—DR	29 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel	30 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group—DR 5:00 PM Holiday Stroll West Hartford 5:30 PM 3Ms sing in church		

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Christmas I 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/Livestream—Church 9:30 KFC (Kids for Christ) - PH 11:00 AM Coffee Hour—PH					1 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	2 7:00 PM AA Group—DR 9:00 AM Christmas Tree Sale
3 Advent I 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/Livestream—Church 9:30 KFC (Kids for Christ) - PH 11:00 AM 200 Identical Sandwiches 11:00 Advent Coffee Hour Forum—PH 12:00 PM Christmas Tree Sale 5:00 PM Confirmation & Sacred Ground Classes	4 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 4:00 PM Monday Music & More 4:00 PM Christmas Tree Sale	5 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 4:00 PM Christmas Tree Sale	6 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 4:00 PM Christmas Tree Sale 5:30 PM Chorister Rehearsal 7:00 PM Healing Prayer—Church 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	7 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group—DR 4:00 PM Christmas Tree Sale	8 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 4:00 PM Christmas Tree Sale	9 8:00 AM Men's Disc Group-PR 9:00 AM Cookie Prep—PR 9:00 AM Christmas Tree Sale 7:00 PM AA Group—DR
10 Advent II 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 8:35 AM Prepare for Loaves and Fishes 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/Livestream—Church 9:30 KFC (Kids for Christ) - PH 11:00 AM 200 Identical Sandwiches 11:00 AM Advent Coffee Hour Forum—PH 12:00 PM Christmas Tree Sale	11 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 11:30 AM Serve for Loaves and Fishes 4:00 PM Monday Music & More	12 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 PM Vestry—PR 12:00 PM Women of St. James's—DR	13 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—McAuley	14 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group -DR	15 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:30 PM WH Women's Chorale Concert—Church	16 9:00 AM Cookie Making & Packing—Kitchen 7:00 PM AA Group—DR
17 Advent III 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II—Chapel 8:35 AM Prepare for South Park Inn 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/ Livestream—Church 9:30 KFC (Kids for Christ) - PH 11:00 AM 200 Identical Sandwiches 4:00 PM Christmas Concert—Church	18 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 4:00 PM Monday Music & More	19 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 PM Vestry—PR	20 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Chapel 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—McAuley	21 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group—DR 10:00 AM FOODSHARE	22 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 5:15 PM Fourth Friday Family Night—PH	23 8:00 AM Men's Disc Group-PR 7:00 PM AA—DR
24 Advent IV / Christmas Eve 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II w/ Livestream—Church 9:30 KFC (Kids for Christ) - PH 11:00 AM Coffee Hour—PH 5:00 PM Pageant & Eucharist 9:30 PM Music Prelude 10:00 PM Choral Eucharist	25 Christmas Day Parish Office Closed 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist w/ Carols—Church	26 POC 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	27 POC 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	28 POC 7:00 AM AA Group - DR 10:00 AM AA Group—DR	29 POC 7:00 AM AA Group - DR	30 7:00 PM AA—DR

St. James's Episcopal Church

**19 Walden Street
West Hartford, CT 06107**

Phone: 860-521-9620

E-mail: info@stjameswh.org

Website: www.stjameswh.org



The Clergy

The Reverend Robert C. Hooper, III	Rector
The Reverend Joseph J. Rose	Assistant Rector
The Reverend Alan C. Murchie	Assoc. for Education & Music
The Reverend Canon Douglas T. Cooke	Priest Associate
The Reverend Molly F. James	Priest Associate
The Reverend Canon John L.C. Mitman	Priest Associate
The Reverend Dr. Borden W. Painter	Priest Associate
The Reverend Joan P. Phelps	Priest Associate
The Reverend Elsa P. Walberg	Priest Associate

The Staff

Cheryl C. Batter	Administrator
Heidi Cotter	Financial Secretary
Leon Fraser	Sexton
Priscilla Hooper	Director of Family Ministries

Volunteer Staff

Harry Meyer	Assistant Treasurer
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The Vestry

Ted Newton	Senior Warden
Tyler Smith	Junior Warden
Kerri Raissian	Clerk
Michael Sherrill	Treasurer

Term Ending 2024

**Adam Fisher, Jessica Henning
Jonathan Lewis, Debra Morton**

Term Ending 2025

**Bob Bausmith, Ellen Dollar
Kim Hart-Kindelberger, Judith Stahl**

Term Ending 2026

**Chuck Kinney, Ruth Mitman
Barbara Rua, Bill Thompson**