

The Letter of Saint James'

St. James' Episcopal Church

Pray Hope Dream

The parish of St. James' ministers to all people in the name of Jesus Christ.

December 2019 (with a preview of January 2020)

Advent Begins

*Could be! Who knows? There's something due any day;
I will know right away, Soon as it shows.*

*Could it be? Yes, it could. Something's coming, something good, if I can wait!
Something's comin', I don't know what it is, but it is gonna be great!*

(Lyrics from "Something's coming" – West Side Story)

Do you ever experience times when a song gets stuck in your head and you can't stop singing it? For me, every time I try to switch gears from Thanksgiving to Christmas, that song is that one from the musical, West Side Story. These words catch the spirit of the season of Advent. "Something's comin', maybe tonight, maybe today, maybe right this very moment ... **and it's gonna be great!**"

As we move into the final phases of a new Rector call AND another new church year, we are reminded that we are a church founded on hope, a church seeking to be a visible source of light in a world all too familiar with darkness, a church with a mission to follow Jesus, to learn what God's love is all about, and then to be sent out by the Spirit into the world, joining in God's mission of hope and reconciliation.

As we celebrate this season of Advent, we look for spiritual practices that help shed light in the midst of whatever darkness keeps us from experiencing Emmanuel – God with us - coming *to* us now, in our everyday lives, to help us live with meaning and joy. We begin with our longings, our desires, our hopes and passions. This newsletter is filled with invitations for *you* to find that perfect opportunity.



During our worship services, we will re-introduce an intentional lighting of our Advent Candle wreath, as a visual reminder to stop the distracting busy-ness of our lives and *just breath*. Breathe in the power and presence. The light that is coming – and now is – is Jesus, whose love shows us the Way through the dark.

In God's peace and Love – Rev. Lisa

An Advent Reflection

from your Faith Formation Ministry Vestry Liaison

Not too long ago I was having *one of those days*... You know – where the alarm didn't go off, I over slept, had to skip my exercise and devotional time and rush to dress, then in the car I was behind the extra slow truck, every light was red, I got cut off by a rude driver, and finally got to work very late. By then, I was looking for what else could go wrong – and I found it too.

About lunch time I realized what I was doing and reframed my day: I remembered that I have a home with a bed and an alarm clock, I'm capable of exercise, have a bible to read, and a car where every morning someone kindly lets me merge in front of them on 84 so I can get to the job that I usually enjoy at a company who's mission I believe in. My problem that morning was I was seeking the bad things. When I changed what I was looking for, my day changed completely and the afternoon was a good one.

Jesus says, "But seek first the kingdom of God..." (Matthew 6:33). This takes effort and the more you seek for evidence of God's kingdom the better your chances of finding it-just as seeking what is good about my day makes it more likely I will notice those blessings.

As we celebrate the season of Advent, remember what we are really preparing for this time of the year. At St. James', we have a number of opportunities that can help you look for God's kingdom. We have our Monday evening Dwelling in the Word Bible Study, our Wednesday morning Book group, and spirit lifting book loans in our library. The article below helps you in finding devotionals, and other resources to help you on your journey. "Seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you." (Mathew 7:7)

May God Bless and guide your seeking.

Jeanne Todaro.

DWELLING IN THE WORD Adult Bible Study
Mondays at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall

Daytime Book Study – Especially for Seniors
The Gift of Years – Wednesdays 11 am – noon in the Lounge

More Advent Opportunities

Advent Word of the Day

Join us this Advent as we participate in a Global Advent Calendar. Each day a word will be posted on social media and will appear on our website home page. We ask that you reflect on the word and how that may move you this Advent season. Go to www.adventword.org for more information.

Living Compass Wellness Initiative

Living Compass is an online resource for spiritual growth and balance of heart, soul, strength, and mind. This Advent season Living Well offers a daily email devotional. You will receive twenty-three daily emails, one for each day of Advent, plus Christmas. The emails will begin on the first day of Advent, Sunday, December 1, 2019. If at any point you no longer want to receive the emails, you can unsubscribe at any time. Go to www.livingcompass.org/advent for more information. (scroll to the bottom of the page to sign up for daily e-mail meditations.)

Christmas (Senior) Tea

Saturday, December 7 1:00-3:00pm In the library

Open to all. Please bring your favorite pot luck dish to share desserts and beverages provided. Please bring a wrapped grab bag if you like. Food, fun, Christmas music! Please RSVP Cathy Blasco at 203-479-0710 or cathyblasco311@gmail.com by Dec 4.

Annual Christmas Cookie Walk & Craft Fair

Sunday, December 8th, 2019

Are you crafty? All crafters are welcome to display and sell their masterpieces as potential Christmas gifts. **Are you a baker?** All bakers welcome to donate up to six dozen of your masterpieces for the cookie walk. **All proceeds will go to support Maria de Jesus, our student at El Hogar in Honduras.** Taking place after both the 8:00 & 10:00 services.

St. James' Mission Ministries

Your Mission Ministry Committee is helping our sisters and brothers in need to prepare for the cold weather by collecting gloves, mittens, hats and socks. Socks must be new; other items new or gently used. Look for the barrel at the back of the church. Thank you in advance.

Our Annual Giving Tree

This year the Mission Ministries Committee selected the Danbury Youth Services (DYS) as the recipient of our Giving Tree. Our Sunday School children have prepared the tags so we are ready to go! Please take an ornament and provide holiday cheer to a deserving child.

Danbury Youth Services has been a member of the Danbury community since 1969. They are our neighbor, just up the street at 91 West Street. The participants are identified through word of mouth, the Danbury School system and the Danbury Police Department. The area children served are provided counseling, enrichment programs, life skills training as well as other programs. They range in age from kindergarteners to middle schoolers. They are our neighbors. Please consider sharing the spirit of Christ's love with them this Christmas time.



For further information about DYS contact Julie Schmitter, Executive Director at 203-7582936

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

We will be doing the Greening of the Church on **December 22nd**
After the 10am Service

Help needed!

Questions? Please see Yvonne Kiddoe.

FLOWER DELIVERY TO SHUT INS

On December 29th, we will deliver poinsettias to shut-ins after the 8:00 am and 10:00 am Lessons and Carols. We still need help delivering poinsettias. Would you like to help? There will be cards to go with it. We usually have more than we need so if you have a friend who would like to receive it, please see **Yvonne Kiddoe**.

A big **thank you** to all those who helped make our Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner a success. St. James' has done this annually for the last 3 decades and it would not be possible without the support of all of you. Thanks so much.

(And “back-atcha” with love and gratitude to our Coordinators: Linda Spaziani and Lisa Marsico!)

Open Letter to Saint James' from the Daily Bread Food Pantry

Saint James' Episcopal Church Parish,

On behalf of Daily Bread Food Pantry's Board of Directors and volunteers, please accept our heartfelt thanks for all of your support over the past few months. We are thrilled to announce that our renovation is complete and we are officially “open for business.” Our distributions are off to a great start. Volunteers and clients are delighted by the changes in the pantry and have repeatedly noted the much-improved flow, storage, accessibility and airiness of the space. We look forward to better serving the growing number of families in need in Greater Danbury from this point forward!

It is abundantly clear to all of us that this project couldn't have happened without your support. You graciously welcomed our deliveries to the church several days each week, allowed us to store endless bins of goods on your stage, endured a great deal of foot traffic as our volunteers moved inventory back and forth throughout the week, allowed use of your entire hall, kitchen and your refrigeration units for our bi-weekly distributions, made room in your parking lot for workers trucks, a dumpster and construction equipment and helped us solve many thorny problems along the way. We cannot thank you enough for standing by our side. This challenging period has been a keen reminder of our good fortune. Your partnership has made our work possible over the years and has made this renovation a reality.

We do hope that you will come visit us in the pantry. We would love to show you how this project has transformed our space and our ability to address the great need in our community.

With deep appreciation,

Debbie Landzberg, Board President

Jill Shaw, Food Pantry Coordinator



Maria de Jesus Roque

Update about Our Ministry in Honduras

Newer and returning parishioners may be unfamiliar with our special ministry in Honduras. This newsletter provides an opportunity to bring our entire congregation together to share **Good News** about the work God is doing.



In January 2017, this parish began a love-filled relationship with a child in Honduras named Maria de Jesus Roque. We made a commitment as a people of God to sponsor Maria's upbringing. **We have successfully helped Maria by donating \$5400 per year for three years running!** Thank you, lovely, generous, Christ-centered people of St. James'.

A little background to bring everyone up to speed: A police officer found six-year-old Maria and her sister wandering the streets in search of their mother who had left home to get medical help for their baby brother. A week passed, but mom and the baby never returned. The police officer who found the girls sent them to a government agency, and that agency contacted el Hogar. Although desperately sad when they arrived, Maria and her sister are now doing well at "The Home of Love and Hope" where they have been living since 2015.

The mission of El Hogar is to improve life in Honduras one child at a time. El Hogar was founded in **1979 by members of a local Episcopal parish** in response to the desperate need of abandoned, vulnerable children. It has grown from a rented home housing five abandoned boys to an organization with four different campuses including an elementary school, a technical school, an agricultural school and a high school. Today, more than 200 children a year are provided with a loving home, an education, medical care and a church family rather than starving, being victimized by crime, or becoming members of a gang in order to survive. God, in his mercy, brought Maria to El Hogar, which now provides her with a loving home, an education, and spiritual formation.

We cannot solve all the problems in Honduras, *but together we solved one problem in Honduras*: we ensured that Maria had our prayers and our financial support for 2019. At the writing of this newsletter article, I am waiting to receive Maria's report card (school ends in November in Honduras) and an updated photo, and perhaps a little news on her health and welfare. I will make these available to you in our upcoming Christmas letter to sponsors and in the Annual report for 2019.

Thinking ahead, what is our hope and dream for this ministry?

In 2020, I will step down from my role of leadership in this ministry. The Mission Ministry remains committed to Maria's sponsorship and we are looking for someone new to facilitate this ministry. **If God is calling you to do this, call me, and I will tell you what's involved and support you every step of the way.**

Maria will celebrate her 11th birthday in January 1, 2020. **With God's blessing and help, our special birthday gift to her will be another year of sponsorship.** Join the family of quiet, humble donors. We are sharing God's love as we pray, hope and dream for Maria. If God calls you to give in this way, make out your gift check to St. James, **with El Hogar in the memo.**

Love in Christ, Christine DiMeglio, 203-730-8884, Christine.dimeglio@yale.edu

PARISH FINANCES

Year end financial donations

As year end approaches please note that your financial donations need to be received in the office by December 29th to count as a 2019 contribution. We thank you for your continued support of St. James'.

2020 Draft Budget

We currently have a **\$50,000 deficit** for our 2020 draft budget. If you have not turned in a pledge card please do so as the Finance Committee and Vestry consider how to pave a path forward for 2020.

Vestry Approves Continued Conversation for 2020 Capital Campaign

Significant building maintenance needs as well as a desire to upgrade accessibility of our spaces, including parking, has moved the Vestry and Finance Committee to meet with the consultants who led us through the Rapid Financial Feasibility Study last spring. A decision whether to move forward will be made in early December. Stay tuned!

RECTOR RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Glory to God for the Recruitment Team's diligent work. Five highly qualified Rector candidates were interviewed in one week! Three names are now being passed on to our Vestry who now begin the final phase. Please offer prayers of thanksgiving for your fellow parishioners who are working tirelessly on your behalf. And continue to pray for God's Hand to guide our next steps.

Prayer for Transition to Rector-Recruitment Phase

O gracious Lord, all praise and glory are yours! We long to know you, love you, and do your will. You know the challenges and opportunities we face, and we know you will guide us, and provide for us, if we listen. We have a passion to serve you, and so we pray for your help to find a rector who will shepherd your people at Saint James' and in the Danbury community. We pray that our next rector be filled with joy and faith, eager to communicate your love, and care for our parishioners and our neighbors. Bless our parish, our transition teams and all those whom you have called to apply. You are in our midst, we are called by your name, and we pray for your guidance. Amen.



Sunday December 22 (Fourth Sunday in Advent)

- 8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II with Children's Pageant
- 11:30 am Greening of the Church

Tuesday December 24 Christmas Eve

- 5:00 pm Family Festive Candlelight Eucharist
- 10:30 pm Choral and Congregational Carol Singing
- 11:00 pm Candlelight Choral Service with Eucharist

Wednesday December 25 Christmas Day

- 9:00 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday December 29 (First Sunday after Christmas)

- 8:00am Christmas Lessons and Carols with Eucharist (Rite I)
- 10:00am Christmas Lessons and Carols with Eucharist (Rite II)



ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2020

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE ON JANUARY 5TH, 2020.

Please do not miss the Deadline! St. James' Episcopal Church will have its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2019 following the 10 AM Service (about 11:15 AM) in Parish Hall.

**The ministry of the people of St. James' Episcopal Church
is led by the Wardens and Vestry
and assisted by the Clergy and Staff.**

Wardens

Joe Walkovich
Janet Brown

Treasurer

Linda Spaziani

Clerk

Sandra Nichols

Vestry

Class of 2022

Deborah Kaufmann-**Worship**
Gary Rogers-**Building & Grounds**
Jehad Sabbagh-**At-Large**

Class of 2021

Lyn Meyers-**Finance**
Jeanne Todaro-**Faith Formation**
Carolyn Flynn-**Pastoral Care**

Class of 2020

Victoria Woody-**Parish Life**
Beth Cox-**Hospitality**
Susie Sarkisian-**Mission**

Interim Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Dr. Lisa D. Hahneman. Tel. Ext. 14
ldhahneman@sbcglobal.net

Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper

Dilsa Quade. Tel. Ext .10
welcome@saintjamesdanbury.org

Director of Music

Joanne F. Archibald. Tel. Ext. 16
joannearchibald@saintjamesdanbury.org

Sexton

Jose Lopez Sanz



**2020 NOMINATIONS FOR ONE WARDEN, ONE ASSISTANT TREASURER, AND
THREE VESTRY MEMBERS NOW BEING SOUGHT.**

PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER – December 2019 & January 2020



*"I urge that supplications, prayers,
intercessions and thanksgivings be
made for everyone"*

I Timothy 2:1

Each month in our newsletter we include part of our listing of the members of our congregation in the Parish Cycle of Prayer. This month you are asked to hold the following members in your prayers:

Mildred Boughton; Allan & Janet Brown; Mary Lou Brown; Nancy Halpin
Rita Butler; Jeffrey & Nicole Callan; Mimi Herald; The Rev. Lisa Hahneman
Suzanne Carley; Valentina Carrasquillo; John & Vivien Cheeseman
Jeffrey Chowanec; Charles & Linda Clapp; Stephen & Amanda Huntley
Robert & Laura Consiglio & Family; Tiwana Council, Beth & Dan Cox & Family
James Cooks; Michael & Pamela Cummings; Wendy DaCosta; Danielle Franco
Kathleen Dannenhoffer; Karen Davidson; Ruth Davis; Jeffrey & Denise Day
Barbara DeVeaux; Anthony & Nanci DiPerrio; Emily Disney
Joe Dobbins; Bridgett Downer; Roderick & Alexandra Edwards
Elizabeth Egan; David & Marcella Emerito; Margaret Emerito; Wendi McCabe
Sean & Rebecca Fanning & Family; Anne Felizardo, Eugene & Shirley Fernekes
Shirley Ferrarone; Randall & Elizabeth Fescoe; Joseph & Sally Fiorita
Etura Fleming; Robert & Carolyn Flynn; Michael Shellman; Joanne Siergiej & Family
Lorraine Sautner; Francis & Judith Toth; Jane McGarry; Clair Rundhaug & Family
Theo Gammie; Tancy Gemza; Madeline Franco; Walter & Louise Liston & Family
Carole Conaway; Lillian Heering; Ernest Smith; Kevin & Debbie Smith
Frank Giarratana & Family; Melissa & Nicholas Gieda & Family; Doreen Gilliland
Vanessa Grant & Family; Scott & Michelle Grayson & Family; Jody Armstrong
Barbara Greene; Russell & Judith Griemsmann; Dianne Fleischer; John Pena
Cheryl Harewood; Ernest Harrington & Lyn Meyers; John Morris
Linda Harrison, Mark & Kathryn Harrison & Family; Jean Hassen; Bill Florian
William & Vicki Hutchinson; Linda Immarigeon; Delores Ireland
Catherine Jaber-Kreiger; Edith Janesky; Carl & Susan Johnson; Catherine Johnson
Amanda Johnson; James Johnson; Robert Johnson; Robert & Leslie Johnson
Deborah Kaufmann; Denise Kaufmann; Carol Kelly; Margaret Kelly; Mona Thomas
Christopher Kuell & Christine DiMeglio; David & Ingrid McCauley
Nicholas Kuell; Grace Kuell; Harry & Jill Kuhn; Adam & Sherry Kyriacou & Family
Kevin & Susan Lally; Sheila & Richard Landis; Pat Larsen; Lillian MacBain
Ethel Leahey; Laura Lee & David Katz; Daniel & Marion Liberati; Kerlen & Letty Lim
Maria McGowan; John & Loretta McLaughlin; Suzanne McLean
Mark Meyer & Family; May Molinaro; Michelle Cullen; Patricia Reynolds

Book of Loving Remembrance

Every year, St. James' is beautifully decorated for Christmas. This is done by contributions to the Book of Loving Remembrance. In the Christmas bulletins, there will be a booklet listing the names of those remembered this Christmas Season. You can find the envelopes and forms at the rear of the Church. Please **PRINT** the names of those whom you would like listed in the Book of Loving Remembrance for Christmas 2019 and either send it to the office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday. **There is no minimum offering. These names MUST be in the office by Dec. 15th in order to be listed in the Book of Loving Remembrance.**



BOOK OF LOVING REMEMBRANCE

If you wish to make a donation toward Christmas flowers for the Church, please PRINT your information below, add your contribution (checks made out to St. James'), and **return each to the church office no later than Dec. 15th, 2019.**

In loving memory of

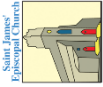
In thanksgiving for

Amount of donation _____

Given by

Please add phone or email below in case the office has questions.

Thank you.



Saint James' Episcopal Church
25 West Street
Danbury, CT 06810