

Newsletter

July / August 2020



St. James' Episcopal Church is a community of faith where we come together in Christ to develop spiritually through worship and Spirit-led action. We experience the sacred through our liturgy, music, hospitality, and shared ministries. As part of our outreach mission to the greater Clinton area, the parish campus is used by various community groups as a place of meeting and fellowship. We are continually and prayerfully exploring ways to transform the world through loving faith-filled service.

Staff

Richard Lloyd, *Minister of Music*
Mujo Salkic, *Sexton*
Caitlin Richer, *Office Administrator*
Mike Baldwin, *Treasurer*

Wardens wardens@stjamesclinton.org

Chris Fox, *Senior Warden*
Wendy Weber, *Junior Warden*

Vestry vestry@stjamesclinton.org

Karen Anderson, '23
Mike Baldwin, '23
Joanne Gilles, '23
Patricia Jue, '21
Ray Morse, '22
Jennifer Potter-Hayes '21
Gail Prentice '21
Mary Seyse '22

Leadership Group Chairs

Charles Abraham, *Hospitality*
Malinda Abraham, *Hospitality*
Karen Anderson, *Worship*
Chris Fox, *Outreach*
Patty Fox, *Outreach*
Patricia Jue, *Altar Guild & Regathering*
Judy Logan, *Pastoral Care*
Jennifer Potter-Hayes, *Finance / Investment*
Jan Wilson, *Youth Ministry*

Regathering Committee

regathering@stjamesclinton.org

Karen Anderson, David Hermann, Ted Johnson, Patricia Jue, Mark Linderman, Kate Marquardt

Church Office Hours:

Caitlin is currently working from home. Mail, email, and phone messages are checked routinely.

(315) 853-5359

office@stjamesclinton.org

Regathering: Towards a Community for All

The St. James church leadership (vestry) and the Regathering guiding committee are working towards on-site worship services. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is complex. Patience is one of the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22). We are learning to be humble, as we gain more understanding about the novel corona virus. Without doubt, all of us will need to practice compassion. Some among us hunger for a quick return to our sacramental worship of Eucharist and communal worship. Some of us see a long journey toward the safe return to any in-person group activity, including the community of St. James' Clinton. Others of us are somewhere between these.

The Regathering Committee is guided by the Diocese of Central New York's "[Steps on the Journey to Gather Anew](#)." Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe reminds us to:

- Share God's love and hope with our communities in this uncertain time.
- Keep Jesus' command to "remember the least of these" — the most vulnerable members of our community.
- Continue to provide people with pastoral care now and in the months to come.
- Continue prayer, worship, and formation, whether gathered in-person or online.

The committee's recommendation to the vestry on how and when to resume worship services in our building will be informed by your responses to the Regathering Survey. We intend to provide in-person and off-site synchronized worship services. A key part of this is audio/visual enhancement of our church building. Saturday and Sunday Zoom-delivered worship services will continue as we do the required preparative work.

We will adhere to practices that slow the spread of infectious disease. These include face masks and six foot distancing for the foreseeable future. We will follow all of the New York State regulations associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for cleaning and disinfection. Caitlin Richer, our office administrator, identified cartridge-less refillable hand sanitation stations. These are financially economical and minimize once-use plastic package. Many thanks to Caitlin for helping us be good stewards of God's creation.

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The Regathering Committee members are Karen Anderson, David Hermann, Ted Johnson, Mark Linderman and Kate Marquardt. I thank them for their prayerful offering of their talent and many hours as we continue forward. Feel free to contact any one of the Regathering committee members individually. You may also e-mail the committee at regathering@stjamesclinton.org.

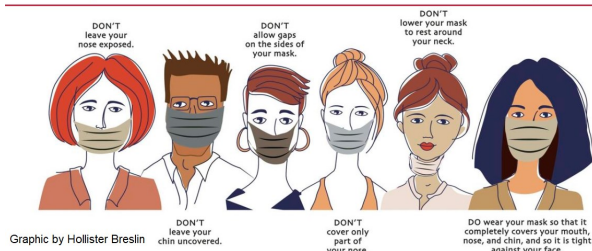
We remain the church, united in our common worship and ministry. God's blessing on us all,

Patricia Kay Jue

Regathering Committee chair

Love your neighbor; wear a mask

Important tips on how to wear one correctly



A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit Among the People of God

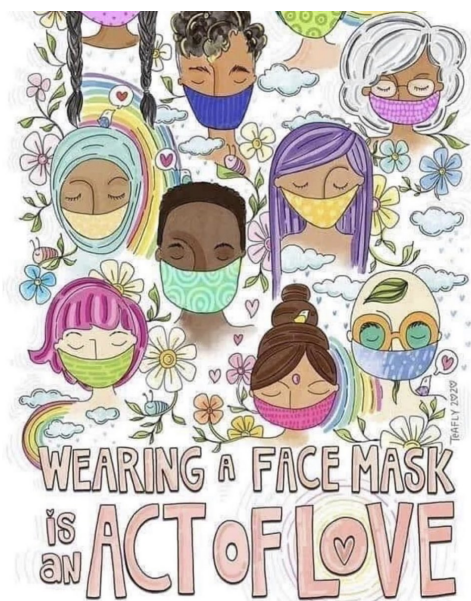
God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and
loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn,
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer
and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation
might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This prayer was written by a team of Lutherans and Episcopalians to unite us in common prayer during the corona pandemic. Presiding Bishop Curry invites congregations to pray this new collect each Sunday from Pentecost through the first Sunday in September. <https://episcopalchurch.org/concerning-covid19/worship-formation>

Essential Workers

The work of the church is essential.
The work of caring for the lonely, the marginalized, and the oppressed is essential.
The work of speaking truth to power and seeking justice is essential.
The work of being a loving, liberating, and life giving presence in the world is essential.
The work of welcoming the stranger, the refugee and the undocumented is essential.
The work of reconciliation and healing and caring is essential.
The church does not need to "open" because the church never "closed."
We who make up the Body of Christ, the church, love God and our neighbors and ourselves so much that we will stay away from our buildings until it is safe.
We are the church.

The Right Rev. Deon Johnson
XI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri



Vestry Corner

During the pandemic, we often hear the phrase “Our church building may be closed but our church is open.” That is so true here at St. James. Although our in-person worship services and other gatherings are on pause for a while, we are remaining connected with one another through several new forms of communication. We hope that you are able to participate in our weekend worship services via Zoom. Many people are joining these services, including former parishioners, current parishioners who are out of town, even people from other parishes who participate when they might not otherwise have been able. We hope that you have had an opportunity to view our [Compline Service](#), a short, peace filled service created by many people from our St. James family. You can link to it from our website or weekly e-newsletter. Also, in our e-newsletter, you can read news about our parish, our diocese, and the Episcopal Church as well as view weekly messages from Bishop DeDe and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

At our Vestry meeting in June, the Vestry approved joining the community solar energy project. It’s a way of showing our concern for the environment as well as saving some money on our electric power bill without having to install any equipment on our building. We received a report from the Regathering Committee, chaired by Patricia Jue. She has a separate report in this newsletter. The Vestry also approved a revised budget for 2020.

We should all be inspired by the ways in which our church community has clearly shown that we are still connected with each other. This is truly a transformative time for St. James and other churches and congregations everywhere.

On behalf of the Vestry, I continue to thank you all for your continued support of St. James and for the hard work so many are doing to keep us vibrant and connected.

Chris Fox, Sr. Warden

April Vestry Meeting Highlights

The April vestry meeting was held via Zoom on April 15, 2020. The March vestry minutes were approved with corrections. The Financial Report was deferred until the next vestry meeting to allow the new treasurer, Mike Baldwin, adequate time to review the finances. The vestry appointed Caitlin Richer as vestry clerk, and Mike Baldwin as treasurer. The Finance Committee will research the CARES Act to see if St. James’ would be eligible. The vestry also reviewed what actions are being taken to ensure the continuity of communication and community during the pandemic.

May Vestry Meeting Highlights

At the May 20 vestry meeting, held via Zoom, the vestry approved the April minutes as presented. David Hermann presented information about the Community Solar Project. The vestry will make a decision based on further information. The vestry passed a new Banking Resolution and accepted the Preliminary Financial Report as presented by Mike Baldwin. It was further determined that St. James does not need to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) as we are fortunate to be able to make payroll without assistance. Chris Fox and Wendy Weber were voted to be delegates for the Diocesan Convention in November, with Patricia Jue and Karen Anderson as alternates. The Diocesan Plan for Regathering (May 18 version) was discussed and St. James leadership will continue to follow the plan.

The complete vestry minutes are available for parishioners to read in the library. The Clerk of the Vestry binder is located on top of the bookshelf. Minutes will be available in the binder following their approval by the vestry.

Incentives in the CARES Act for Charitable Donations in 2020

The **CARES Act** (the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) contains enhanced charitable giving incentives for contributions in 2020. The following information provides an overview of the key parts of the plan should you be in the position to donate financially.

Temporary Universal Charitable Deduction—Taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions can take a one-time deduction of up to \$300 for gifts made to charitable organizations. The deduction is ONLY for gifts of cash made in calendar year 2020 and does not cover other types of gifts or contributions made to donor-advised funds or private foundations.

CARES Act raises the 60% adjusted gross income donation limit to 100% for individuals' CASH charitable contributions for the year 2020. Typically, individuals can only take a charitable deduction of up to 60 percent of their adjusted gross income, no matter how much they give. For 2020, there is no limit, making CASH contributions fully deductible.

CARES Act waives for 2020 the required minimum distributions (RMD) from retirement plans, such as pensions and 457 plans. While anyone can continue to receive tax benefits from RMD in 2020, the CARES Act permits any minimum distributions from retirement plans that would have been required in 2020 to be delayed until 2021. If you are able, contribute your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) RMDs to the church in 2020 as well as in future years.

The new CARES Act law is complex. As always, consult your financial or tax advisor.

Parish Services

St. James' continues to hold Zoom worship services every weekend on Saturdays 4 pm and Sundays 9:30 am. Information for accessing the services can be found in the weekly e-newsletter, our [Facebook page](#) and website -www.stjamesclinton.org.

A huge THANK YOU to our Worship Committee for continuously working to ensure that we have supply clergy and lay leaders for our services, and to our Regathering Committee for their diligence in navigating all of the difficult work involved in preparing to regather at St. James on Williams Street.

*thank
you*

Altar Flowers

Even though we have not returned to on-site worship, flowers may still be placed on the altar in thanksgiving, or in honor of a loved one. Please contact our Office Administrator, Caitlin Richer, office@stjamesclinton.org, 315-853-5359, to sign up for a week and to coordinate your flower delivery.



Church Directory



WELCOME

to St. James' Episcopal Church

Use this site to update your contact information, connect with other St. James' members, access a photo directory,

St. James has an on-line password protected directory for active parish members. Simply go to our website www.stjamesclinton.org and click on the red Church Member Link square. Alternatively you can get to the directory using www.churchmemberlink.com/directcommunicator/sjec

The username is your first and last name separated by the underline character; for instance Mary_Smith. If you are uncertain of your password, there is a handy "Forgot your password" link.

If you are new and would like to be added to our directory, or are uncertain about how to connect to and use the directory, contact our church administrator, Caitlin Richer, or members of the Communication group, Kathy Collett and Patricia Jue.

Diocesan Events

Summer Series Online Workshops

more information & registration is available on the [Diocesan website](#)

More workshops will be added, so keep checking back!

Poetry & Faith

Tuesday, July 14, 6:30-8:00 pm

This workshop will include sharing poetry, or particular passages of poetry or scripture which resonate with workshop participants and me. For those who wish, I invite you to send me poetry in advance to be shared. In addition, I will provide guidance, suggested structure and starting points for participants to create their own poetry during the session (or later), and conversation and experience of using poetry in worship, including psalms and hymns and more. Come and join in exploring the awe and truth of poetry.

Youth Ministry for Generation Z and the Evolving Church

Thursday, July 16, 6:30-7:30 pm

How can your church create a thriving youth ministry program when numbers of teenagers in the pews are dwindling?

Come and hear about a model where churches collaborate to meet the needs of young people. In this session, high school teacher and music minister Erin Moore will share what she has learned from 12 years of working with teenagers in schools and churches. Participants will learn how to power through perceived indifference and awkwardness to create meaningful connections.

Introduction to Conflict Resolution

Wednesday, July 22, 11:00 am-noon

Conflict can often bring up negative responses, but conflict, when handled well, can be generative and transforming. Join Canon Carrie for an introduction to Conflict Resolution to hear how we can move through conflict peacefully and productively.

Spreading the Word, online

Tuesday, July 28 7:00-8:00 pm

How to effectively communicate with your church family and the community you serve.

Many of us are online anyway, so why not put it to good use? Learn how you can increase your church's visibility online, spread the word about your ministries, connect with parishioners, and grow your parish.

Conflict Resolution- Beyond the Basics

Tuesday, August 4. 10:00-11:00 am

These are challenging times with many difficult conversations to be engaged. How can we have productive discourse even in the midst of anxiety and difference of opinions?

Please join Canon Carrie to learn about using Conflict Resolution skills in the context of difficult conversations (Introduction to Conflict Resolution helps as a "pre-requisite", but is not required)

It Takes a Community to Heal Addictions

Tuesday, August 18, 6:30-8:00 pm

Addictions continue to impact the lives of many individuals as well as their family members. In addition, addictions continue to place a strain on the resources within our communities. The Opioid Epidemic is not over. Addiction trends are constantly changing.

However, there is hope for those who suffer from addictions, as well as their families and our communities. Learn about the history, nature and science of addiction and how you and your faith community can be part of the healing. Current trends will be discussed and resources provided.

Church Finances- On the Ground

Tuesday, August 25, 1:30-3:00 pm

Your ministry of bookkeeping for your parish supports all of the ministry occurring in your parish. Let's discuss best practices, practical tips, and resources available to you.

Church Finances- The 30,000 Foot View

Thursday, August 27, 1:30-3:00 pm

At every vestry meeting, the vestry and clergy are presented with financial information. The financial reports tell a story. What are we looking at? What should be of concern, and what should give us hope? What questions should we be asking? What resources are available for the ministry of the parish?

Brene Brown Workshop: Come, show up, be seen, live brave

Thursday, September 17, 6:30-8:00 pm

Dr. Brene Brown, Episcopalian and shame and vulnerability researcher provides a path to living, and loving God and neighbor wholeheartedly, answering our confession: we have not loved You with our whole heart.

Come and be introduced to key elements of wholehearted living: identity, values clarification, strength in vulnerability, and dealing with shame to shift to the sense of worthiness and belonging and living fully in the arenas of our lives.

Through video, conversations in break-out groups, and guided exercises we will explore key elements of wholehearted living: identity, values clarification, strength in vulnerability, and dealing with shame to shift to the sense of worthiness and belonging and living fully in the arenas of our lives. Come and explore.

In advance, you may want to watch [Brene Brown's TED talk](#)

July Server Schedule

Date	Lectors
Sat. 7/4 4:00 pm	Ted Johnson Patricia Jue
Sun. 7/5 9:30 am	Diane Baldwin Blair Jones
Sat. 7/11 4:00 pm	Chris Fox Patty Fox
Sun. 7/12 9:30 am	Kate Marquardt Bill Kistner
Sat. 7/18 4:00 pm	Ted Johnson Patricia Jue
Sun. 7/19 9:30 am	Gail Prentice Randy Wilson
Sat. 7/25 4:00 pm	Wendy Weber Matt Weber
Sun. 7/26 9:30 am	David Hermann Barbara Swetman
Sat. 8/1 4:00 pm	Ted Johnson Nancy Taylor
Sun. 8/2 9:30 am	Patricia Jue Bill Kistner

Donations to St. James

During this time of virtual church, contributions may safely be mailed to St. James, 9 Williams St., Clinton, NY 13323.

For those of you who bank online, your bank can assist you in the process for direct payments to St. James.

St. James now has a Tithe.ly account to make giving to the parish a simple, online procedure. At this time all online donations are going to our parish, so if you would like to make a designated donation to Haiti or The Country Pantry please mail that donation to the church. If you have any questions or need help, please [contact our treasurer](#), Mike Baldwin.

To donate online:

1. Click the [Give to my parish](#) button.
2. Fill out the form. You can make a recurring or one time donation.
3. If you are able, please click the **Cover fees** box at the bottom of the form. This will cover the processing fee so that the church does not have to.

Weekly E-news

Our weekly e-news includes information about accessing Zoom services, updates from our committees and ministries, Diocesan events and news from the Episcopal Church!

The newsletter is sent out every Friday morning.

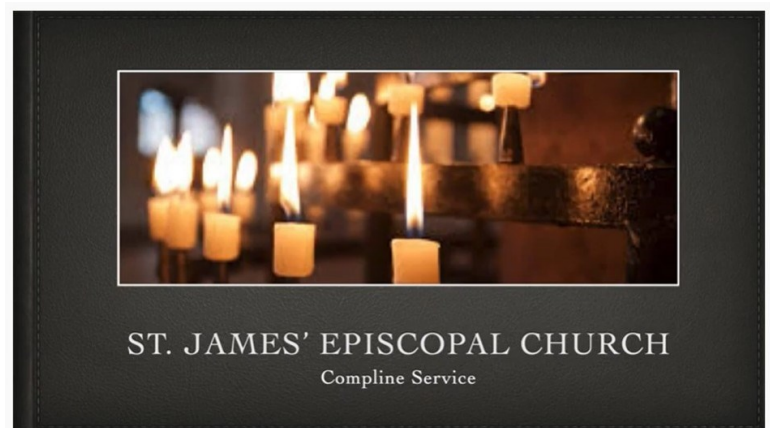
[Click here](#) to sign up or contact the office by phone or email (315- 853-5359 / office@stjamesclinton.org).



St. James Worship Committee creates a Compline Service

St. James' Worship Committee, with the assistance of several parish members have created a recorded service of Compline for anyone to access. You can click on the video image on the right to see the video on YouTube!

Compline is sometimes referred to as night prayer, since it is the last prayer of the day in many liturgical traditions, including the Episcopal church. It is traditionally said or sung prior to retiring for the day. Many people from our St. James' family helped to create this short, peace filled service. We hope that you will watch it often and that it will be enhance your personal worship.



St, James' Ministry meetings

Eucharistic Visitors/ Pastoral Care

The Eucharistic Visitors met on June 2 via Zoom. Members of the committee have continued to stay in touch with homebound members of our church community with phone calls and cards. Due to the pandemic, in-person visits have been temporarily suspended. The committee discussed record keeping, the requirement that all Eucharistic Visitors must be Safe Church trained, and Charles Abraham described Stephen Ministry, of which he is a member.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry members met on June 14 via Zoom. Weekly lessons and materials have been emailed on a weekly basis to the parents of children in our church community. Packets of the materials are available in the back of the sanctuary as well. The committee discussed having a virtual bible school over the summer. Youth members have been busy crafting painted rocks so the committee discussed how to link their interest to the broader community. Discussion of having a tent near the Farmer's Market to sell the painted rocks as a fundraiser for The Country Pantry and incorporate the prayer flags, a project that was started by the Learning Community.

The Country Pantry



Please keep the volunteers and clients of The Country Pantry in your prayers. The volunteers work so hard to prepare food packages for the growing numbers of families that receive food at their distributions. In June, The Country Pantry served 1,640 local families. In addition to the food donations that are made locally, they also purchase food from the Food Bank of CNY.

Currently the pantry is in need of kid-friendly foods such as fruit cups, raisins, pudding cups, granola bars, canned pasta, canned soup, peanut butter, jams & jellies, cereal, juice, cup of noodles, crackers, macaroni and cheese, etc.

Financial donations are also needed and greatly appreciated.

The produce bill for the June 3rd distribution was \$10,000. Local business have graciously donated certificates for milk and eggs. By working together we can help each other as a community.

Food donations may be dropped off in the back of the church sanctuary. Financial donations may be mailed to the church or directly to The Country Pantry.

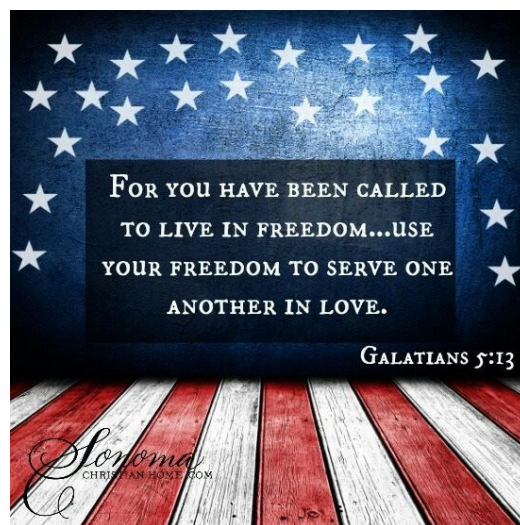
You can visit their website, www.thecountrypantry.org or their Facebook page www.facebook.com/thecountrypantry75 for more information.

Rocks for Love



Kids!! Help us raise funds for the Country Pantry this summer by collecting and painting rocks. We hope to set up a table on Thursdays in July and August at a location near the Farmers Market. We are collecting small, smooth rocks suitable for painting, and would welcome enthusiastic

young painters eager to decorate them. For details please contact Joanne at joannegilles2@yahoo.com or 202-486-9565 (text is best), Deb at debanlucas@gmail.com or Jan at wilsons1975@gmail.com. See some sample rocks in our photo! Watch for details coming soon...



July / August Newsletter

Deliver to Addressee or Current Occupant

St. James' Episcopal Church
9 Williams St.
Clinton, NY 13323



St. James' Episcopal Church
9 Williams Street · Clinton, NY 13323 · (315) 853-5359
www.stjamesclinton.org · office@stjamesclinton.org

Regular Services
Saturday 4:00 pm · Sunday 9:30 am



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StJamesClinton.org



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